

DUTCH NECK CHURCH NEWS

"Nurturing...Sharing...Serving"

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Rev. Stanley Jenkins, Pastor Scott Newhouse, Youth Minister



JANUARY 2012

#519

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

I've been thinking about change a great deal lately, not least because this month we will have been together in ministry six months. It's hardly to be believed, it seems as if only yesterday Mary and I were being so graciously "pounded" by you all (I must admit we've long since finished off the chocolate!). In any case, I can't tell you how grateful we are for your warm welcome and reception. You all have truly made this transition as easy as could ever be hoped for. You guys, are a wonderment!

Still, change is always hard, isn't it? The gardeners among us know that the heartiest of plants go through a period of shock when first being transplanted. It takes the roots awhile to learn the soil, to find the deep nutrients and life-giving water. Change can lead to greater growth, but it doesn't mean that that growth doesn't come with a certain vulnerability.

When it comes to the church, change can be particularly frightening, precisely because we naturally look to the church for continuity and stability. There is a certain comfort to be had in repetition, in tradition. It is not for nothing that the phrase "we've always done it this way" seems to be forever on the tip of the tongues of church people!

Indeed, as I, myself, get older I notice that change, especially concerning the church, seems to get harder every year. Quite frankly, I don't really care for change all that much. I'm having to admit that I'm becoming set in my ways. I like the hymns I like. I'm suspicious of novelty for the sake of novelty--and when others want to do things in a new and different way--

which is to say, in a way that is different from what I have become comfortable with...well,

sometimes it makes me a little cranky. Sometimes I notice a certain tendency to complain creeping into my conversations.

I wonder if it's so very different for you? How are you all negotiating all the changes--not just with the coming of a new Pastor (like I said, you all have been remarkable in your acceptance of Mary and me)--but with all the changes that just come with the passage of time, and not least, with the never ceasing call of our God?

Indeed, the Holy Spirit is always calling us to leave our homeland and "go to a land to which I will show you", isn't he? God is always calling new Elders and

Deacons, new church members with new ideas, new ways of doing things. We are always, as a church, being called to renewal and growth--and that, quite simply means we will always have to be negotiating change and a certain vulnerability.

What's to keep us from getting cranky? What's to keep us from being critical of one another? It's not as

Encourage one another and build up each other....

1 Thessalonians 5:11, NRSV

if the people of Israel didn't carp and complain all the way to the Promised Land!

I suspect that I am not alone in not liking change--and yet the alternative is far worse, isn't it? I'm reminded of a line in a Bob Dylan song:

"He not busy being born is a-busy dyin'."

That's certainly true for churches. If we turn away from change, we turn away from the possibility of growth and renewal. This isn't to say that all change is good, of course, we must be discerning--but rather, that if we cannot remain open to the opportunities that God is preparing for us in change, then we open ourselves up to stagnation and paralysis.

Let's be kind to one another, as each of us seeks to discern the will of God

in our own lives and in the lives of the church. As this new year begins, let's try and check our impulses to complain and criticize one another, as each one of us seeks to edify God's Holy Church here at Dutch Neck. Let's try to keep our sense of humor (because truly, what is funnier than ourselves and each other, with all our vanities and stiff-neckedness?)--and let us strive to remember Paul's words to the Thessalonians:

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, as indeed you are doing...."

....as indeed, you all have done so graciously for Mary and me, as we've negotiated this latest change in our own lives.

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, as indeed you are doing...."

In Christ
Pastor Stan

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MISSION

Christmas 2011
Prayer Letter

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The days of Advent are slipping by. In the midst of writing reports and making plans for the coming year, I only have time for an abbreviated prayer letter this month. We are so grateful for the extended community of caring of which we are a part. I don't want this month to go by without expressing my thanks to all of you again.

In the liturgical calendar, Advent marks the beginning of the new year, the new breaking into the old. Thus Christians begin the year by focusing on the world's need for God and offering our repentance for the ways we have contributed to and been a part of the world's

brokenness. But we also know that whatever joys and sorrows this new year might bring us, we will, by God's grace, be able to face them because Immanuel has come. God is with us.

The Evangelical Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America (CEDEPCA) is celebrating the approach of Christmas. We will end our Advent devotions with a Christmas celebration on Tuesday, December 13. The staff Christmas party is the 16, the last of work in the office. CEDEPCA will open its doors again on January 5.

Our daughter, Tamara, returns to Guatemala on December 14 after finishing her first semester at Reed College. She turns 19 on the following day. This will not be the Christmas she and

Francis had planned together, but we will be together as a family to support one another as the grieving continues. My husband, Javier, celebrates his birthday on December 20. We may do some traveling here in Guatemala, but for the most part we should be here in Quetzaltenango for the holidays, enjoying tamales and ponche.

May the good news of God's coming among us fill your hearts with joy and strength.

Merry Christmas. In the hope of Christ's coming,

Karla Koll



CEDEPCA
*Prayer
Letter*

FOOD STAMPED - PRINCETON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Crisis Ministry of Princeton and Trenton is pleased to announce a screening of the documentary *Food Stamped* at the Princeton Public Library on Sunday, January 29 from 1 pm to 3 pm. The event is free and open to the public.

This humorous and award-winning documentary, directed by Shira and Yoav Potash, follows the couple as they attempt to eat a healthy, well-balanced diet within a budget of a \$1.00 per meal (per person), the

approximate amount of food stamp benefits for low-income Americans. Along the way, the filmmakers consult with members of Congress, food justice organizations, nutrition experts and people living on food stamps. For more on the film, visit www.foodstamped.com. Panel discussion and Q&A will include the film's directors via Skype, Julia Hicks de Peyster, a former Princeton resident and graduate of Princeton University ('86), who attempted to feed her family of five on the allotted food stamp budget for forty days, and the Crisis Ministry's Hunger Prevention Director Mark Smith. Moderator will be Liz Cohen of Yes

We CAN! Food Drives, which supports the Crisis Ministry.

This screening of *Food Stamped* is part of the 2012 Princeton Environmental Film Festival and is co-sponsored by the Princeton Public Library, Crisis Ministry, and Yes We CAN! Food Drives. For information on the Princeton Public Library's film festival and for directions and parking: www.princetonlibrary.org/peff

Co-sponsored by the Princeton Public Library, Crisis Ministry, and Yes We CAN! Food Drives.

SERRV SALE

The Mission Committee would like to thank all those who purchased items from the SERRV sale. A total of \$650 was raised to support artisans and farmers around the world. A very special thanks to the Mackenzie family for coordinating this year's sale. We are grateful for the Mackenzie's on-going commitment to this mission project.

PEACEMAKING OFFERING

The local portion of the 2011 Peacemaking Offering has been donated to Kidsbridge. Kidsbridge, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the celebration of human diversity, encourages the students, families and educators of the greater Mercer County region to understand and appreciate the strengths and opportunities that are inherent in the diverse, mosaic cultures of our community and our world. Kidsbridge also provides programs that create measurable improvements in character education and life skills. Character education programs generate positive learning in civility, kindness, conflict resolution, mediation and anti-bullying.



NEW JERSEY COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

ISSUES & ACTION 2012

VIOLENCE IN OUR SOCIETY: THE CHURCH RESPONDS

Saturday, January 28, 2012

9:00 - 2:00PM

**Shiloh Baptist Church
340 Calhoun Street, Trenton**

Keynote Speaker:

Bryan Miller, Executive Director
Ceasefire New Jersey

Workshops will include:

Bullying
Alternatives to Violence-Restorative Justice,
Gang Violence
Violence in the Media
Domestic Violence

\$12 in advance \$15 at the door

Make check (includes lunch)

Payable to

NJ Council of Churches

mail to: 176 W. State Street,
Trenton, NJ 08608

office@njcouncilofchurches.org

Or call the office at

609-396-9546 for more information



ADULT EDUCATION

WEEKLY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

On January 8, 15, and 29 we will continue the series Journeys Through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today.

On January 22, Sarah Meadows will introduce English poet Philip Larkin's work and the architecture of English cathedrals.

Lenten Small Groups

Time is a finite resource, and many of us feel that our time is stretched to the limit. Time is also a spiritual principle; the Bible has much to say about rest and work, the seasons of life, and the meaning of it all. This Lenten season, Dutch Neck will host an all-church examination of time: how to think

about it, how to organize it, and what better use we might make of it. In addition to Sunday sermons, we'll be forming short-term small groups to consider this topic in depth. Through listening, learning, and forming friendships, we



LENTEN
Small Groups

anticipate that these groups will provide connection and excitement within our church family. If you're interested in leading a group and/or hosting one in your home, please contact Kerri Hamm at 609-216-4163 or kerri.hamm@yahoo.com

KID'S KINGDOM



Kids' Kingdom will kick off 2012 on January 8 when the third graders will receive their bibles during Worship and move up to the older group for the remainder of the year's classes. Our first unit will investigate the story of Jesus' baptism from Mark 1:9-11 with a celebration Sunday on February 12.

Teachers are still needed for sessions through the winter and spring. This is a great activity for mentors or parents to partner with middle or high school students to support our ministries and offer role models for our younger children. If you are interested in teaching, contact Bonnie Benkard at bonniebenkard@gmail.com.

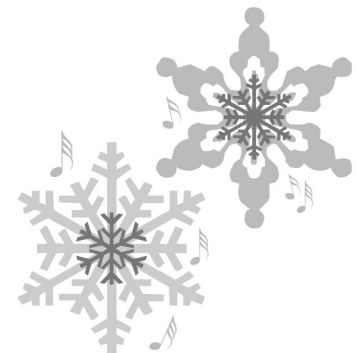
CHURCH ADDRESSES

Please make the following changes to your Church Address directory:

NO CHANGES

BABYSITTERS

A list of available babysitters can be found in the Church directory. The list is also available in the Church office. Additions or changes to the list should be directed to the Church office at 799-0712 or email admin@dutchneckpresbyterian.com



CORNERBRIGHTENERS

Start the New Year with us at Thelma Bornheimer's home in West Windsor on Thursday, January 19 at 10:30 am.

We will try to Brighten your Corner along with reaching out to others locally and around the world.

If you have questions of any kind, please call me, Betty Blaine at 443-1642 and I will be happy to talk with you!



WORLD SEWING/KNITTERS

The sewers and knitters are looking for another successful year in 2012. We make scarves, shawls, hats, sweaters, and afghans for organizations such as Home Front, Lyons Veterans Hospital, Mission at the Eastward, and other places.

We welcome anyone who would like to join our group of ladies.

Our next group meeting will be Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at 10 AM in the CE Building.

Please bring a sandwich and a friend. Dessert and beverage provided.

Call Joan Eddinger with any questions 799-0003.



World Sewing/Knitters

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Join us January 7, 2012 at 6:30 pm for "heavy" hors d'oeuvres, desserts and a movie. We are planning on watching "Secretariat" an astonishing true story bursting with hope, heart and courage. It is a true story about the journey of an incredible horse named "Secretariat" and a housewife who risked everything to make him a champion. Bring the whole family. Contact Florence Cohen (799-0525) or Alice Jackson (799-7008) with questions. Look for sign-up in Fellowship Hall.

TRENTON AREA SOUP KITCHEN

On the 4th Wednesday of the month, a group meets at the Christian Education building at 9:20 AM to deliver food and assist at the TASK until approximately 1:00 PM. Our next outing will be Wednesday, January 25. For more information contact Brenda Mihan at 799-1422 or Carl Stillwell at 799-0772.

2012 ANNUAL MEETING

**The Annual Meeting of the
Congregation**
is called for
Sunday, February, 2012
at 11:45 AM

in the Fellowship Hall
following the Deacon's Pancake Brunch



The purpose of the meeting is to:

- Elect Church Officers – Elders and Deacons for the class of 2015 and vacancies,
- Elect congregational members of the 2012 Church Nominating Committee,
- Receive the 2011 financial report,
- Receive the 2012 church budget,
- Report on church reserve funds, and
- Receive reports of the committees and organization

Annual Reports for the annual meeting booklet are due in the Church office Friday, January 13, 2012.



MEMORIALS, PLANNED AND SPECIAL GIFTS

SPECIAL GIFTS RECEIVED
 The Memorial, Planned and Special Gifts Committee has recently received two special gifts which will enable the Church to complete projects which otherwise could not have been funded. The first gift was from Mr. Paul LaSelle in memory of his parents Bert and Jean LaSelle. Part of the gift is to be used to purchase material to cane the two chairs in the vestibule of the sanctuary. Mrs. Peggy Redman has volunteered to do the caning. The balance of this gift is to be used to purchase new books and materials for the

Nieckoski Children's Library. It was previously announced that the LaSelle's combined memorial funds are being used by the Facilities Committee to purchase new chairs for Fellowship Hall.

The second special gift was from Mr. and Mrs. Don Maier to purchase and install a new dolly on the Baldwin piano in the sanctuary. This improvement will ensure that the piano is safely supported in place thus avoiding any possible damage to the piano or other type of accident in the future.



PLEASE SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars on March 25 to attend very special workshop following worship, Reverend James Reese will discuss planned giving the Christian way, what motivates giving and specific strategies that benefit both donor and recipient.

Sponsored by the **Memorial, Planned and Special Gifts Committee**, this session will provide useful information for all ages.

HAROLD CYMES' BEQUEST

The Memorial, Planned and Special Gifts Committee is pleased to announce that the Church has received an unrestricted bequest of approximately \$65,000 from the will of Harold Cymes. Mr. Cymes joined the Church in April 1994 and died in December 2010. He was predeceased by his wife, Marie, in April 1996. Harold was initially installed as an Elder of Dutch Neck in March 2000. He was appointed Clerk of Session in June 2004, a position he held for several years. Harold also served as Superintendent of Sunday School among his many other areas of service to the Church.

The congregation recognized the important role Harold played in the life of the Church with a special 80th birthday party on January 5, 2008.

The generous bequest continues Mr. Cymes support of Dutch Neck and its programs over the years. The Finance Committee and the Session will be deliberating during the next several weeks on the most appropriate use of these funds given to the Church's current and future financial needs. The bequest will also be formally acknowledged on Wills Emphasis Sunday, May 6, 2012.



*Memorial,
 Planned and
 Special Gifts*

A NEW WAY TO CELEBRATE EPIPHANY



Epiphany luncheon with cake ceremony
Epiphany tableau
Epiphany storyteller
Epiphany worship with communion service

Saturday, January 7, 2012

10:30 am - 1:30 pm

First Presbyterian Church of Dutch Neck
154 South Mill Road, Princeton Junction, NJ
609-799-0712

Cost for luncheon and programs

\$5.00 per person

Epiphany tableau will be presented by the Coordinating Team

Communion Service will be led by the Rev. Cheryl Regis and various elders.

Story Teller

Helen Wise

We are asking you to bring a gift for a local shelter -

UNWRAPPED toiletries for men or women, accessories for women, socks for men and children, etc.

Reservations needed

Contact Helen Bard 732-297-6797
or email helenburd@msn.com

We hope to have you enjoy an inspiring program, good food, and fellowship!

NURSERY SCHOOL HAPPENINGS - JANUARY 2012



December is always an exciting month for pre-school children. Early in the month everyone invited their bear to come to school. Bears of all sizes and colors came to an indoor Teddy Bear Picnic or Tea. All month children were busy making holiday surprises for their parents.

Every year our school sponsors a "Warm and Fuzzy Line" which you may have seen hanging on the wall in the hallway. Our families donated hats, mittens and socks that the

children hung on the line with their teachers. These donations will be given to the children at the Better Beginnings Learning Center which meets at the Hightstown Presbyterian Church. The many children who received our gifts have warmer heads, hands and feet this winter.

On January 17th we will begin registration for currently enrolled children, children of church members and alumni. Registration for the general

public begins January 31st. If you know of a family with a child between the ages of 2 and 5, looking for a wonderful preschool, please recommend us! And don't forget to mention our new Kindergarten Extension program, which has been receiving accolades from parents of enrolled students! Visit us at www.dnpccns.org.

The DNPCCNS Board and Staff wish you all a **Happy and Healthy 2012!**

January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 10:00am World Sewing	4 7:00am Men's Bible Study 5:30pm Mission Committee 7:30pm Adult Education	5 7:00pm Bell Choir 8:00pm Chancel Choir	6	7 10:30am Presbyterian Women's Epiphany Luncheon 6:30pm Congregational Life Movie Night
8 4:00pm Confirmation Group 5:00pm Jr. High Youth Group 7:00pm Sr. High Youth Group	9 8:30am Newsletter Deadline 7:30pm Memorial, Planned & Special Gifts	10 6:45pm N.B. Presbytery Meeting	11 7:00am Men's Bible Study 7:00am Children's Ministries 7:00pm Children's Ministries 7:30pm Facilities	12 7:00pm Bell Choir 8:00pm Chancel Choir	13 Deadline Annual Comm. Report	14
15 5:00pm Jr. High Youth Group 7:00pm Sr. High Youth Group	16	17 6:30pm Youth Committee 7:30pm Session	18 7:00am Men's Bible Study	19 10:30am Cornerbrighteners 7:00pm Bell Choir 8:00pm Chancel Choir	20	21
22 4:00pm Confirmation	23	24	25 7:00am Men's Bible Study 9:20am TASK 7:30pm Deacon's	26 7:00pm Bell Choir 8:00pm Chancel Choir	27 5:00pm Sr. High Youth Retreat	28 Sr. High Youth Retreat 9:00am NJ Council of Churches
29 1:00pm FOOD STAMP Documentary 3:00pm Sr. High Youth Retreat returns 4:00pm Confirmation	30	31				

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Monday, January 2 Sam Adamy Peter Brooks	Tuesday, January 10 Helen Humbard	Nancy Olsson Melanie Wilhelm Esther Everett Lori Howard	 <p>Birthdays This Month</p>
Tuesday, January 3 Samantha Quinlan Kathy Tindall Christopher Schultz	Wednesday, January 11 Sammy Liao Barbara Wiener	Sunday, January 22 Claire Snyder Ham Pakradooni	
Wednesday, January 4 Gay MacQueen Lulu Huber	Thursday, January 12 Erik Hansell Catherine Mallon RaeLynn Chapman	Monday, January 23 Robert Whipple Anna Gross	
Thursday, January 5 Barbara Riggs Victor Mount	Saturday, January 14 Claire Kartoz	Tuesday, January 24 Emma Horan Catherine Wherry Elizabeth Schwing	
Friday, January 6 Annabelle Kim Grant Vinson	Tuesday, January 17 Mildred Moomaw	Wednesday, January 25 Cole Vinson	Saturday, January 28 Dexter Benkard Phyllis Hauck
Sunday, January 8 Justin Van Dyke Cindy VanDerWerf	Wednesday, January 18 Connie Lusdyk	Thursday, January 26 John Hudson Kathleen Liao Rebecca Heron	Sunday, January 29 Timothy Shook
Monday, January 9 Joan Wyckoff Greg Slonaker	Thursday, January 19 Lindsey Olsson Tom Gage John Wherry	Friday, January 27 Judah Santos	Monday, January 30 Christine Squeri
	Saturday, January 21 Tom Seeland Lois Robbins Marlene Maxwell		Tuesday, January 31 Megan Britton Lucas Circullo

JANUARY SCHEDULE-USHERS/GREETERS/FELLOWSHIP

January 1

Ushers/Greeters

Andrew & Bonnie Benkard
Stanley & Pat Tantum

Fellowship Host

Pamela Hansell

January 8

Ushers/Greeters

Kevin & Debbie McMillen
Eric & Loretta Dunn

Fellowship Host

Terri DeVincenzo
Janice Wherry

January 15

Ushers/Greeters

Walter & Susan McIntyre
Carl & Cynthia Applegate

Fellowship Host

January 22

Ushers/Greeters

Louise Haemmerle, Bill Davis
Brian & Nichole Auker

Fellowship Host

Bob & Fran Dix

January 29

Ushers/Greeters

Patricia Frullo, Kathleen Sine
Catherine Cheng,
Carolyn Coleman

Fellowship Host

Anne Reilly, Lori Howard
Debbie Gervasio



Fellowship Hour

A NEW YEAR'S BLESSING

May God make your year a happy one!
Not by shielding you from all sorrow and pain,
But by strengthening you to bear it as it comes;
Not by making your path easy,
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from you,
But by taking fear from your heart;
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;
Not by making your life always pleasant,
But by showing you when people and their causes need you most,
and by making you anxious to be there to help.
God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.

—Author unknown

JANUARY WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 1

1st Sunday after Christmas

9:30 am - Rev. Stanley Jenkins, preaching

Sunday, January 8

Baptism of the Lord

9:30 am - Rev. Stanley Jenkins, preaching

Sunday, January 15

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

9:30 am - Rev. Stanley Jenkins, preaching

Sunday, January 22

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

9:30 am - Rev. Stanley Jenkins, preaching

Sunday, January 29

4th Sunday after Epiphany

9:30 am - Rev. Stanley Jenkins, preaching

Regular Worship Schedule



First Presbyterian Church of Dutch Neck
154 South Mill Road
Princeton Junction, NJ 08550

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