



Pluckeminews – December 2011

From Pastor Coile

Dear Friends,

Thanksgiving has just passed. As I write we are still in November and yet Advent has already begun. The days until Christmas will fly by and before we know it, 2012 will be here. It would be easy to miss the meaning of Christmas. I pray that this season will be one of renewal for us as individuals and for us as a church. Please make the time to reflect and to pray as we move through Advent. Ask God to use you in a way that will be meaningful to others during this season. Perhaps you need to reconnect with a family member and put aside old grudges. Perhaps you need to contact a friend with whom you have lost touch. Perhaps you can reach out to someone who is alone. Perhaps God is calling you to recommit yourself to a life of faithful discipleship.

I would welcome the opportunity to spend time with you during this Advent season. We have activities for all ages, including a new movie night, that will bring us together for fun, fellowship, and faith. The trip to Trenton with the Carillons to hear their concert is an opportunity to share our faith and fellowship with other brothers and sisters in Christ. Our Service of Lessons and Carols will lift us with Scripture and with song. It will be a wonderful time to invite your friends to visit our church. Our Christmas Eve worship opportunities will be the highlight of our church year. Check for all the details on the “Special Events for Advent and Christmas page”.

Christmas Day falls on Sunday this year and Noel Sell and I are planning special worship. You will have the opportunity to request your favorite carols and to share a special story or poem with the congregation. All ages are invited to bring something to share. My only request is that your choice not last more than one minute.

May God bless you during this joyful time.

Pastor Coile

Elders and Deacons Elected

At the congregational meeting held on November 20th the following Elders and Deacons were elected and will be installed and/or ordained at the Annual Meeting in February of 2012:

Elders: Nancy Grohn, Dave Powelson, John Liggett, and Karl Rabke

Deacons: Anne Marlotte, Neale Jenkins, Karen Richards, and John Runyon.

Operation St. Nick

On Sunday, December 4th, Joan McKinney will be in Fellowship Hall after worship with a list of requests for gifts given to us by the Somerset County Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS). You may choose one or more of these requests, or share a gift purchase. The gifts must be returned to Fellowship Hall or Joan’s home by December 11th, so that they can be distributed to the families in time for Christmas. Please also provide wrapping paper and ribbon so that parents may wrap the gifts themselves. Questions? Call Joan at 908-722-5140.

IHN Help Needed!!!

If you will be home after Christmas – between December 26th through New Year’s Eve – we can use your help!!!! Our IHN guests will be staying at our church during that week and we will need many, many volunteers to help move cots in and out, prepare food and to stay with them. We are also looking for a family or two - or a group of people - who would like to plan and run a New Year’s Eve event for the IHN families on December 31st. (Help will be given towards expenses). Please let our less fortunate Somerset County families know we care about them, especially during this holiday time, by volunteering your help and good will. Signups will be available after services in Fellowship Hall during the month of December or you can contact either Jane Madison (mjm540@optonline.net) or Lynn Ingemi (jbingemi@verizon.net).



Christmas Concert at First Baptist in Trenton

The Pluckemin Church Carillons Bell Choir will play at the First Baptist Church, 128 Centre Street, Trenton, on Sunday, December 4, at 7:00 p.m. The Worship and Music Committee encourages as many as possible to join the Carillons and our Trenton friends at the concert by providing van transportation to the Trenton church from our parking lot where we'll meet at 5:30 pm. If you would like to attend this event but prefer not to drive, sign up in Fellowship Hall for transportation to the concert. Plan to meet at Pluckemin Church at 5:30 p.m. that day.

Calling All Carillon Alumni Ringers!

Let's Ring in the New Year Together!

On Sunday, January 8, 2012, I would like to have a bell choir comprised of alumni ringers from the Carillons. We would perform two selections during the worship service. One rehearsal will be needed to prepare the pieces. If you are interested in being a part of this opportunity, please email Marcia McBurney, Director of The Carillons, at marciawmcb@yahoo.com. Can't wait to hear from you! Thank you.

News from the Pews

- Congratulations to Bill Savo who was recently honored as a founder of Cooperative Housing Corporation as it celebrates its twenty-fifth anniversary. CHC provides affordable housing to senior citizens and to men with developmental disabilities.
- Lauren McBride is recovering at home following a serious car accident the end of October.
- Bob Hole had surgery on November 13 for a broken ankle and is recovering at home.
- Jim Grimm will soon have surgery to improve function in his vocal chords.
- Roger Hampson is at Bridgeway Care Center following a hospitalization.
- Barbara Cuzzocrea is very ill with acute leukemia.
- Win Hendry is hospitalized at Somerset Medical Center.

Stewardship Commitment for 2012

We are very grateful to everyone who has made a financial pledge to support our 2012 church program. We believe that our giving of time and talent, and our financial giving, is a regular and shared part of our life together. If you have not yet made a financial commitment for 2012, please complete and return a pledge card as soon as possible. Our finance committee and session will need to have our 2012 pledge total to finalize our budget and program plans for next year. Thank you for your support for our mission and ministries, and for your generous participation in the life of our church.

Thank you from Jackie Obregon

I would like to thank all of you for the love and support that you have given to me the past seven years. During my tenor as Director of Children & Family Ministries I have grown in faith, love for church, and especially my love of Jesus Christ. There are too many favorite memories to list but my favorites include working, worshipping and praying side by side with all of you. It is truly the simplest of times that mean the most.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support that you have given to my family and me throughout the years; with your support we were able to stand strong during the difficult times.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of you for such a beautiful send-off. Your generosity overwhelmed me. It was an amazing embrace from such a loving congregation. A very special thank you to my elders throughout the years, Lisa Dimock, Kyle Macdonald, Cheryl Schuman and Marie Moravek, and all who have served on the Children & Family Ministries Committee. And to the best church staff who have grown to be my friends - I have loved working with each of you. You have made me the Christian that I am today. Amen!

Jackie Obregon

Pluckemin Church Preschool News

We would like to thank all of the Church members who contributed to our Clothing Drive this fall. We collected over one hundred bags of clothing, accessories and toys.

The children have been preparing for our annual December 15th Christmas pageant which will be narrated by Pastor Coile. The day is filled with joy of Christmas music and the sweet voices of all the children. This is a highlight of the Christmas season for many of our parents and grandparents.

If you would like to get into the Christmas spirit please consider participating in the Angel Tree outreach program. The preschool is teaming with Pluckemin's Sunday School classes to help provide gifts for children through the Somerset County DYFS. There will be a Christmas tree located in the Children's Ministry wing lobby. If you are interested in helping provide a child with a gift, please take a tag and place your name and information on the sheet located near the tree. We ask that you return the unwrapped gift with wrapping supplies along with the tag attached and place it in the marked box by Sunday, December 11th. This is a great way to share a bit of joy for a less fortunate child.

Pluckemin Preschool Registration for Fall of 2012

Church members are invited to enroll their children for the 2012-2013 school year at the same time as families with children currently enrolled in the preschool. Registration for this group will take place from Tuesday, January 4th through Friday, January 14th, 2011, **prior to public registration**. Call the preschool office at 908-658-4720 to receive important information and paperwork prior to registration. Spots do fill up quickly and placement will be completed as registration forms are received.

Hungry For the Holidays

Yes, people in Somerset County are hungry this holiday season. Please donate Spam, beef stew, Velveeta cheese, Cheerios, **pasta and spaghetti sauce (especially needed)**, peanut butter, jelly (in plastic jars if possible), pancake mix and syrup, and canned fruit (applesauce, pears, peaches) to Somerville Area Fish. Place them on the easel style shelf in Fellowship Hall. Also needed are sturdy paper or plastic shopping bags with handles for delivering food.



February Fellowship Dinner

Save the date: Saturday, February 11, 2012. It's only two months until our first ever Spud Fellowship Festival, an informal supper party at church designed to take the chill out of winter. Plan to enjoy comfort food and a potato bar with fixings - plus embellishments - that Saturday, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. It should be a spud-tacular evening of fun for all ages!

Living Waters for the World

You may recall several months ago that three individuals from Hopewell Presbyterian Church came to Pluckemin to provide information and share their story regarding Living Waters for the World. Living Waters for the World is a mission resource of the Synod of Living Waters of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Via Living Waters University, mission teams are trained and equipped to share the gift of clean, sustainable water with communities in need. Presently, our church supports this mission financially; however, it is our goal to find a mission leader and build a mission team that would receive training and lead a group in the installation of a clean water facility and teach health and hygiene for either one of our present mission partners or one to be assigned. The 2012 training dates in Mississippi are: March 21-25; May 2-6; June 11-15; and September 5-9. If you are hearing God's call to venture forth in this new mission opportunity, the Missions Committee would love to hear from you! Please contact either Jane Madison at mjm540@optonline.net or Sal Lalama at sal.lalama@gmail.com so we can discuss it further. You can also obtain more information by visiting the website www.livingwatersfortheworld.org.

If You Don't Call Us, We Won't Know!

Please call the church office to report birthdays, anniversaries, surgery and changes in your contact information (908-658-3346 or paula@ppch.org). Please tell the church office so we can provide you with Christian care. (Hospitals don't inform us when a church member is admitted.)

Children's Ministries

Advent Opportunities

The season of Advent brings many opportunities for children and families to celebrate our blessings and to participate in the season of giving. Give of your time and talents during the 4:30 Christmas Eve worship service, led by Valerie Sell. Look for the Angel Tree in the Children's Ministry wing lobby or the Operation St. Nick gift list in Fellowship Hall. Both provide gift ideas for children in our community that are supported through Somerset County DYFS (Division of Youth & Family Services). Your generosity brings Christmas into their homes and hearts.



Welcome Lauren Powelson!!

Our Session has hired Lauren Powelson to serve as Interim Director of Children's Ministries. Lauren holds a teaching degree, has been active in Pluckemin's Vacation Bible School and Children's Worship for eight years, and currently serves on the Board of Deacons. Her love of children and enthusiasm are infectious – come worship and have fun learning in faith. Lauren's office hours will be from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays.

Souper Delicious Gift Jars

Middle Ground kids have created "souper" delicious gift jars for a holiday fundraiser. Proceeds from this fun service project will help purchase food for Somerville Area FISH... with our kids doing the shopping. Help our children help other children by purchasing a homemade gift for you and a friend! They will be available for purchase in Fellowship Hall after worship.



Children's Christmas Eve Pageant

Come join us at 4:30 pm. on Christmas Eve when our children will share the message of Christmas. Under the direction of Valerie Sell, our Associate Director of Music, the children will present "What Gift Can We Bring?", a play written by Jane Reid and edited by Valerie Sell. We will be transported back in time to the first Christmas and the children will share through readings and songs how Jesus was born. You don't want to miss it!

Sunday School Registration

It's never too late to register your child(ren) for Sunday School. Contact Lauren Powelson, Interim Director of Children's Ministries, at 908-725-0883 or powelson@mac.com.

Advent Word Scramble

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Ngela | Dprehseh |
| Yram | Lhehteemb |
| Odnyke | Remgna |
| Iskng | Peeknnrie |
| Hejops | Sujes |
| Sinamew | Visroa |

(Manger, Joseph, Shepherd, Angel, Jesus, Mary, Kings, Wiseman, Innkeeper, Donkey, Bethlehem, Savior)

Christmas Joy Offering December 11 and 18

Presbyterians have long celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ by giving generously to this Christmas season offering. Fifty percent of the receipts of the Christmas Joy Offering is distributed to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs that provide support to retired and active church workers and their spouses and families. The other fifty percent supports Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges through the National Ministries Division of the General Assembly Council. There will be special Christmas Joy Offering envelopes in the pews.



Service of Lessons and Carols Sunday, December 18, 10:00 a.m.

Time-honored traditions make the Advent and Christmas Seasons very special. On Sunday, December 18, at 10:00 am, our congregation will gather for a Service of Lessons and Carols. The voices of our sanctuary choir, the hymns of the congregation, the sounds of the organ, and the pealing of the Carillon Bells will provide the music of the day. Nine scripture readings bring us to the manger. Join us for this beautiful service followed by refreshments in our Fellowship Hall. Contact the church office for more information (908-658-3346).



Poinsettias Ready for Pick Up

If you ordered a poinsettia from the Carillons, you may pick it up on Sunday, December 4, after worship. Thank you for your support! Marcia McBurney, Director of The Carillons.

Advent Party December 11 – 6:30 p.m. Sunday Night at the Movies

All ages are invited to enjoy hot chocolate, watch a Christmas movie, and bring an ornament for the tree in Fellowship Hall. The party begins at 6:30 p.m. The children's movie will be shown in the Covenant Room.

Cookie Walk December 18th

Pluckemin Church's annual **COOKIE WALK** will be held on Sunday, December 18 in Fellowship Hall, immediately after worship. Just in time for your holiday munching! This delicious day helps supports the **Youth Mission Trip** this summer. You can help in two ways: Bake cookies for us to sell (drop off before worship), then come and buy somebody else's creations! You've talked the talk...now walk the walk! Questions? Contact Sarah Fryer at sjlenox@optonline.net or 908-719-9012.

Annual Reports Due January 15th

Annual Reports from all committees and church groups are due in the church office by January 15th so that they can be compiled into the Annual Report for 2011. Please submit your report by e-mail to paula@ppch.org. Many thanks!



December 2011 Calendar

Every Week:

Sundays

Nursery Care provided 8:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.
9:00 a.m. Adult Education, Covenant Room
9:00 a.m. Sunday School, Children's Ministry Wing
9:00 a.m. 7th-8th Grade Sunday School, Upper Room
9:00 am. Senior High Sunday School, Library
10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
10:15 a.m. Children's Worship (age 4-2nd grade), Covenant Room
10:15 a.m. Young Disciples (grades 3-5), Trinity Room
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall
5:30-7:30 p.m. XL Youth Fellowship (grades 7-12)

Mondays

Monday Evening Men's Group 7:00 p.m., Library
Narcotics Anonymous for Men 7:30-9:00 p.m., Trinity Room

Tuesdays

Preschool 9:00 am-1:00 pm, Children's Ministry Wing
Carillons Bell Choir 6:45-9:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Wednesdays

Preschool 9:00 am-1:00 pm, Children's Ministry Wing
Senior Chair Exercise 9:45-10:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall
Chapel Ringers 7:00 - 8:00 p.m., Covenant Room
Chancel Singers 8:00 – 8:45 p.m., Covenant Room

Thursdays

Adult Bible Study 7:00 a.m., Library
Preschool 9:00 am-1:00 pm, Children's Ministry Wing
Centering Prayer Group, 6:15-7:15 p.m., Library
AA 8:00 p.m., Grace Corner/The Upper Room
Sanctuary Choir 8:00 p.m., Sanctuary or Fellowship Hall
Women's Prayer Group, 8:30-10:00 p.m., Library

Fridays

Preschool 9:00 am-1:00 pm, Children's Ministry Wing
Boy Scout Troop 7:30-9:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

1 (Thursday)

Cub Scout Leaders' Mtg, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Trinity Room

2 (Friday)

Deacon's Meeting/Decorating Sanctuary, 6-9 p.m.

3 (Saturday)

Stephen Ministry, 8:00 am-4:00 pm, Covenant Room
NA Learning Day, 12 Noon-4:00 p.m., Trinity Room

4 (Sunday)

Communion at 10:00 worship service
Blood Pressure Screening, 11:15 a.m., Grace Corner
Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 11:00-11:30 am, Covenant Room
Carillons to First Baptist Church, Trenton (Concert 7:00 pm)

5 (Monday)

Women's Monday Morning Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon, Library

6 (Tuesday)

No Deacons' Meeting (December 2 instead)
No Carillons' Rehearsal

7 (Wednesday)

Children's Pageant Rehearsal, 6:30-7:00 pm, Covenant Room

11 (Sunday)

Children's Pageant Rehearsal, 11:00-11:30 am, Covenant Rm
Operation St. Nick gifts due (Church or J. McKinney's home)
Advent Party (Tree decorating & movies), 6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

12 (Monday)

Missions Committee Meeting, 7:30 pm, Covenant Room
Pluckemin Preschool Board Meeting, 7:30 pm, Room 202

13 (Tuesday)

Worship & Music Meeting, 7:00 pm, The Upper Room

14 (Wednesday)

Children's Ministries Meeting, 6:00 pm, Room 102
Finance Committee Meeting, 6:00-7:30 pm, Trinity Room
Buildings & Grounds Meeting, 6:00-7:30 pm, Grace Corner
NO Book Club this month

15 (Thursday)

Preschool Christmas Program, 9:00 am, Fellowship Hall
Cub Scout Pack Meeting, 6:30-8:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

17 (Saturday)

Kulick Recitals/Receptions, 12:00 noon-6:00 pm, Sanctuary

18 (Sunday)

Service of Lessons and Carols, 10:00 am, Sanctuary
Cookie Walk, 11:00 am, Fellowship Hall

20 (Tuesday)

Session Meeting, 7:30 pm, Covenant Room
Deadline for January newsletter articles (*The Pluckeminews*)

22 (Thursday)

Children's Pageant Dress Rehearsal, 7:00-8:00 pm, Sanctuary

24 (Saturday – Christmas Eve)

Children's Pageant, 4:30 pm, Sanctuary
Worship Service, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary
Worship Service/Communion, 10:00 pm, Sanctuary

25 (Sunday – Christmas Day)

Worship Service, 10:00 am

26 (Monday)

Church Office closed
Interfaith Hospitality Network guests arrive, 5:00 pm

27 (Tuesday)

No Carillons' Bell Choir Rehearsal

28 (Wednesday)

No Chapel Ringers' or Chancel Singers' Rehearsals

29 (Thursday)

No Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Special Events for Advent and Christmas

Pluckemin Presbyterian Church www.ppch.org

Adult Ministry Advent Study – Sundays, December 4, 11, 18

9:00 a.m. in the Covenant Room

Our Adult Ministries study continues in December with "The Journey - Walking the Road to Bethlehem". Using historical information, archaeological data, and a personal look at some of the stories surrounding the birth of Christ, the most amazing moment in history will become more real and heartfelt as you travel along the road.

Advent Party – Sunday, December 11

Sunday Night at the Movies

6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Sip some hot chocolate, bring an ornament to trim our Fellowship Hall Christmas Tree, and enjoy a Christmas movie with your church family. A Christmas movie for children will be shown in the Covenant Room. Child care for children under three will be available.

Christmas Joy Offering Received

Sundays, December 11 and 18, during worship

Fifty percent of the Christmas Joy Offering goes to the Board of Pensions to help support retired church workers, their spouses and families. The other fifty percent supports Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges through the National Ministries Division of the General Assembly Council. There will be Christmas Joy Offering envelopes in the pews.

Lessons and Carols - Sunday, December 18 – 10:00 a.m.

The voices of our sanctuary choir, the hymns of the congregation, the sounds of the organ, and the pealing of the Carillon Bells will provide the music of the day. Nine scripture readings bring us to the manger. A wonderful opportunity to bring a friend to church.

Annual Cookie Walk - Sunday, December 18

in Fellowship Hall following worship

All cookie sales benefit the 2012 summer Youth Mission trip. Please support our youth by donating your baked cookies (bring them to Fellowship Hall before worship that day), and/or by buying an assortment of cookies for the holidays.

Christmas Eve Worship - Saturday, December 24

4:30 p.m. Children's Pageant and Family Worship. Children will lead us in song as they retell and re-enact the story of Jesus' birth. Child care provided.

7:30 p.m. Candlelight Worship. Sing your favorite carols and delight in special music offered by the Carillons Handbell Choir. Child care provided.

10:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Worship. The Sanctuary Choir will lead us in singing timeless Christmas carols and Rev. Estes will bring us "good news of a great joy."

Christmas Day Worship - Sunday, December 25 – 10:00 a.m.

An informal worship with carols, prayers, and poems for Christmas.

Peace! Hope! Love! Joy! Grace!

News from the Church Office

- The church office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. The deadline for announcements to be submitted for the Sunday bulletin is Wednesday. The deadline for submitting articles for the monthly newsletter, *The Pluckeminews*, is the 20th of every month. Please e-mail Sunday announcements or newsletter articles to Paula Windus in the church office at paula@ppch.org.
- The Rev. A. Coile Estes is in the office every weekday except Friday. You may reach her through the church office (ext. 102) or by e-mail. In an emergency, you may call her on her cell phone: 404-405-5692.

Deacon-on-Call for December: Diane Gibson (908-781-0734 or jmgibs@yahoo.com)

Call for temporary or emergency needs of the congregation such as eldercare, transportation, meal preparation, respite care, visitation, or Communion for those who are homebound or in nursing care facilities.

Pluckemin Church Staff

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**Return Service
Requested**

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