



Pluckeminews – November 2011

From Pastor Coile

Dear Friends,

“In the kingdom of God, we are known not for what we keep but for what we give away.”

I don’t know where I read or heard that thought, but how appropriate for our 2011 stewardship theme, “Living Generously.” As Christians, we are known not for what we keep, but by what we give away.

On November 6, we will have the opportunity to pledge what we will give away in 2011. We will have the opportunity to give away some of our time, some of our talent, and some of our resources for the kingdom of God.

Within our church community, you may volunteer to paint, to bring refreshments on Sunday mornings, to drive someone to a doctor’s appointment, or to teach Sunday school. Like the volunteers whose t-shirts are hanging in Fellowship Hall, you might volunteer to go on a mission trip and reach out to those outside our church community.

As you know, your donations and my donations create our church’s budget. The decision of how much to give is between you, your family, and God. You are not asked to give more than you are able. God knows that many people are struggling financially right now. However, God also knows who is doing well and who can pledge more generously. If you are not yet tithing your income, consider increasing your pledge by one or two percentage points until you reach one-tenth of what you make. Just imagine what we could do for God’s kingdom if more of us tithed. We could boost our ministries for children and youth, the lifeblood of our congregation, and provide adequate office space for the directors of those ministries. We could reach out to young adults in the midst of a changing and too often jobless reality. We could update our sound equipment so we can make quality recordings of our music. Perhaps we could even renovate the Upper Room and Grace Corner to be as comfortable and inviting as our beautiful library.

Before you come to worship on November 6, please consider prayerfully how you will pledge your time, your talent and your treasure for 2012. Your giving will be a blessing to you and a blessing for our congregation.

May God continue to bless the Presbyterian Church at Pluckemin.

Pastor Coile

Congregational Meeting to Elect Officers

November 20

Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, November 20, for the purpose of electing new elders and deacons. The meeting will begin following worship. For elder, the Nominating Committee is recommending Dave Powelson, John Liggett and Karl Rabke. For deacon, the Nominating Committee is recommending Anne Marlotte, Neale Jenkins, and Karen Richards.



Commitment Sunday – November 6

Commitment Sunday, November 6th, marks a new season in the growth of Pluckemin Presbyterian Church. God has acted generously among us, and now in Christ we have the opportunity to discover new ways to be a church alive in missions. Our church, because of our giving, can be a place where hurts are healed, the hungry are fed, peace heals brokenness, hope replaces despair, and the love of Jesus Christ transforms lives. Our giving is a regular and shared part of our life together.

We have much to be thankful for as a congregation. There are new faces in our midst, seriousness about personal spiritual growth, opportunities to learn and deepen our faith. Our life continues to be made richer by our children who bring to us their own gifts and spiritual wisdom. We continue to reach out to our community and we find new energy for service. So, as a community of God’s people we have much for which to give thanks. We invite you to reflect on your giving from the material things you hold in trust for the Creator of us all.

Please be on the lookout for a mailing that includes a “Giving Card,” along with a letter and the church’s budget plan for next year. May your giving be an act of joy and worship.

Thanksgiving Supper and Worship – November 22

Let us gather together as we give thanks to God for our many blessings. Please come to Fellowship Hall for the Thanksgiving Supper and Worship on Tuesday, November 22nd. Our pot luck supper will be at 6:00 pm; worship will follow at 7:00 p.m. Please watch for sign-up information in the coming weeks.

Preschool Registration Update

Pluckemin Church Preschool Registration

The preschool is currently taking the names of families interested in enrolling their preschooler(s) for the 2012 - 2013 school year. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in enrolling, please contact the preschool Director, Linda Metcalfe, at 908-658-4720, to receive important information and paperwork prior to registration which will take place from January 3 through January 13, 2012, **prior to** public registration. Call now to make an appointment.

Adult Sunday School

“The Journey – Walking the Road to Bethlehem”

Starting Sunday, November 13, our Adult Education class will offer a five week study of the book, "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. Enrich your holiday by joining us at 9:00 a.m. in the Covenant Room.

Operation St. Nick

On Sundays, November 27 and December 4, 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 13, 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.

Christmas Poinsettias to Decorate Sanctuary

The deacons offer poinsettia plants for sale in memory or in honor of loved ones. The plants will decorate the sanctuary on Christmas Eve. You may take your plant home following the last Christmas Eve service or donate it to be delivered to our home-bound members and friends. The plants, white or red, will have 4-6 blooms, come in 6 ½ inch pots, and cost \$9 each. Karen Richards will be in Fellowship Hall with order forms on Sundays in November. There will also be order forms at the crossroads. For more information, call Karen at 908-526-6975.

Decorating the Sanctuary

Join the Deacons to help decorate the sanctuary on Friday, December 2, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. for the hanging of the Christmas greens in the Sanctuary. For further information, please contact Karen Richards at 908-526-6975.

● ■ ▲ Pluckemin Church Preschool ◆ ★ ●

OPEN HOUSE REGISTRATION

Friday, November 4th from 9:30 am – 11:00 am

Families - come and meet teachers and tour the school. Activities for children, too!

For more information, please call 908-658-4720

PLUCKEMIN CHURCH PRESCHOOL NEWS

Thank you to all the church members who supported the Consignment Sale by volunteering, shopping or encouraging their friends and neighbors to shop. We would not have a successful sale without that support. Charities which benefited from donations at the conclusion of the sale include Somerville Area FISH, Interfaith Hospitality Network, the Frippery, the Lord's Closet and some area families in need.

During the month of November the children at the preschool will be learning about the first Thanksgiving and preparing their very own unique feast to share with one another.

Join the Christmas Angel Tree outreach program. The Preschool is teaming with the Sunday School classes to help provide gifts for children with the Somerset DYFS. There will be a Christmas tree located in the Children's Ministry wing at the end of November. 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 and original tag, with wrapping supplies, and place it in the marked box by Friday, December 9th. This is a great way to share a bit of joy for a less fortunate child.



POINSETTIA SALE!

The Carillons will be taking orders for Poinsettias during coffee hour on Sundays, November 13th and 20th. The plants will be purchased from The Great Swamp Greenhouse. The plants will be delivered to the church and be ready for pickup on December 3rd and 4th. Thank you for your support! Marcia McBurney, Director of The Carillons.

THANK YOU

Thanks from Denise Millard

We give thanks for the blessing of our church family.

Some of you rolled up your sleeves and helped us with the reconstruction of our downstairs when we were hit with the flood as a result of Hurricane Irene. You will never know how much the muscle power had meant to us. Thank you too for the meals which sustained us. We were flooded with friends, family, and you our church family, supporting us in so many ways, during this time.

Just when things at our house seemed to be getting back to normal, on Tuesday, September 13, we had encountered yet another challenge. I turned, torqued my leg and in mid air my femur broke in half! Next came surgery, followed by a stay in the hospital and then home bound, rehab and more rehab. My life certainly had changed in a snap!

Doug prayed with me before the surgery and Pastor Coile prayed with us when I was in the recovery room.

Once at home the church wheelchair mission supplied me everything I needed for mobility. How great it was to have received your phone calls, visits and cards. All this brought me much needed smiles.

Thank you for all the delicious and nutritious meals that you had prepared for us. The meals were certainly prepared with that special ingredient called love. The comfort food was just what the doctor ordered!

What a blessing to know you remembered me in prayer. Prayer is what is getting me through all this. As I told Doug one day you are the church, not a building, not a steeple but the people.

Thank you for the care, love and support you have shown Doug and me.

*Yours in Christ,
Denise Millard*

Thanks to all who helped with the Fall Fellowship Festival on October 2. It was a beautiful day with more than 100 people attending. Nancy Grohn won the Pluckemin Iron Chef cooking contest with her delicious apple torte!



A Thank You from Somerville Area FISH

Dear Pluckemin Church Members,

I am the grateful recipient of all your Church's food donations to our organization Somerville Area FISH. As you all know, on a regular basis Tom and Lydia Dodd come to my home bringing the weekly collection done at your church. It is our organization's lifeline and you all directly benefit the surrounding community by your generosity.

I always feel personally that I can call on your Church in our toughest times and you will come through for us and our clients. Three weeks ago your members helped our Children's Clothing Pantry move to a new location. Pluckemin has a long history of service, and I am grateful that our organization benefits from your call to honor God's grace.

*Sincerely,
Allison U. Caulfield, Somerville Area FISH*

News from the Pews

- Barbara Spiegel, Rebecca Sheasley's mother, died October 16 at age 81. Her funeral was at Pluckemin Church on October 20.
- Chris Tepke, mother of Paige and Nolan, died October 17. Her funeral was October 24 at Pluckemin Church.
- Jim Grimm was hospitalized in Somerset Medical Center in October and is home now.
- Rey Minnich had a stent implanted on October 4 and has been recovering at home since October 8.
- Joan Rowan, Stu Race's sister, died in Springfield, Virginia, on October 14 at age 86.
- Jeff, Kari, Andrew, and Aaron Gibelius have welcomed a baby sister into their family. Alexandria Rae Gibelius was born on April 5, 2010 and adopted by the Gibelius family on September 23, 2011.
- Laura and Jamie Gallicchio were received into membership in October and their son Tyler was baptized on October 16.
- Other new members who joined Pluckemin Church this fall are Diana Martinez and Sarah Ann Schipper.
- Congratulations to Sarah and Rob Schiffer who have a new baby girl, Bryn Marie Schipper, born on October 5. Paternal grandparents are Dave and Pam Schiffer.



Join us and share Christmas joy with an inner city church in Trenton – December 4

The Christmas Concert at First Baptist in Trenton is a long time tradition for the members of the Carillons who every year travel to inner city Trenton in early December to give a concert of Christmas music to the congregation of First Baptist Church.

Pluckemin Presbyterian and First Baptist have forged a meaningful friendship as on “Hanging of the Greens Sunday” at the Trenton Church the members decorate their beautiful sanctuary with greenery and a spectacular Christmas Tree, and the Carillons end the day by leading the evening service with music of the season.

Sandwiched between the activity of decorating the church and the concert, the Carillons and the First Baptist decorators share a bountiful meal prepared by the excellent cooks of First Baptist. At dessert time the Trenton children present a manger scene tableau, while gifts brought by First Baptist members and Carillon members are placed at the feet of the Baby Jesus. All the gifts will later be distributed to needy families in the area.

This year’s concert will take place on December 4th, at 7:00 p.m., at First Baptist Church, 128 Centre Street, Trenton. The Worship and Music Committee wishes to encourage 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. Look for sign up sheets or email Elaine Thomas at ethomas88@optonline.net.



**Calling All Carillon Alumni Ringers!
Let’s Ring in the New Year Together!**

On Sunday January 8th, 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 at marciawmcb@yahoo.com. Can’t wait to hear from you! Thank you.

Marcia McBurney, Director of The Carillons.

**The Visual Arts Group
is a new ministry at Pluckemin**

Each Sunday, the screens at the front of our sanctuary, with information for the worship to follow, the week to come, and planned future events, visually welcome worshippers. This past summer a request for volunteers to work on Power Point presentations was given in our bulletin, and Worship and Music is pleased to announce that a capable cadre of creative people has stepped up to give time and talent to this important activity.

The new Visual Arts Group members are Anne Bolton, Noah Bream, Paige Cornell, Michael Mears, and Elaine Thomas. We are especially pleased that some of our young people are contributing their expertise to this new venture. Paige is a high school student and Noah is in the eighth grade.

We live in a culture in which information is daily imparted through visual means, and we at Worship & Music feel privileged to display the work of the church in this way. If your ministry would like to utilize Power Point or DVD to make known your ministry, please contact Worship & Music and we’ll do our best to make that happen.

Hurricane Disaster Relief Update

After a thorough discussion of the known local needs following the aftermath of Hurricane Irene, your Missions Commission has determined that monetary support would be given to the following organizations:

SHIP - Samaritan Homeless Interim Program in Somerset County, which was several feet under water and lost freezers, water heater, furnace, etc.;

Somerville Area FISH - inundated with requests for emergency food and assistance;

Star 99.1 FM - local contemporary Christian radio station located in Zarepath, flooded by both canal and river; and

World Cares - a charitable organization that is helping coordinate local flood relief in New Jersey

If you know of anyone or another organization that has also been affected by the hurricane, please advise Sal Lalama, chair of the Mission Committee, at sal.lalama@gmail.com or 908-704-1638.

Children's Ministries

Middle Ground

Next Meeting is November 13

Middle Ground is a program for children in grades 4 – 6. We meet twice a month on Sunday evenings from 5:30 – 7:30 pm in the Covenant Room. When we get together we play games, have dinner and dessert, and just have a lot of fun. Our next meeting will be held on November 13.



Bibles for our Children

On November 13th Children's Ministries will be presenting Bibles to the children, 3rd grade and older, who have not yet received a Bible from Pluckemin. If you have a child who is in third grade or who never received a Bible at Pluckemin, please contact Lauren Powelson at 908-725-0883 to participate in this joyful day.

Advent Workshop

Please mark your calendars for one of the most enjoyable activities that we have at Pluckemin, the Advent Workshop! Cindy J. Lisk and Holly Ford are organizing this wonderful family event. This year the program will take place on Sunday, November 27th from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Children will go from station to station to make beautiful Christmas crafts. Volunteers are needed to operate craft tables. There will be a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall beginning November 1st. If you want to hear more about the event or would like to volunteer, please contact Cindy Lisk at 908-725-2051.

Job Opportunity –

Interim Director of Children's Ministry

Have you heard God's calling to serve the children of Pluckemin Presbyterian Church?

We are seeking an energetic and organized individual (who loves children!!) to fill a part-time interim position coordinating worship, education and fellowship programming for our youngest disciples.

Resumes can be submitted to the church office through November 10th and a copy of the job description will be available from Paula Windus in the church office.

If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please reach out to Pastor Coile, Andy Plank or Cheryl Schuman.



Christmas Eve Pageant

Valerie Sell, our Associate Director of Music Ministry, works hard every year with our young vocalists to make the Christmas Pageant full of love and admiration for the birth of our Lord Jesus. This year children who are in Kindergarten and older are welcome to participate. Children must be able to attend at least three practices. If you are interested in registering your child, please pick up a form at the Crossroads. The Pageant will take place on December 24th at 4:30 p.m.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving full of many blessings and wonderful memories.

YOUTH MINISTRIES



Ah, November.

As they often say, November comes in like a lamb and goes out like an angry turkey.

OK, nobody says that. But they should. Soon, warm days & Daylight Savings Time are gone, the cold wind blows through you, and the turkeys themselves will be plenty miffed about you-know-what. Nevertheless....



.... We can still count plenty of happy happenings.

36 People on our haunted corn maze outing. Wow! And it was soooo tough to get an accurate headcount and buy tickets, because the monster with the hatchet and the seven-foot zombie kept getting in line with us and messing up our count.

17 College care packages were stuffed to the brim by XL and sent out to our Pluckemin youth studying at colleges near and far. Thank you to Peggy Moore and Tina Plank for gathering the goodies, and to Dave Moore for shipping the boxes for us.

9 For month #9, *NOVEM*-ber – or at least it used to be the 9th month in the ancient Roman calendar, which originally began in March. Happy, Happy History!

3 XL Youth Group events. Times are 5:30pm – 7:30pm except as indicated.

- **Nov. 6: Regular XL**, with a brief game, discussion, and A LOT of VAMPIRE!
- **Nov. 13: Sunday Night Live (SNL)** at the YMCA in Somerville. SNL is an interfaith event where youth from local churches gather for discussions and devotions; pizza, snacks & drinks; music; and then free time to use the pool and gym. Bring sneakers, bathing suit & towel. *We will meet at the Somerville YMCA (2 Green Street) at 5:30pm, and youth must be picked up by 8:15pm.*
- **Nov. 20: Regular XL** back in Fellowship Hall. *Who's gonna be there?* No, we're not asking. The program is *Who's Gonna Be There?*

(No XL on November 27 -- come to the Advent Workshop in Fellowship Hall.)

1 T-Shirt confession. An owner said he did not get a chance to wash one of his several mission trip shirts before bringing them to hang in Fellowship Hall. That's not technically a Youth Group item, but still -- Ewwwwwww!

Work Campers: The deadline for reserving a spot and paying the \$50 deposit has been extended until November 6 (after all our Mission Trip presentations). Our work trip is scheduled for July 22-28, 2012 in Owego, New York. Contact Bob (bob@ppch.org) to sign up or if you have questions. Thanks.



November 2011 Calendar

Every Week:

Sundays

8:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. Child Care provided, Nursery
9:00 a.m. Adult Education, Covenant Room
9:00 a.m. Church School, Children's Ministry Wing
9:00 a.m. Senior High Sunday School Class, Library
10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
10:15 a.m. Children's Worship (age 4 – grade 2), Covenant Room
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall
5:00-7:30 p.m. XL (7-12 grades), Fellowship Hall

Mondays

Monday Morning Bible Study 10:00 – 12:00 noon
Monday Evening Men's Group 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Library
Narcotics Anonymous for Men 7:30-9:00 p.m., Trinity Room

Tuesdays

Preschool 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Children's Ministry Wing
Carillons Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:45 – 9:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

Bible Study 7:00 a.m., Library
Preschool 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Children's Ministry Wing
AA 8:00 p.m., Upper Room and Grace Corner
Sanctuary Choir 8:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Women's Prayer Group 8:30 – 10:00 p.m., Library

Fridays

Preschool 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Children's Ministry Wing
Boy Scouts 7:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

1 (Tuesday)

Deacons' Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Covenant Room

3 (Thursday)

Preschool Photos, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m., Covenant Room

6 (Sunday) – Stewardship Sunday

Communion at 10:00 worship service

7 (Monday)

Stephen Ministry Training, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m., Covenant Room

8 (Tuesday)

Election Day – voting in Fellowship Hall, 6 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Worship & Music Meeting, 7:00 p.m., The Upper Room

9 (Wednesday)

Finance Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Trinity Room
Children's Ministries Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Room 102
Buildings & Grounds Meeting, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Grace Corner
Book Club, 7:30 p.m., Library

10 (Thursday)

Bridgewater Women's Club, 9:00 – 3:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

13 (Sunday)

Third Graders receive Bibles during worship
Carillons taking Poinsettia orders
Evangelism Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Covenant Room
Middle Ground, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Trinity Room

14 (Monday)

Missions Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Covenant Room
Preschool Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 201, CM Wing

15 (Tuesday)

Session Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Covenant Room

17 (Thursday)

Cub Scout Pack Meeting, 7:00-8:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

20 (Sunday)

Congregational Meeting after worship
Carillons taking Poinsettia orders

21 (Monday)

Stephen Ministry Training, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m., Covenant Room

22 (Tuesday)

Dinner, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Thanksgiving Worship, 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 8:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

23 (Wednesday)

Preschool Thanksgiving Feast, 10:45 – 11:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

24 (Thursday - Thanksgiving)

Church Office closed – No Preschool

25 (Friday – Thanksgiving Holiday)

Church Office closed – No Preschool

27 (Sunday)

Advent Workshop, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
(Dinner 5:30 p.m.)

28 (Monday)

Stephen Ministry Leaders, 6:00 – 10:00 p.m., Covenant Room

News from the Church Office

- The church office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. The deadline for announcements to be submitted for the Sunday bulletin is the Wednesday before that Sunday. 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.

Pluckemin Church Staff

Pastor/Head of Staff: The Rev. A. Coile Estes (revestes@ppch.org)
Administrative Assistant: Paula C. Windus (paula@ppch.org)
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Associate Director, Music Ministries: Valerie Sell (vsell@embarqmail.com)
Director, Youth Ministries: Bob Stewart (bob@ppch.org)
Pluckemin Preschool Director: Linda Metcalfe (linda@ppch.org)

Deacon-on-Call for November:

Rich Sample (Home 732-356-3520 or Cell 908-304-2625 or rsample01@earthlink.net)

For temporary or emergency needs of the congregation such as eldercare, transportation, meal preparation, respite care, visitation, and communion for homebound or those in nursing care facilities.

The Presbyterian Church at Pluckemin

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