



# Pluckeminews - January 2012

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**From Pastor Coile**



Dear Friends,

Happy New Year!

I am still floating from the wonderful Advent and Christmas season we had at Pluckemin Church. The beautifully decorated sanctuary, the glorious music, the stories from Scripture and the richness of worship all came together to make this a very special time of the year. I am grateful to everyone who contributed their time, talent, and resources to help all of us have a meaningful celebration Jesus' birth. I hope you felt God's presence in our time of worship together.

Now we are entering a new year and will quickly return to our regular routine. I pray that the Spirit of Christmas will be born in you anew this year so that you grow closer to God. It is easy to feel worn down by the demands of modern life. But here, in the church, we are refreshed, reminded of how important we are to God and how much God loves us. If there is a way I or another staff member can be helpful to you, please let us know. If you are feeling a let-down now that the holidays are over, our Stephen Ministers are available to walk with you during the dark days of winter. If you are feeling burdened, please don't bear that burden alone.

May God bless you and give you peace in 2012.

*Pastor Coile*

## **Associate Pastor Nominating Committee**

The APNC continues its work to find the next Associate Pastor for Pluckemin Church. While this work might feel slow, we are carefully and prayerfully considering our candidates. We know that God is in this process and that he will lead us to our next Associate Pastor. We ask for your continued prayers as we move forward. Margaret Kelleher, Chair.



**Stephen Ministry**

The circle of life and of activities within a church is wondrous and yet no surprise. In February, 2011, we honored retiring Stephen Ministers. We also asked for anyone who felt called to become a Stephen Minister, or who wanted more information, to contact a Stephen Leader. Not only did Judy Dekker and Leo Thomas investigate the possibility of becoming Stephen Ministers, they attended an information session, signed up, and on December 3 completed fifty hours of training.

Stephen Ministry is grounded in Jesus' command to love one another. Through one-to-one caring and confidential relationships, those who are hurting receive the love and care they need to support them. Stephen Ministers know all about giving and receiving care. They know how to respond in a loving, caring and nonjudgmental manner. They are equipped, ready and waiting to provide the comfort and care God very much desires you to have.

Throughout the month of January there will be messages about Stephen Ministry in bulletins, in pew inserts, on the bulletin board in the hallway, actually almost every where you look. We want to remind you about Stephen Ministry, offer the care of a Stephen Minister, or just chat with you about this distinctively Christian caregiving service.

Look for Stephen Ministers and Stephen Minister Leaders in worship, in Fellowship Hall following worship, or give us a call if you want to know more about this component of congregational care.

Our Stephen Ministers are Susan DeStefano, Roe Patterson, Nancy Adams, Kathy Savo, Judy Dekker and Leo Thomas. Stephen Leaders are Susan Anastario, Phyllis Kumpf and Rae Watson. We are easily identified during church by our blue SM name tags, or call us: Susan at 908-658-4526; Phyllis at 908-393-1019 or Rae at 908-326-6035.

Wishing you God's peace and love.

## **Offering Envelopes**

Boxes of offering envelopes for 2012 are at the Crossroads. Please take yours home and save us the cost of postage. If you would like envelopes, please contact the church office at 908-658-3346 or [paula@ppch.org](mailto:paula@ppch.org).

### **Are You Visiting Pluckemin Church?**

Are you visiting Pluckemin Presbyterian Church? Are you considering becoming a member? Would you like to learn more about what it means to be a Presbyterian? If you answered yes to any (or all) of these questions, then the Discovery Class is for you. Rev. Estes will lead a class on Sundays, January 8 and 15, from 11:20 to 12:30, in the Library. We will discuss what it means to be a Presbyterian and what it means to be a member of Pluckemin Church. Please plan to join us. Childcare will be provided. Contact Rev. Estes with your questions ([revestes@ppch.org](mailto:revestes@ppch.org) or 908-658-3346).

### **Annual Congregational Meeting Scheduled for February 12, 2012**

The Annual Congregational/Corporation Meeting of the Presbyterian Church at Pluckemin will be held on Sunday, February 12, immediately following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the annual reports from the church boards and organizations, to receive the budgets for 2012, to amend the by-laws if required, and to conduct any other business that may properly come before the Congregation/Corporation.

### **Annual Reports Due January 15**

Annual reports from all commissions and church groups are due in the church office by January 15 in order to be included in the Annual Report for 2011. Please submit your reports, by e-mail if possible, to [paula@ppch.org](mailto:paula@ppch.org). Many thanks! Paula Windus, Administrative Assistant

### **Calling all Cookie Walk Bakers and Church Picnic Chefs!!!**

The Middle Ground children will be collecting recipes from the Cookie Walk bakers and Church Picnic chefs to create a Pluckemin Church Cookbook!

All proceeds from the cookbook sale will go to a charity chosen by the Middle Ground children. There will also be a drawing contest among the children to create the cover for the Pluckemin Church Cookbook.

Send your favorite recipes to [judithknight@yahoo.com](mailto:judithknight@yahoo.com). Please make sure to include any stories about your recipe!

### **Drivers Needed**

The deacons are looking for a few good men and women to give church members rides to worship on Sundays or perhaps to a local doctor's appointment. If you are interested in learning more about this important ministry, please contact Lynn Ingemi (908-725-3628 or [jbingemi@verizon.net](mailto:jbingemi@verizon.net)), Pam Ely (908-722-7603 or [pamvely@gmail.com](mailto:pamvely@gmail.com)) or Gary Johnson (732-356-5929 or [gtrucks@aol.com](mailto:gtrucks@aol.com)).

### **February Fellowship Dinner**

Save the date: Saturday, February 11, 2012. It's time for George and Abe to play second-fiddle to your favorite spud buddy. Our date isn't a national holiday, but it might make history from the standpoint of creativity.

We're planning an intergenerational evening in Fellowship Hall that Saturday, from 6:00 to 8:30 pm. What could be more fun than potatoes on parade—as whimsical characters, as ice-breakers, as catalysts for fun and fellowship. The menu, naturally, features a potato bar with fixings, along with other comfort foods. Look for signups to start mid-January. We're counting on YOU—and maybe a buddy or two—for serendipity and surprise and spuds.

### **In God's Hands**

Are you or a loved one facing fertility problems? "In God's Hands" is a Christian based support group led by couples who have experience with miscarriage, tubal pregnancy, various treatment options, adoption, and other related issues. We offer confidential support, prayers, devotion and a loving shoulder to ANYONE in need!! You're not alone. Let us help! Please contact Lauren at [powelson@mac.com](mailto:powelson@mac.com) or 908-725-0883.

### **Food Donations Always Needed**

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



### **Thank You, Volunteers!**

I would sincerely like to thank the many volunteers and coordinators, who not only helped throughout the year, but who came forward during the holiday week of Christmas to New Year's Day to provide support for the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) guests.

This mission could not work at Pluckemin without the many church members who give of their time to assist during the week IHN guests stay with us.

We need approximately fifty volunteers each time we host IHN – if you were one of them, thank you most sincerely!  
Jane Madison, IHN Coordinator

### Sunday Flowers

If you would like to give flowers in memory of, or in honor of, loved ones, the following dates are still available for 2012: January 8 and 15; February 12 and 26th, April 29th, July 1, 15 and 29, September 2 and November 25. There is a flat rate of \$45 for each week. If you wish to give flowers, please email [jeannmc@yahoo.com](mailto:jeannmc@yahoo.com) or call Jeanne McConnell at 908-707-0290.

### Christmas Poinsettias

The Deacons thank all those who gave poinsettias in memory of or in honor of loved ones. The plants beautified Pluckemin's sanctuary for Christmas.

### Special Program for Caregivers with Respite Care Option

Bridgewater Manor invites you to a Special Program for Caregivers on Wednesday, January 4, 2012, 6:00-8:30 p.m. The cost is \$10.00, which includes dinner. Respite care will be provided at Bridgewater Manor for those who need it. Hear Lisa Niemi Swayze, wife of the late actor Patrick Swayze, share her stories of caregiving in the final months of her husband's life. Following her presentation, she will be signing her book, Worth Fighting For: Love, Loss, and Moving Forward. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., dinner is at 6:00 and the program begins at 7:00. **Registration is required; call 908-595-2345.**

#### Deacon-on-Call for January 2012

**Bruce Watson (908-326-6035)**

Deacon-on-Call through January 4:

**Diane Gibson (908-781-0734)**

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

### Calling All Carillon Alumni Ringers!

#### Let's Ring in the New Year Together!

On Sunday, January 8, 2012, alumni Carillons ringers are invited to ring during 10:00 a.m. worship. We will be performing two selections during worship. One rehearsal will be held on Saturday, January 7, from 10:00 a.m. until noon in the sanctuary. Email Marcia McBurney at [marciawmcb@yahoo.com](mailto:marciawmcb@yahoo.com). Can't wait to hear from you!

### Sunday School Classes for Adults "Making Moral Decisions" - 5 sessions

There are many things that influence the decisions we make every day. Of course, we all have certain rules by which we *must* abide, as well as local, state, and federal laws we are required to obey. But many of our daily decisions and interactions with others are driven by less well-defined guidelines.

While most people want to *be* good and *do* good, their motivations may differ greatly. For example, one driver may obey the speed limit to ensure his or her safety and the safety of others; another driver may simply fear the sight of flashing blue lights in their rearview mirror. They both do the right thing but for very different reasons.

According to civil law, being a bigot is not illegal but acting on that bigotry is. As Christians, do our intentions matter? Is what is in our hearts as important to God as our actions? Do we tithe and volunteer and practice acts of kindness to honor God--or because we fear God's wrath?

Beginning January 8, please plan to join us on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the Covenant Room as we discern God's will for us as we make moral and ethical decisions.

### News from the Pews

- Barbara Cuzzocrea died on December 3. Her funeral was at Pluckemin Church on December 7.
- Lillian Ruzbarsky had thyroid surgery on December 12 and has recovered well.
- Peg Burton had surgery for a broken hip on December 16. She is now at Bridgeway Care Center for rehabilitation.
- Doris Demcsik is still at Foothill Acres for rehabilitation after a hospitalization.
- Win Hendry is home after being hospitalized for pneumonia.

### 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](mailto: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

## Middle Ground Mission Project

Middle Ground would like to thank everyone who so kindly supported our Friendship Soup Mission Project. The project was a HUGE success and we were able to OVERFLOW our grocery cart with groceries for needy families in our area! The food has been donated to Somerville Area FISH! Be sure to look for information on new Middle Ground activities which are for third through sixth graders. We have a lot of fun, exciting adventures planned for 2012! Hope you can join us!

## Worship Bags

Children's Ministries would like to remind parents that we offer Children's Worship Bags for children to use during worship. These bags now include age appropriate children's bulletins that reflect the scripture chosen for each Sunday morning service and reinforce that message. Worship Bags are located in the back of the church behind the last pews.

## Sunday School Children Show Compassion!

Our Sunday School students show their generosity each Sunday by donating money, through the Compassion Child Program, to Blanca and her family for Christmas. Blanca is our sponsored child who lives on a farm in Ecuador. She loves school and swimming. Blanca is always so appreciative of the donation and writes to the children expressing her gratitude.

You can read her letters in both English and Spanish as they are hanging on the Children's Ministries bulletin board in the hall near the library.



## Sunday School Registration

Please join us every week for Sunday School from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. in the Children's Ministry Wing. It is never too late to register your children! We have classes for children ages 4 through seventh grade. Our experienced teachers are dedicated to educating our children about the love and teachings of Jesus Christ our Savior. Please contact Lauren Powelson, Interim Director of Children's Ministries, at [lauren@ppch.org](mailto:lauren@ppch.org) or through the church office at 908-658-3346.

## The Children Need Your Help!

We have so many wonderful programs for children at Pluckemin Presbyterian Church. Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and the Advent Workshop are just a few programs that our families are able to enjoy and share in fellowship. We hope most of you were able to participate in a few of them or even all of them in 2011! This year we hope to continue the programs and events that were special last year and also add a few new ones. This can only happen with the continued support of the tremendous volunteers already in place, but also with the help and support from new volunteers. We need help in many different capacities, in many different areas. Some jobs may take an hour while others may be more involved. That is the beauty - there is no pressure to give more time than what you feel comfortable giving. I can promise, however, no matter how small or large the job, you will always feel God's presence and love. Please contact Lauren through the church office (908-658-3346) if you would like to help out in any way.

## Carry God's Light!!!

### Become a Pluckemin Church Acolyte!

If you are a fourth grader (or older) and would like to join our Acolyte Team, please contact Lauren Powelson at [lauren@ppch.org](mailto:lauren@ppch.org). We will provide training!!

## Pluckemin Church Preschool



### OPEN HOUSE REGISTRATION for 2012-2013 School Year

Friday, January 20, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.  
Come and meet teachers and tour the school.  
Activities for children, too!  
For more information,  
please call 908-658- 4720.

#### Mr. Ray Concert

January 28, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall  
Advance tickets are \$8.00 per person  
\$10 per person at door  
(under 2 years free)  
Call 908-658-4720 for more  
information

### Pluckemin Preschool Spring/Summer Consignment Sale: March 24, 2012

Consignors' Registration: Friday, February 3  
By e-mail only: [consignmentsale@ppch.org](mailto:consignmentsale@ppch.org)  
(Do not phone)

9:00 to 11:00 a.m. – Church members and  
Preschool ONLY  
12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. – General Public

We will be accepting consignor registration by e-mail only. To register you must e-mail the preschool at the address above during your eligible time. If you e-mail us more than once, we will not be able to accept you as a consignor. Consignors will be accepted on a first e-mail/first accepted basis, based on the time stamp when the e-mail is received.

**For more information, call the  
Consignment Hotline: 908-658-4115**

### Pluckemin Church Preschool News

Thank you all who participated in our "Angel Tree" project. The generosity from both preschool and church families was wonderful. Every wish was fulfilled! Many children and parents benefited during this holiday season from your warm gifts. Thank you also to Pastor Coile Estes who narrated our Christmas pageant, the Preschool's re-telling of the first Christmas. It was a wonderful event that was enjoyed by all in attendance.

In-house registration for the 2012-2013 school year will be taking place from Tuesday, January 3rd – Friday January 13<sup>th</sup>. During this time children who now attend the preschool program or are members of the Pluckemin Presbyterian Church can register. All registration forms must be submitted during this time. Openings will not be held after this date and placement cannot be guaranteed after January 13<sup>th</sup>. Spots do fill up quickly. On Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup> we will be holding an **Open House** from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. for any new families who might be interested in getting better acquainted with the school. A classroom will be set up with the activities and teachers will be on hand to answer any questions. If you would like more information, please call the Preschool office at 658-4720.

Please join us as our Preschool presents the Mr. Ray Winter Concert on Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Mr. Ray writes music which parents and children can enjoy together. Singing about friendship, dinosaurs and rainbows, Mr. Ray's clever lyrics and witty melodies inspire the imagination and encourage play. His blend of humor, learning and "super-interactive" audience participation has been captivating young audiences across the New York Metropolitan area for many years.

All families and friends welcome! The more the merrier! A registration form will be available at the Crossroads in January. Advance Tickets are \$8 each per person. Tickets at the door will be \$10 each. Children under 2 are free. Registration forms and payments can be returned to the Collection Center. If you have any questions, please contact Heather Santoro at [hmsantoro@gmail.com](mailto:hmsantoro@gmail.com).

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

### THANK YOU, COOKIE WALKERS



Bert and I want to thank you for making the Cookie Walk Fundraiser a success. It was such a success that we're standing in for Cookie Monster. He was really hoping for some leftovers and is a bit miffed.

You're right, Ernie. Thank you to the youth and parents who made cookies at XL, to everyone who baked cookies at home and donated them, to Sarah Fryer for organizing it, and to those of you who kindly bought cookies or donated money. We raised \$1,016 for the 2012 Youth Work Trip to Owego, New York July 22-28, 2012.



Speaking of Work Trip – GROUP Workcamps announced that the Owego location is already "officially" full, but GROUP has started a waitlist. If you are still on the fence about attending next year, let us know as soon as possible. Some of the wait-listed will get to go, but not all.

#### Mark Your Calendars

**January 1:** Happy New Year! (no XL).

**January 8:** XL in Fellowship Hall

**Jan. 13-14:** LOCK-IN! (details on right)

**January 22:** Trenton Titans Hockey Game

**January 29:** XL in Fellowship Hall

XL Youth Group meets on Sundays in Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., except as indicated for special events.

High School Youth meet on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the Library for fellowship and discussion.

#### REMEMBER THE [TRENTON] TITANS

On January 22, we have a special outing to the Trenton Titans Ice Hockey game. Between periods we'll play broom ball in the ice. Pretty cool, eh?

We'll leave Pluckemin Church at 2:45 p.m. and return about 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$16, and you must RSVP by Wednesday, January 11 to reserve a spot. Contact Cindy Lisk (908-253-3435 or [crisk@optonline.net](mailto:crisk@optonline.net)) or Bob Stewart ([bob@ppch.org](mailto:bob@ppch.org)) for more information.

#### LOCK-IN on JANUARY 13-14

The LOCK-IN starts Friday about 9:30 p.m. and ends Saturday 9:00 a.m. We'll play games, watch movies, eat snacks, and sleep (a little). Bring a sleeping bag and pad. We'll also have a gift exchange, so bring a duplicate gift you received, or something that's just not your thing. If you buy something, please keep it to about \$10.

#### SAVE THESE DATES

**February 5** is our Super Bowl Progressive Dinner. Would you like to be one of our three host houses? It's easy and fun. Call Bob (908-526-0008) to volunteer. **February 24-26** is our annual ski trip to Sno Mountain in the northern Poconos. We'll leave Friday late afternoon, ski Saturday, sled Sunday morning, and return early Sunday afternoon. The cost is approximately \$135 per person.

## Every Week:

### Sundays

8:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. Nursery Care, Children's Ministry Wing  
9:00 a.m. Adult Education, Covenant Room  
9:00 a.m. Sunday School, Children's Ministry Wing  
9:00 a.m. Sunday School 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades, Upper Room  
9:00 a.m. 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 3-6), Trinity Room  
11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour, Fellowship Hall  
5:30 - 7:30 p.m. XL (youth group, grades 7-12)

### Mondays

Monday Morning Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m., Library  
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

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

### Wednesdays

Pluckemin Preschool 9:00 – 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  
Plucekmin Preschool 9:00 – 1:00 p.m., Children's Ministry wing  
Centering Prayer Group 6:15 – 7:15 p.m., Library AA, 7:30 p.m., Grace Corner/Upper Room  
Sanctuary Choir 8:00 – 9:45 p.m., Fellowship Hall  
Women's Prayer Group 8:30 – 10:00 p.m., Library

### Fridays

Pluckemin Preschool 9:00 – 1:00 p.m., Children's Ministry wing  
Boy Scouts, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

## January 2012

### 1 (Sunday) – New Year's Day

Inter. Hospitality Network (IHN) guests leave 8:00 a.m.  
Worship Service, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary  
No Sunday School or Adult Education

### 2 (Monday)

Church Office closed (New Year's holiday)

### 3 (Tuesday)

Preschool resumes after holiday break  
Deacons Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Covenant Room

### 7 (Saturday)

Carillons Alumni Rehearsal, Sanctuary (Time TBD)

### 8 (Sunday)

Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday School and Adult Education resume  
Discovery (New Members) Class, 11:15 a.m., Library  
Officer Training Session, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., Trinity Room  
Evangelism Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Covenant Room

### 9 (Monday)

Stewardship Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Upper Room  
Missions Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Covenant Room  
Preschool Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 202

### 10 (Tuesday)

Worship & Music Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Upper Room

### 11 (Wednesday)

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

### 13-14 (Friday-Saturday)

XL Youth Group Lock-In, 9:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

### 15 (Sunday)

Deadline for Annual Reports (email to [paula@ppch.org](mailto:paula@ppch.org))  
Discovery (New Members) Class, 11:15 a.m., Library

### 16 (Monday) - Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

Church Office closed

### 17 (Tuesday)

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

### 19 (Thursday)

Youth Ministries Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Covenant Room

### 20 (Friday)

Deadline for February issue of *The Pluckeminews*  
Church Staff Holiday Party

### 22 (Sunday)

Ordination/Installation of Officers  
Officer Training Session, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., Trinity Room

### 23 (Monday)

Stephen Ministry Leaders Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Covenant Room

### 28 (Saturday)

Scouts' Pinewood Derby, 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon, Fellowship Hall  
"Mr. Ray" Concert, 3:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

### 29 (Sunday)

Scout Sunday

- 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 20<sup>th</sup> of every month. Please e-mail Sunday announcements or newsletter articles to Paula Windus in the church office at [paula@ppch.org](mailto: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](mailto:revestes@ppch.org))  
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