

Meeting House Memos

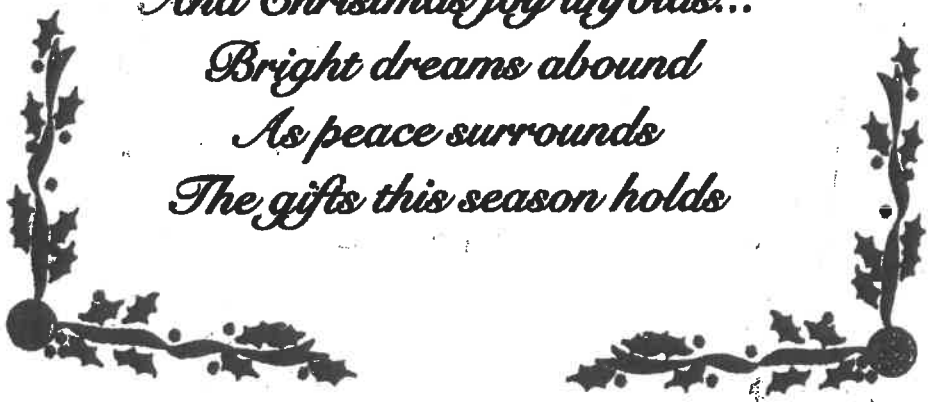


DECEMBER 2018

THE NEWSLETTER OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*A time of
Christmas memories*



*When candles light
December nights
And Christmas joy unfolds...
Bright dreams abound
As peace surrounds
The gifts this season holds*

FROM THE PASTOR:



Dear Friends,

Welcome to Advent, some folks' favorite church season of the year! This Sunday is actually "New Year's Day" on the liturgical calendar. We have four weeks to prepare ourselves for the coming of Immanuel, "God with us." I know that many of you will be coming and going throughout the season, visiting friends and family and having them come visit you, but please don't forget to make worship a part of your holidays, whether at home or away.

Throughout this month's newsletter you will note opportunities to worship, play and serve along with your sisters and brothers here at CPC Mountainside. There are so many ways to involve yourself! And THIS is your official invitation to do so - often people will say "no one told me," or "no one asked me," so consider yourself asked! It is true that we all feel better when we do something for others, so whether you can sing when we go caroling, or help to carry food to Elizabeth, NJ, or help decorate, please pitch in and do it. Also, come to worship and special worship opportunities, so you won' be missing the singing of some of your favorite carols!

Let me officially thank you all for your warm welcome to John and me this year, and we look forward to continuing to get to know you in the new year. It is a joy to me to serve with you here at CPC.

God's blessings for Advent and the Christmas season,

Pastor Leigh

"But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid! For behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: Today in the City of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord!" Luke 2:10,11



SESSION - Attendance

| | | | |
|-------------|----|-------------|----|
| November 4 | 29 | November 18 | 83 |
| November 11 | 53 | November 25 | 52 |

Jean Hileman, Clerk



The Deacons are hosting **Family Promise** families on Friday, December 14th, January 25th and March 22nd at Willow Grove Church in Scotch Plains. For each night we need of two overnight hosts, as well as assistance in providing dinner for the guests. If you can spend the night or help with providing food, cooking and/or serving dinner, please contact Diane McCurdy at dianmccurdy@gmail.com or 908-400-1486. Thank you!!

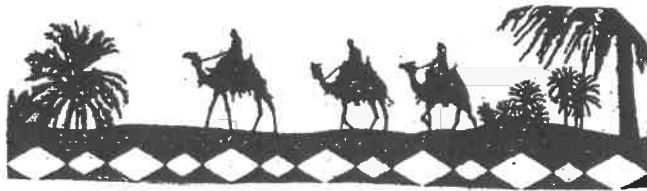
On Monday, December 17th, we will be delivering donated food and "Giving Tree" gifts to the church in Elizabeth. Please join us at 9:30 am to load our cars and deliver these gifts of joy.



Christmas Pageant: Sunday, December 16th - 10:30 am

Don't miss our traditional Christmas pageant featuring our wonderful children! Enjoy the story of the birth of our Savior brought to life.

Rehearsals: Sunday, December 2nd and 9th after worship.
Dress rehearsal: December 14th - time to be decided



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From the Treasurer: Winter is almost here. We are in our fourth fiscal quarter, and our expenses are ongoing. Please verify that your contributions are up to date.

I want to remind you that all check/cash donations for 2018 must be in the church office by noon on Monday, December 31st. If you plan to donate stock, please initiate the transfer process by December 14th; the stock transfer instructions are in the church office or you may contact me. Please give the details of the gift; securities are transferred electronically without the donor's name in the information. We also need to know if it is part of your pledge or designated for the 2020 Capital Fund.

Thank you all for your attention and for your generous support!

**Trustee Report
December, 2018**








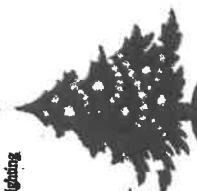




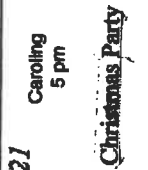





To recap the Trustee Report provided at the annual Congregational Meeting, the Trustees surmounted numerous unexpected challenges this past year, including extensive property and tree clean-up from winter storm damage, as well as substantial repairs and renovations to the manse in preparation for new occupancy.

In 2018, contributions to the 2020 Capital Fund enabled us to complete the following major projects: repainting the sanctuary; installation of LED lighting in the Christian Ed. building hallways, offices, nursery school classrooms and choir room; repaving a major section of the parking lot (with thanks to the Nursery School for their contribution towards the paving project); and extensive repairs and improvements to the manse. These included a complete repainting of the interior; cleaning out and painting the basement; new bathroom fixtures, lighting, vanities and medicine cabinets; replacement of one garage door and two garage transponder units; a new carpet in the family room; new blinds for seven windows; and numerous carpentry and plumbing repairs.

Going forward, the trustees will continue to oversee ongoing church, manse and grounds maintenance issues and plan the next round of projects for the 2020 Capital Fund, with the aim of having this multi-year mission complete in 2020. Among major needs still to be met is a new roof for the sanctuary building, so your ongoing contributions to the 2020 Fund, along with your regular pledges, are greatly appreciated. Your contributions are vital to the Trustees in doing their job as the caretakers of our physical plant. Thank you, and may you have a joyful and blessed Christmas season!

December 2018

Season of Joy

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| 2 <i>Communion</i>  | 3 Hanukkah  | 4 | 5  6:30 Women's Assoc. | 6  | 7 After Hours Youth Group 7:00 - 9:00 PM  | 8  |
| 9 | 10 7:30 Book Discussion Group  | 11 | 12 Joint Bd. Mtg. 6-8 pm Manse | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 Pageant "A Christmas Carol" 5:30 pm. Lessons & Carols  | 17 Deliver Food Men's Christmas Luncheon  | 18 | 19 | 20  | 21 Caroling 5 pm Christmas Party  | 22  |
| 23 | 24 Christmas Eve Worship  | 25 New Year's Eve  | 26  | 27 | 28 | 29  |
| 30 | 31 New Year's Eve | | | | | |

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

EVERY SUNDAY
10:30 AM
Worship Service
11:30 AM
Coffee Hour

MONDAY - FRIDAY
8:30 AM
Nursery School

THURSDAY
5:00 PM
Children's Choir
6:30 PM

Bell Choir
7:30 PM
Chancel Choir

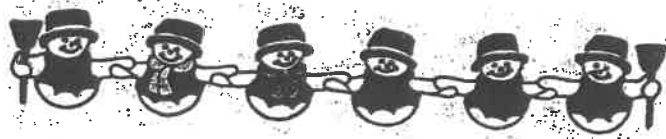


At Christmas and always,
may His presence in your life
bring you special joy.

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!**



COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN NURSERY SCHOOL is now registering for the 2019-2020 year. Contact Stacy Cole at 908-232-9490 for information and/or a personal tour.



Women's Association News

Book Group: Monday, December 10th - 7:30 pm (note time!)
We will meet at Alice Gillman's home (1425 Deer Path).
Please let Alice know if you will be attending (908-232-9087)
The book to be discussed is "Tidings of Comfort & Joy" by Bunn..

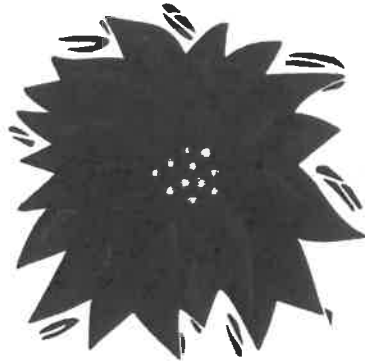
Advent Dinner: Wednesday, December 5th - 6:30 - Assembly Rm.
Please join us for a lovely, festive evening, serving a selection of hors d'oeuvres, wine, punch, desserts, and dinner featuring roast loin of port. The cost is \$15/person plus 2 nonperishable food items. To register your attendance, please complete the form below or contact Diane McCurdy at 908-400-1486 or dianmcurdy@gmail.com.

ADVENT DINNER RESERVATION FORM: Complete and send form to the church office with your payment of \$15 on or before **December 2nd**.
Make checks payable to CPC Women's Association:

NAME _____

Number Attending _____ **Amount Enclosed \$** _____

I will need transportation _____



POINSETTIAS!!

It's that wonderful time of the year: time to place orders for poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas services. Please fill in the **Order Form** below, and attach your payment of \$14.50 per plant. Checks should be payable to the **Community Presbyterian Church** and on the memo line write **Flower Fund**. You can place the form with payment in the Sunday offering, or mail it to the church office by **Sunday, December 16th**. The more, the merrier, and yours to take home after the holidays!

Poinsettia Order

NAME: _____
OF PLANTS: _____ @ \$14.50 = _____ ENCLOSED

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MEMORIAL GARDEN CHRISTMAS TREE



For anyone who wishes, a personalized ornament will be made to hang on the tree in the garden at Christmas. If interested, call Judy Carson at 908-232-0759 or Sandy Everly at 908-654-5424.

If you choose to donate to the Memorial Garden Christmas Fund, your contribution will be used to further enhance this area as well as replacing any Christmas decorations as they become tired. Please mark your contribution for "Memorial Garden Christmas Fund" and send to the church office at 1459 Deer Path, Mountainside, NJ 07092.

Any suggestions are welcome. Thanks for the many compliments!
Happy Holidays!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

5 Ryan Hoy
7 Janet Swanson
8 Gladys Cantagallo
Ruby Ellen Reilly
11 Samantha MacGowan
12 Andrew Hoydich
Craig Thomas
Lindsay Thomas Mirabella
14 Roxann Haggerty



15 Bill Haggerty
16 Reid MacGowan
17 Joan Hain Lair
19 Abigail Pires
20 Pat Thomas
24 Aaron Hoydich
26 Pat Hanigan

If you would like your birthday or anniversary listed in a future newsletter, please let us know!

CHURCH MOUSE.....

.....The Women's Association's "Eats and Treats" bake sale on Election Day was a huge success - over \$900 was raised (a record!) and donated to three local food banks. Thanks to all who helped!



.....We enjoyed a delicious dinner at Lorenzos this past month with 39 people in attendance. Jack McCurdy again made all the arrangements - thanks, Jack! It was a nice evening of fellowship.

.....The Fellowship Committee provided lunch for everyone at the annual Congregational meeting. This was a very informative gathering, as always, when reports were available from all of the Boards and committees. We also had a cake to celebrate Bob Kaepfel's 97th birthday!

.....The Scouts collected hundreds of bags of groceries for the Thanksgiving food collection. Many hands helped to load the cars with the groceries and turkeys and then drive to Elizabeth. We made Thanksgiving a special day for many families who would not otherwise have so much to enjoy.

.....This coming Sunday we will decorate the church for Christmas, so please come prepared to stay after the regular church service to help make the church beautiful - many hands make light work!

.....In our prayers are Erasmus Belden, Wolfgang Gerhard, the Schoenknecht family, Anne Zakovic, Stacy Cole's father, and the family of Robin Hoy, whose dad is on hospice care.

.....We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy 2019. Enjoy the beauty of the season with friends and family. The Christmas Pageant and our Lessons & Carols on the 16th will definitely put you in the mood! Guests are welcome!



Happy Holidays from your editors three,
Bobbie, Sandy and Sara

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