



The Exciter

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTH EAST
25 West Main Street • North East PA 16428 • (814) 725-8641

No. 563

January 2017

CLERK'S CORNER



Happy New Year to You!

First and foremost, I am so happy to report that Debbie Rogers and her son, Zach Rogers, recently became new members. You may already know them well as they've attended worship for quite some time, and Zach is our dedicated percussionist in our praise band. But, if you do not, please introduce yourself and welcome Debbie and Zach into our church family.

Speaking of membership, our annual meeting will be held February 12, 2017 during the 11:00 A.M. worship service. Based on your feedback, there will be more purposeful opportunities to ask questions and/or gain clarification. Please plan on attending as we worship the Lord, reflect on 2016 and plan for the future together.

One of the rooms in the basement known as the "Scout Room" is suffering from water damage. Every time it rains, or snow melts, water leaks down into this room. It is coming from the planter box that is built up against the east church wall. The estimated cost to stop the leaking and repair the damage is between \$13,000-\$15,000. This is not a project that can be put off, so session agreed to use money from investments to address the problem as soon as possible.

Pauline Fisher and her Membership Development committee have been working diligently to update the membership directory. There have been many address changes since the last time this was done. Hopefully, there will be a new and more accurate directory for all of you in early 2017. As always, if you change your address, phone number and/or email, please notify the church office.

Doty Wagner and the Fellowship committee will be hosting a sing-a-long with Bob Shorts on January 15, 2017 at 6 P.M. There will be light refreshments provided. This will be a wonderful time for individuals as well as families to join in fellowship during the wintertime. Mark it on your calendar, invite a friend and plan to come!

Abby Johnson and the Finance committee have been pursuing the idea of finding a professional money manager to manage the church's investments. The goal is to hire an expert to yield a greater consistency in returns, and not rely on a revolving door of volunteers to manage the funds. I expect to be able to share definitive news about this subject soon.

On January 14 from 9 A.M. to Noon, the actively serving Elders and Deacons will be going through their annual training. This training is required by *The Book of Order*, and addresses the tenets of the Reformed faith as well as polity.

In other news, Pastor Gregg is chairing the Lake Erie Presbytery's "Big Event 2018." While the venue is still in the planning stages, Pastor David Hansen has agreed to preach on March 11, 2018 as part of the program. Pastor Hansen is currently pastoring a church in urban Cincinnati and authored the book *The Art of Pastoring: Ministry Without All the Answers*.

As always, if you have any questions, comments or ideas, please speak with me any time.

In Christ's love,

Patti Kuna
Clerk of Session



Pastor Gregg D. Townsend

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.FPCNE.ORG

SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL MEETING NEWS

Please join us for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, February 12. Once again, the Session has decided to hold the meeting *during* the 11:00 A.M. worship service. This will be a tremendous time of celebration for all that God has done in our midst in 2016 and a time to look and pray about where we are headed in 2017 and beyond. There will be a luncheon following the meeting. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS



Sunday School Classes

It has been a meaningful, fun-filled fall and early winter in our Sunday School classes. We have many dedicated teachers that offer their gifts of teaching each week to our children, adolescents, and adults. Everyone is enjoying learning and participating as they continue their journey in surrounding themselves with the teachings and Word of God.

Youth Update

Our youth members were very busy during the Advent season. Many of our children and youth participated in our annual Advent program entitled, "That Special Star." The following weekend, they dove into cookie baking. Several of our youth spent their Saturday baking, decorating, plating and selling cookies for members of our congregation. Many delicious dozens were made and sold. Kudos to the youth for a great job!

MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

IT'S A NEW YEAR, AND A GREAT TIME TO GET INVOLVED IN OUR CHURCH'S MUSIC MINISTRY. From the Chancel and Bell Choirs to our Worship Team, we have a variety of ways you can serve the church and glorify God through music. Singing or ringing with us in the winter/spring months is a great way to "try out" serving through music.

- **The Chancel Choir practices on THURSDAY EVENINGS at 7:00 P.M.** and typically sings three times per month. We will soon begin preparing for Lent and Easter music.
- **The Bell Choir practices on THURSDAY EVENINGS at 5:45 P.M.** and rings about once per month. We would love to have more ringers. It's really not as hard as you think it is, and we'll start you out on the easy bells to play!
- **The Worship Team practices on SUNDAY MORNINGS at 7:45 A.M.** and plays each week for the 8:30 A.M. worship service. We are looking for singers and other instrumentalists. Even if you cannot make every week, you are welcome to join our team.
- **The Sound/AV Team welcomes men and women, age 16 and older, to join our team.** If you can use a computer, you can be on the Sound/AV team. We'll provide all the training you need.

Speak with our Director of Music Ministry, Jane Livingston, if you have any questions or would like more information. We'd love to have you join us. Joining one of our music ministry groups is a great way to get to know other church members, and we have a lot of fun along the way. It's more fun than it is work!



MISSION NEWS

Closing out the year, the Mission committee decided to use the remaining funds in its budget (\$194.48) to support international mission. Rev. Joshua Heikkila is a mission worker and regional liaison for West Africa through the Presbyterian Mission Agency. In his role, Rev. Heikkila facilitates partner relationships, implements regional strategies and supports the work of other mission personnel.

“When we strive to live together as brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, our faith is deepened and strengthened, despite our cultural differences, and we become better disciples of Jesus Christ. In partnership not only do we learn how the Holy Spirit has given us gifts to use for the common good, but we also come to see spiritual gifts in others, and we learn to appreciate how these gifts can enrich our mutual Christian life.”

~ Rev. Joshua Heikkila

Looking forward to the 2017 mission trip, the committee will be hosting a spaghetti lunch on January 22 following the 11 A.M. worship service. All proceeds will go toward funding the mission trip to West Virginia.

I would like to thank my church family for all their support during my brother's loss. All the prayers, cards, and hugs have kept me going. One card I received said,

“Our loved ones are a gift to us, their presence a blessing when they are on this earth. After they have gone, we mourn... and then we celebrate the life they lived, the love they shared, the difference they made for having been in our lives.”

I am trying to live by this, but right now I am in the mourning stage.

Again, thank you all.

~ Jean Bahm



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Send some unexpected birthday love to this month to our beloved members.

Carol Ripley-----January 6
Dick Zahner-----January 18



This is a new feature of “The Exciter.” If you or a loved one would like to be included, please forward the pertinent information to the church office at: 814-725-8641 or office@fpcne.org. Thank you!

GET UP EARLY ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AND COME TO THE MEN’S GROUP. They meet at 7:30 A.M. in the boardroom next to the Pastor’s Study. They’re a great group of men, and there is always plenty of strong hot coffee!



THE PRAYER CHAIN

IF YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST, speak with Pastor Gregg, call Patti in the church office (814-725-8641), or email our prayer chain (jlivingston@neo.rr.com OR office@fpcne.org). Email us if you’d like to be added to our email prayer chain.



VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.FPCNE.ORG

“LIKE” US ON FACEBOOK, AND KEEP UP ON THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH. We post important news and church happenings and upload lots of great photos and videos. Have something you'd like to share? Send it to Patti in the Church Office at office@fpcne.org, and we'll post it for you.

SERVICE SCHEDULES

DATE	USHERS	READER	NURSERY
1-Jan	Dave Meehl, John Wilcox, Roger Meehl, Dianne Tyler, Sophie Tyler	Mary Ann Reid-Boyd	Jean, Ali, and Brendan Bahm
8-Jan	Bob & Sandy Nelson, Ron Blosser, Al Mohnkern, Vivian Daughrity	Barb Zorzie	Selina and Dave Uglow
15-Jan	Vern & Kitty Hurlburt, Joe & Sue Spacht, Garrett Connors	Jeff Hinman	Krissy Cole-Lane and Julie Cole
22-Jan	Kathy & Lynn Peterson, Barb Blount, Steve Seymour, Cole Elkin	Bob Murray	Paul and Barb Zorzie
29-Jan	Jerry Weinheimer, Bob Murray, Tom Schenker, Peggy Walsh, Evelyn Daughrity	Brooks Townsend	Heidi Bemis and Tessa
5-Feb	Dave Meehl, John Wilcox, Roger Meehl, Dianne Tyler, Sophie Tyler	Becky Oyler	Katie Gallagher and Ali Nagle
12-Feb	Bob & Sandy Nelson, Ron Blosser, Al Mohnkern, Vivian Daughrity	Kyle Regan	Barb and Harry Blount
19-Feb	Vern & Kitty Hurlburt, Joe & Sue Spacht, Garrett Connors	Char Manison	Jan Trojanowski and Leila Zorzie
26-Feb	Kathy & Lynn Peterson, Barb Blount, Steve Seymour, Cole Elkin	Don Tyler	Debra Alcorn & Scott DeVore & Taylor
5-Mar	Dave Meehl, John Wilcox, Roger Meehl, Dianne Tyler, Sophie Tyler	Christy Mayes	Beth and Steve Seymour
12-Mar	Bob & Sandy Nelson, Ron Blosser, Al Mohnkern, Vivian Daughrity	Dean Taylor	Lisa Kelly and Marissa
19-Mar	Vern & Kitty Hurlburt, Joe & Sue Spacht, Garrett Connors	Bryan Lash	Bob and MaryAnn Reid-Boyd
26-Mar	Kathy & Lynn Peterson, Barb Blount, Steve Seymour, Cole Elkin	Kathy Taylor	Patti and Joe Kuna

CHURCH OFFICERS

2017	2018	2019
SESSION		
Vern Hurlburt	Rodger Hazen	Marcia Regan
Roy Orton	Craig Carlson	Brian Lash
Doty Wagner	Scott Connors	Joe Spacht
<i>vacant</i>	Patti Kuna	<i>vacant</i>
DEACONS		
Barbara Blount	Sally Murray	Terri Andrews
Ashley Connors	Donna Banks	Charlotte Manison
Becky Oyler	Jean LaFuria	Barb Zorzie
Kathy Peterson	<i>vacant</i>	Leila Zorzie
Carol Ripley		
TRUSTEES		
Bob Murray	Fred Lucore	Joe Kuna
Al Walz	Tom Schenker	Andy Knight
Jerry Weinheimer		Al Mohnkern
AUDITORS		
Abby Johnson	Yvonne Peck	Jean Bahm
PRESBYTERIAN HOMES REPRESENTATIVES		
TBA		

