

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BORDENTOWN

CHURCH ADDRESS: 420 FARNSWORTH AVENUE

OFFICE ADDRESS: 435 FARNSWORTH AVENUE

BORDENTOWN, NJ 08505

OFFICE PHONE: 609-298-1243

REV. ROBIN E. LOSTETTOR, PASTOR

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NOVEMBER 2011



FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

This month I yield my space to several church members who have taken the time to write a bit about their experience in our church or their thoughts on stewardship. I encourage you to read and enjoy these five stories from your church family.

In Christ's shalom, Robin

From Peggy & John Lauricella:

As long-time Presbyterians and new members of this congregation, active stewardship is important to us. We have always pledged and done our best to give our time and talent to the Church. This congregation has been especially welcoming and helpful to us during the birth of our first grandson and his ongoing serious illness, and it was that feeling of family, even for us so new to the group, that made us want to become a permanent part of First Presbyterian Church of Bordentown and to support its work.

From Simmee Darpino:

Many times each day I try to be grateful for ALL that God has given me. Appreciation and thankfulness are essential in spiritual growth. I've learned that through the dark days of our lives, and we all have some, STRENGTH and GUIDANCE will be given to us as we pray, listen and then keep going. I do believe that God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are real.

It's so long overdue that I thank you, my CHURCH FAMILY for the LOVE you showed me during Pete's illness and finally resting with his maker. Marlene Lyszczak was the first friend to speak about FEELING the prayers of the people, the power of prayer. I came to know what she meant. When you most need it, you have an unexplained peace to sustain you. Ask for it, receive it. An unfathomable Everlasting Power exists in this vast world. It is alive in the First Presbyterian Church of Bordentown and this church holds a very special place in my life and in my heart. So it is that I try to give money, time and energy to keep its doors wide open.

PLEASE join me in sharing your talents and the gifts God has given you. Let's see our church grow. May you feel as blessed as I feel.

From Hannah Lee:

The mission meal is a gratifying program that takes place on every last Sunday in every month. The gratifying feeling is seeing the people's faces when we give them a warm delicious meal with fruits, snacks, and drinks. The mission meal feeds 100 meals and is brought together by many volunteers. Mission meal is something that I enjoy doing because it is fun and I realize what some people's conditions are in this world. The homeless people in the motels always seem so happy when we give them their meals. For us, we already know that we will have a meal every single day, but these people in the motels aren't sure if they will or not. I remember when we were doing the mission meal during Christmas time. During this time we handed out toys for the little ones, books for the adults, and warm scarves, gloves, etc. to the families. I loved to see the little kids' smiling faces when we gave them the toys. I love mission meal, and I'm happy to be a part of such an inspiring program as part of my stewardship.

Continued on page 4



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Corinne Agins; Henry Allegretti; Vicky Ayala and her family; Virginia Bank; Karen and Erin Chamberlin; Syd Conklin; Joyce Davies; Daniel and Alexander Drobish; Jackie Fama; Jodi Hawryluk; Marion Knaus; Albina Lancieri; Cleo Lewis; family of Raymond Lord; Ruth Newton; Stephen Pindar; Jess Saunders; Carla Smith.

WHO'S IN CHARGE FOR NOVEMBER

Minister — Rev. Robin Lostetter; Phone: 298-1250

Best time to call is between 10 am & 10 pm

rlostetter@bordentownpresbyterian.org

Director of Music — Gwendolyn Huber

Accompanists — Lynn Flickinger, Debbie Hill,
Tina Vilic

Secretary — SaraLee Pindar; *SaraLee's Usual*
Office Hours: W, Th, Fri 9-1;
office@bordentownpresbyterian.org

Deacon of the Month — Bobbi Maiuro, 291-0359

Worship Co-Leaders

11/06—Elke McAteer

11/20—Cassie Bolinger

Fellowship Hour:

11/06—Don Ryba

11/13—Model Train Event

11/20—Bolinger family

11/27—None (Happy Thanksgiving!)

*To volunteer as a Co-Leader or for Fellowship
Hour, call Kathie Ackerman, 298-0661*

Communion Servers — November: Greg Hoch;
Amy Dallas; Barbara Kimball; Anne Reilly

Communion Servers — December 24, early:
Bobbi Maiuro; Blake Bolinger; Don Ryba;
Karen Chamberlin

Communion Servers — December 24, late:
George Carmichael; Kathie Ackerman;
Donna Potts; Melonie Newton

Extended Child Care:

11/06—Kerri Pell

11/13—Megan Arnold

11/20—Corinne Agins

CELEBRATING THIS MONTH



11/01 Nancy and Earl Grim



11/01 Travis Maiuro
11/02 William Federico
11/03 Emily DelVecchio
Lauren Gyax
Sara Trappe
11/04 Christine Bolinger
Maggie Hetman
11/05 Bill Sullivan
11/07 Julia Federico
11/10 Leigh Gyax
Jessica Remington
11/14 Linda Gallo
11/17 Kristen Lukach
Erica Rice
11/19 Donna Hill Krupa
Greg Hoch
Michael Ramalho
11/20 Joshua Hancock
Pat Terry
11/24 Emily Lukach
11/25 Isabella Vilic
11/27 Dan DiLeo
11/28 Luke Pell

MISSION IN ACTION!

And Jesus said, "You give them something to eat."

Our next Bread of Life Mission Meal: Sunday, November 27, 2011 (immediately following worship).
Saturday, December 24, 2011 (tentative schedule).

If you would like to donate to this worthwhile mission in our church, write a check to The First Presbyterian Church in Bordentown and write "Mission" or "Bread of Life Meals" in the memo section.

The Mission Team delivered 100 meals on Sunday, September 4 after rescheduling due to Hurricane Irene's arrival on August 27th & 28th. During this meal we discovered that some long term residents of The River Front were being asked to leave and they were scrambling to find shelter. We are unclear on the details of this but hope and pray that they have all found someplace to live. We'll update the congregation as soon as we know more.

If you want to see what we do and even lend a hand, our church handles meals during the last weekend of each month. Come join us for some fun and fellowship as we share our gifts with those in need.

Next Grocery Bag Mission due date: Week of November 20-26, deliver items to the First Baptist Church in Bordentown. Our church provides 50 microwaveable meals for the homeless each month. Our donation is combined with donations from other churches to provide 20-30 grocery bags to homeless families living in local area motels. Some examples are pop-top soup cans, Chef-Boyardee pasta meals, or cans of stew. Donna Potts has left a pot in the back of the church with soup can labels for your reference. **At this time we need more microwaveable donations! If you can donate some items for this monthly collection, please place them in this pot.**

Ready to distribute Mission Meals:

The Mission Team has been making up paper bags containing non-perishable food that can be stored and ready to be distributed. The bags consist of bottles of water, juice, cereal, soups, microwaveable meals, fruit cups, puddings and anything else that stores well and doesn't need refrigeration. Please help us continue this important mission in our church by making up a bag now and then that can be stored at the church. Give your donated bag to anyone on the Mission Team and we will put it in storage.

Thanks Received:

Recently a thank you letter was received from the Greater Bordentown Area Good Neighbor Guild thanking our congregation for its support. We have been active and faithful partners with other churches and organizations in Bordentown for years, feeding the hungry and responding to strangers in our midst who are in need of help. Many of our members contribute food and prepare meals and our deacons respond to many requests.

Another written thank you came recently from Ruth Farrell, Coordinator for the Presbyterian Hunger Program, which is part of our denomination's Mission Program. She expressed thanks for faithful gifts to Bread of Life which allow the Presbyterian Hunger Program to provide funds for food aid to partners around the world when it is most needed. The gifts are sent by someone in our congregation, though only the donor knows his/her identity. What a faithful response to Jesus' words!

Thanks to everyone for making sure people close to home and others far away are fed.

Grace and Peace to all! The Mission Team:

Anne Reilly, Karen Chamberlin, Donna Potts, Bobbi Maiuro, Patty Korsak, Nancy Foster, Colleen Swiderski

From Corinne Agins:

I was born Presbyterian.

My mother joined Pilgrim Presbyterian Church when she was a teenager, mostly because her friends went there and she wanted to join the choir. My parents were married there and we attended Sunday School every Sunday, while mom visited my grandmother and great-aunt, who lived right down the street. Sunday tradition was to go to Sunday School, then head to Grandmom's to visit and have lunch. I started staying for services, joined the Youth Group, became a Sunday School teacher and was ordained as an Elder, all by the time I was 15. I worked at Johnsonburg Presbyterian Camp for three years and remained an active member of church, although being active in a religious community was a challenge for my fellow high school classmates to understand. For me, it wasn't so much about the religious aspect. It was about the community aspect. Being welcomed and accepted, no matter the status of your life.

As the membership declined, many people expressed anger towards those that did not attend services. I was in north Jersey in college, and worked most weekends. When I did attend services, I felt unwelcome. The roof needs repair. The per capita needs to be paid. Our young minister felt drained and was now gone and the interims rotated as best as they could. The community aspect was gone.

The church has since merged with another local church, and I wish them all the best. When I moved back to NJ, I couldn't find a church where I felt welcome, or not pressured to join a committee or come to a meeting or Fellowship Hour/ Women's Meeting/ Coffee Time/ Sunday School..... ahhh! I just wanted to BE. Be welcome by God. Be shown by God where I belonged. For a long time, my "church" was Camp Johnsonburg. My time and talents were welcome, when I could give, with open arms, time and time again. The staff there have been close friends for well over 20 years now and I wanted that same feeling from a local church.

Apprehensively, I entered First Presbyterian of Bordentown. I hoped that no one noticed the large sign over my head that said "Loves to Help! Taught Sunday School! Is an Elder!" over my head. And they didn't. Polite smiles, no pressure, a welcoming handshake during the Passing of the Peace. Everyone seemed genuinely happy to be there, involved with activities, but happy to do so. I know my involvement will change, as I am able to give more. And I know it will be welcomed with open arms.

My faith has continued, mostly because our beliefs are simple.

God. Jesus. Community.

All are welcome.

From Pat & Mary Terry: WHY WE CONTRIBUTE TO OUR CHURCH

We contribute to our church for a number of reasons that revolve around either Christian education, worship, or mission. We both were fortunate to grow up in a church centered environment, Pat in rural Virginia and Mary in urban New Jersey. Family values and youth involvement with church were strong. As we became parents, our church community enriched our family life by developing and helping to instill values in our four children that were most important in their character development. We truly rejoice when we see and hear our young people develop at our church and oftentimes participate in our worship services in the many ways that they do.

Worship service in our beautiful sanctuary is a centerpiece of most of our Sundays. There, we are always confident that we can worship freely and reverently among friends. We feel a sense of satisfaction that our giving is not just to preserve a place for worship and Christian education for today but also helping to preserve our structures of bricks and mortar for future families and members, both young and old. We are content at letting those who are responsible for conducting our affairs be responsible for our fiscal stewardship and use our gifts where they are most needed. Lastly, we give to our church for mission, for both local needs and for needs outside of our community. We know that we have a strong ongoing mission group at our church that is doing a great job particularly in addressing our local mission needs. One common thread that weaves throughout our feelings about why we give is that of the wonderful fellowship that exists with our church activities. Whether it is a Sunday School class, worship service, or a mission project, a spirit of friendly, cooperative, and genuine fellowship is readily apparent. We wish to continue to grow in our Christian faith and believe that First Presbyterian Church of Bordentown provides that setting.



November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1 7 pm Deacons	2 6:30 Group	3 7 pm Choir 7 pm AA 8:15 Handbells	4	5 2 pm Private Party in Fellowship Hall
6 10:30 am Communion, Service of Remembrance 6 pm Youth Group	7 7:30 Women's AA	8 7 pm Session	9 6:30 Group 6:30 Scouts	10 6:15 pm Worship Committee 7 pm Choir 7 pm AA 8:15 Handbells	11 Model Train 7 pm Coffee-house: Blue	12 Display
13 10:30 am Worship Train Display Continues	14 7 pm Women's Bible Study 7:30 Women's AA	15 Newsletter Deadline	16 6:30 Group	17 8 am Men's Breakfast Garden St. Diner 7 pm Choir 7 pm AA	18	19
20 10:30 am Worship-Stewardship Dedication 6 pm Youth Group	21 7:30 Women's AA	22	23 6:30 Scouts; 6:30 Group; 7 pm Community Thanksgiving Service	24 	25	26
27 1st Sunday of Advent, 10:30 am Worship-Hanging of the Greens Mission Meal after worship	28 7 pm Women's Bible Study 7:30 Women's AA	29 7 pm Presbytery in Hightstown	30 6:30 Group	1 7 pm Choir 7 pm AA 8:15 Handbells	2	3

SUNDAY MORNINGS: Children's Chimes 8:55; Sunday School 9:15; Worship 10:30

FAMILY FUN FRIDAYS! Every 2nd Friday, September through June!



Consider First Presbyterian Church your living room on the 2nd Friday of every month! There will be some light snacks and something fun to do for (almost) all ages. (And if we have requests in advance, we can even provide infant/toddler care for the early part of the evening.)

On October 11, we heard a really fun band, “Group W”, along with some of our own congregation’s voices. Casey McEniry took on two roles for two different songs, which she performed superbly! I hope you didn’t miss it!! Demure Miss Second Hand Rose is pictured at left.

On November 11, we have lollapalooza! Not only the coffeehouse with the requested return of *Blue Jersey Band*, along with the opportunity for open mic performances, but we will be hosting a model train display, along with the Bordentown Historical Society. (See the flyer elsewhere in this newsletter.) And, because it’s Veteran’s Day, we’ll have a patriotic sing-along as we remember those who have given so much through the years as part of the armed services of our country. In addition, because we are followers of the Prince of Peace, we will also offer the opportunity to give to our denomination’s Peacemaking Offering. No one wants conflict and war, but we continue to honor those who have given sacrificially in the reality of our political world, even as we continue to work for peace.

Continuing in this stunning line-up, we will host the American Boy Choir on December 9 for a concert of Christmas music. Tickets are \$30, and a few donated tickets are available if you or a friend would like to attend, but cannot afford the ticket. (Please speak with Pastor Robin.) We’re hoping for Standing Room Only, as we seek not only to meet expenses (as with all our 2nd Fridays), but also make this a successful fund-raiser. Please see Elke McAteer for tickets — bring your family, friends, and neighbors — and purchase your tickets early!

January 13 we’ll offer a surprise . . . something laid-back . . . maybe a game night, movie, or pot luck. Watch for details. And then in February, Café 420 is back with the return of the duo from “Backbeat”, singing some romantic covers from the 60’s to today, along with a few original pieces. The theme for February 10, of course, will be Valentine’s Day . . . and maybe we’ll even have a dance floor!

For More Info

www.bordentownpresbyterian.org

Open mike: Wendy at giduly@juno.com

PRE-CHRISTMAS COOKIE AND CANDY TASTING DAY DECEMBER 4TH

Bring some samples and make sure you bring your recipes to share with everyone.

What are your favorites? What are some easy fun things to make with the kids?

What are some easy last minute treats?

Beverages will be provided.

CAFÉ 420

and the
Bordentown Historical Society

will host a

Model Train Display

marking the 180th anniversary of the arrival of the John Bull Locomotive in Bordentown

Community Open Mic &
Veterans Day Patriotic Sing-a-long

followed by

Blue Jersey Band

BLUE JERSEY BAND brings an eclectic mix of swing,
gypsy jazz, and bluegrass to their performances.

Frank Ruck: mandolin, guitar, vocals; Ellen Ruck: guitar, vocals;
and Mike Sutton: bass guitar

You'll hear influences of Django Reinhardt, Tony Rice,
David Grisman, and Freddie Green.

Their venues have included: Cafe Improv, New England Folk Festival,
Swingin' Tern, Princeton Country Dancers, Belle Mead Music
Club, Communiversity, Pine Lakes Summer Series, Village
Bakery Friday Night Series, Viridian Gallery in NYC.

More at <http://www.bluejerseyband.com/>

Come for a lively and swinging evening of music!

FRIDAY, NOV 11 7:00-9:30 PM

First Presbyterian Church

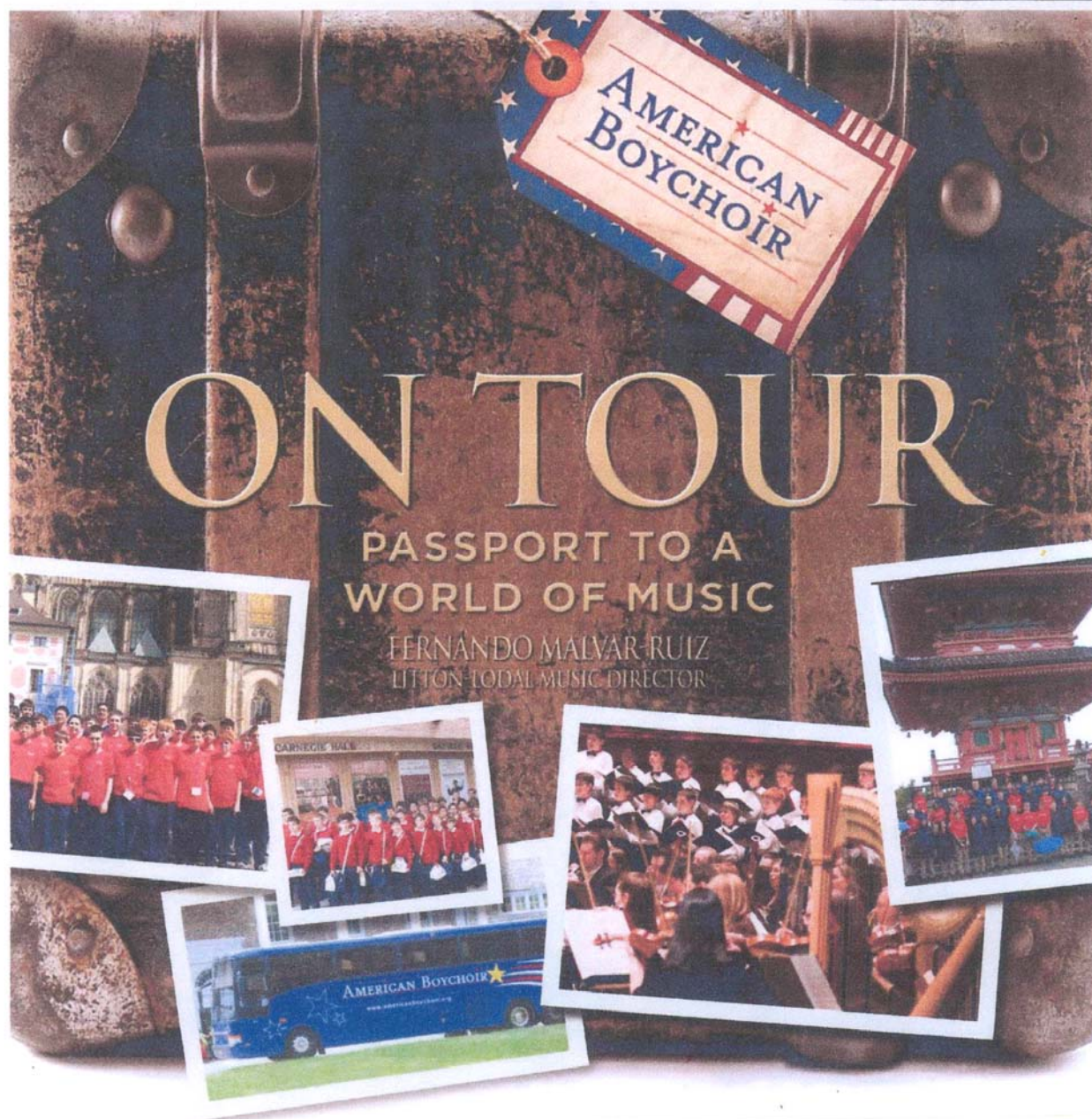
420 Farnsworth Avenue, Bordentown

All Ages ~ Freewill Offering

(Suggested Donation \$10 no one turned away; children - free)

Free snacks and coffee

FOR INFORMATION, CALL (609) 298-1243 [HTTP://WWW.BORDENTOWNPRESBYTERIAN.ORG/](http://WWW.BORDENTOWNPRESBYTERIAN.ORG/)



Friday December 9th

7:30pm

Bordentown First Presbyterian Church

Tickets \$30

Call Elke McAteer at (609) 324-0271

elke@ergomanagement.com



IN CONCERT



Important Dates for Worship, Youth & Church School

Youth Group

- November 6: Regular Meeting (6 - 7:30)
- November 11-12: help with snack sales at the Model Railroad exhibit
- November 20: Regular Meeting (6 - 7:30)
- December 4: Regular Meeting (6 - 7:30)
- December 11: Party (details TBA)

Church School

- November 27 - no classes (Thanksgiving weekend)
- December 18 - Children's Pageant in worship
- December 25 - no classes (Christmas Day)
- January 1 - no classes (New Year's Day)

Worship

- November 6 - Service of Remembrance, Communion
- November 20 - Harvest Home, Stewardship Dedication
- November 27: Hanging of the Greens
- December 4: Communion
- December 11: Choir Christmas Cantata
- December 18: Children's Pageant
- December 24 (Saturday evening):
Christmas Eve Services at 7:30 and 11 p.m.

AFTER SCHOOL GOOD NEWS CLUB

Trinity UMC invites children to this once a week, one hour club that provides dynamic bible lessons, creative learning activities, inspiring stories and meaningful songs for children from 5 to 12, delivered by specially trained Christians and sponsored by the Child Evangelism Fellowship of New Jersey. Flyers and registration forms are on the back counter for this year's club, which will be held at the Peter Muschal School. For more information, call Helen Magowan at 298-1401.

Most of prayer is listening to silence. Eventually that silence becomes a Presence. The Presence becomes a Companion and speaks to the heart but only in terms the heart can understand...most often without words...almost always without words.

- Fr. Paul Bresnahan

THE PENNY BANK

Did you know that our church's Penny Banks were introduced about 20 years ago by members Jim and Shirley Jackson? The basic concept was that every person would put a penny in a bank at each meal at home. This would help provide a Christian center to meals as well as raise funds for the church. It was a family-oriented activity that children could participate in. From time to time the families would bring in the banks and empty them into the containers at the back of the church.



Ken Jensen made the pieces for the original small, wooden banks in his woodshop. Groups of members of all ages were convened, during which the banks would be assembled. A piece of paper was affixed to each church including the church's name and the following words: "1¢-Per Person-Per Meal-Per Day" and "YOUR PENNIES HELP SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH." The little banks were distributed to existing members and, over time, to new members, with the suggestion that they make this a part of each family's devotional life at meal times.

Over time the supply of banks produced by Mr. Jensen and other church members ran out. Since that time members have been urged to set aside some kind of plastic container and designate it to be the family's "penny bank". Although initially only pennies were collected, over time people began to put in other coins as well. Any denomination of coin may be given.

The penny banks were implemented during a time of fiscal distress for the church. The budget had been cut, and money raised through the penny banks was intended to function as an emergency fund to handle emergent needs that could not be covered in the regular budget. According to Mae Hamilton's recollection, the fund has support the purchase of items such as hymnals and office equipment. And in the past year it made possible new chairs for the choir and the PA system and microphones we use in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you, everyone, for your pocket change and dinner table donations!



Perhaps you've noticed the newly renovated nursery area in Fellowship Hall. This area is for parents to bring very young children during worship if an anxious or active child needs a break. The area is also the location for the Pre-K/K church school class.

We hope that you will help us keep this area clean and neat for its intended purposes. Thank you!

Did You Know?

The biblical model for stewardship of the work of our hands is the tithe. A tithe (often considered 10%) is given first . . . the first check that you write each week or each month. If you talk to tithers, you'll find that this practice has enhanced, rather than hampered, their ability to meet regular expenses.

But what about the joke that "the one who dies with the most toys, wins"? We know that each of us will eventually pass from this earthly life to life eternal, and that "the most toys" won't go with us! You can continue your proportional giving or tithe from your estate by simply adding one sentence to your will: "After all my bills are paid, I want 10% of my estate (a tithe) to go to First Presbyterian Church." In this way, you can extend your stewardship of all you have received from God, and you can help sustain your church family, your church school, and your church's ministry into our community.

If you'd like to know more about estate options, please speak with the pastor or a member of our stewardship committee.



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