

Presby Pages

First Presbyterian Church

100 Main Street / POB 212

Stanhope, NJ 07874

(973) 347-5142 / office

www.stanhopepresbyterian.org

(973) 347-1787 / fax



Rev. Hugh J. Matlack, Pastor, hmatlack@optonline.net
Bette Van Patten, Organist and Choir Director, (610) 588-6157
Janet Zeas, Church Secretary, fpcstanhope@optonline.net
Lynn Motyka, Financial Secretary, (973) 398-1156
Brian Davenport, Treasurer, (973) 398-6194
Jim Gardner, Deacon's Moderator, (973) 398-8337
Ginny DeMario, Webmaster, ginny@kgdesignllc.com
Tina Honthy, Clerk of Session, (973) 347-4981

October 2011

HUGH'S VIEWS

Well Noah's Ark is coming this Sunday, October 2nd, but I was expecting God's Big Boat to save us this morning (Wednesday, September 28th). The manse ended up with over two feet of water in the basement and the CE Building had water here and there, along with puddles in the MacNeill Room. I know the Hansens were working to push a few inches of water toward the sump pump in the Little House. My thanks to Janet Zeas, Jim Gardner and Herman Barkwood for helping us clean-up so quickly. We also owe the Stanhope Fire Department a thank-you for pumping out the basement (Craig Forster and Butch Depew were part of the crew). God bless!

Ginny DeMario has amped up the regular website for the church and I recommend you check it out. Stanhopepresbyterian.org is our regular website and the main and major source of information from our church. Officers and organizations need to work with Ginny to expand their own publicity with our principal website.

The session approved using our Optimum Boost account to have a 'pastor's page' and you can find it at fpcstanhope.org

I am going to use this forum to communicate some quickly unfolding news from the Church Office and daily work of the congregation – you will find each week the worship bulletins and after Sunday morning, the sermon also. I will also use this site to offer each week some reflections on whatever the Spirit leads us to consider. So we have two outlets of communication along with the Facebook page Matt Kester monitors. Thanks to all for their good work.

Remember – **two services** every
Sunday, at 8:15 and 10:00 am



PET ADOPTION AND BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

The Outreach and Mission Committee will be hosting a Pet Adoption and Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 2, 2011 following the services. Noah's Ark will be providing both cats and dogs that are in need of homes and will be at the church from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm. Reverend Matlack will also be performing a Blessing of the Animals for all who are interested. All animals are welcome, but please make sure that all animals are leashed, contained and well behaved. The Outreach and Mission Committee will also be offering refreshments - hot dogs, chips and refreshments. While the Blessing of the Animals and the cookout are free (donations are of course welcome), Noah's Ark will be charging an adoption fee that covers basic shots, spaying and neutering. If you or someone you know is interested in adopting a four-legged friend please stop by. If you are interested in helping out at the event or have any questions, please contact Matthew Hansen at 973-527-7287 or by email at rbf147@yahoo.com.

We will be inside, upstairs in Fellowship Hall. Noah's Ark is the animal shelter on Route 46 near the top of Kingtown Mountain.

We will also be offering a 'blessing of the animals' so bring your pet and Rev. Matlack will offer a blessing for him / her / them. We can do the blessing individually, whenever you arrive.

BTW - Noah's Ark offers older pets for older adults. This combination may make for a good fit. Ask about it Sunday.

Hugh and Kate and Ellyn Matlack recently adopted an abandoned doggie, Rufus. These animals can make excellent companions for all of us.



WORSHIP TIMES

In late July, the Session fashioned a new worship schedule for the First Sunday of each month. Based in your suggestions through focus groups, plus also a good, hard look at what we were trying to accomplish plus what was working (or not so much), the elders decided to:

- *have **two services every** Sunday, including the first Sunday of each month
- *those times would remain the same each week, **8:15 and 10:00 am**
- *the **Healing Service would move** to the first Sunday morning, **8:15 am**
- *we would try to establish an **adult education** event at **9:00 am** on the first Sunday
- *the second service on the first Sunday would emphasize reaching out to an **intergenerational** congregation and be as much interactive as possible
- *we would have **special simple rituals** for that Sunday, the second service, we would not be doing other times (and children will be performing them).

NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN – OCTOBER, 2011

With no PW meetings scheduled for the months of July & August, our meetings started up again on Tuesday, September 6th with (11) eleven women in attendance.

On Thursday, September 8th, we hosted a hot luncheon for the friends and relatives of deceased, long time church member, Margaret Ward.

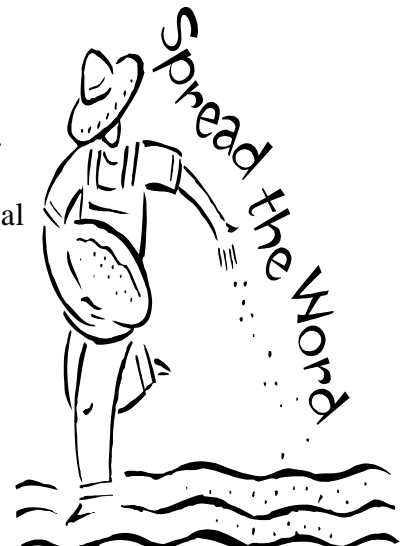
The PW Ham Dinner will be held on Saturday, October 8th from 4:30 to 7:00. Take outs will be available upon request. Hot dogs for the children will not be served this year. Also, due to the economy, we find it necessary to raise tickets prices for adults only to \$12.00.

Time flies quickly, and next month we will be preparing for our annual mission work for “Operation Christmas Child” (sponsored by Samaritan’s Purse) by filling shoe boxes for needy children throughout the world. . Leaflets, bookmarks and a pamphlet with instructions about filling the shoe box(es) will be inserted into our church bulletin (both services, on **Sunday, October 30th**. (Extra copies may be available in the church foyer in case you do not receive a bulletin.) The collection week this year is **November 14th – November 21st**. The filled shoe box (es) should be turned into the church office by **Sunday, November 20th** so that delivery of the boxes may be made on **Monday, Nov. 21st** to the collection site. Please note that a fee in the amount of \$7.00 is required for each shoe box filled. The check should be made payable to “Samaritan’s Purse” with a notation of “Operation Christmas Child” in the memo area of the check. In addition to the PW filling shoe boxes, all congregants of the church are invited to participate in this mission work.

Presbyterian Women who have birthdays in October are Ruth McConnell on **October 8th** and Barbara Noffke on **October 16th**. HAPPY BIRTHDAY !

The monthly meeting will be Tuesday, October 4th, 10:00 am, MacNeill Room. The women plan to stay later and prepare food for the ham dinner.

HEADS UP Save the date for **Saturday, December 10th** for our annual Cookie Sale from 10 am to 1 pm. More details to follow.



CHOIR NEWS

Members of our Chancel Choir will be participating in this concert for the third consecutive year. It is an enjoyable experience for them and would be, as well, for all who could attend.

Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church
17 Greenwich Church Road
Stewartsville, NJ 08886

Community Choral Concert
featuring guest composer/conductor
Joseph Martin
October 15, 2011 4:00 PM


TICKET ORDER

Advance purchase of tickets: \$8.00
Tickets at the door: \$10.00
____ number of tickets requested at \$8.00
____ total amount enclosed
checks payable to Greenwich Choir

Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the address above,
to the attention of the choir director.

RENOVATION NEWS

We have finished cleaning out the downstairs and our painter Larry Welles painted the ceiling and walls. A crew is mapping out the renovation area and purchasing the materials midweek, to be followed by framing.

Our electrician, Tony DiRenzo, will be installing electrical heat throughout the entire downstairs, along with repairing all the lights upstairs and down. Ted Schwippert will be removing all four downstairs heating units and moving one upstairs to replace one by the choir rehearsal area that does not work. This plan will be cost-effective now and in the future.

Check with Ken Reed, Kirk Allen or Rich Palmer for a schedule. We will be needing help along the way.

The Session has also agreed to sponsor a Carpet Squares Promotion – if you make a gift of \$25.00 towards the renovation project we will happily give you a carpet square. Your extra-mile gift will help make this project work. Thanks! (Of course, we will receive any gifts anytime toward the renovation – just mark your check “CER” – and thanks!



BLOOD DRIVE

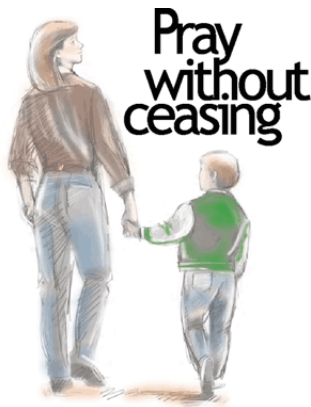
The next church sponsored **blood drive** will be **Saturday, October 22nd**, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm in the downstairs of the CE Building (we have plenty of open space right now!). See Jim Gardner at the first service or Ken Reed at the second service if you want to sign up.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Even though some classes are in temporary spaces, our Sunday School is up and running for this program year. Children three years of age and older through youth are eligible to participate. Our thanks to our staff and parents and kids.

CROP WALK

Newton Presbytery is again sponsoring a Church World Service / CROP Walk for Hunger on **Sunday, October 30th** – beginning at Rockaway Presbyterian Church. Save the date. We will have more information for you later, as we receive it.



We Believe

REGULAR EVENTS

Our monthly **Healing Service** will now be on the first Sunday of each month, **October 2nd at 8:15 am, in the Sanctuary**

Men's Group Breakfast will be **Sunday, October 9th. 7:15 am** at the Mountainside Diner on Route 206 north, Byram. All men are welcome to attend

The next **Nuts and Bolts** men's group will be
Wednesday, October 12th, noon, MacNeill Room

Presbyterian Women
Tuesday, October 4th,
10:00 am
MacNeill Room

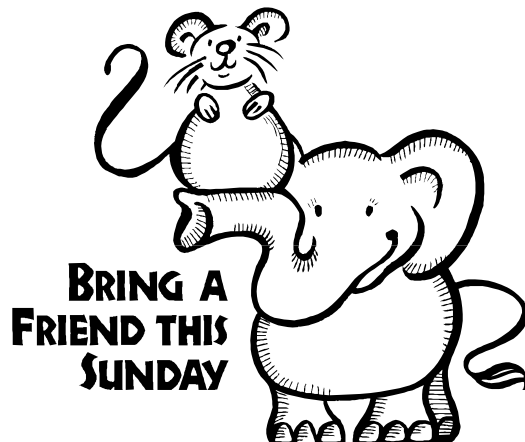


OTHER NEWS

The new 2012 **Entertainment Books** are available now. You may purchase a new book from Terri Jaksetic or the church office. They cost \$30.00 and you may start using them immediately. Terri's phone number is (973) 691-0121 and her email is tjaksetic@optonline.net

We have on-location, in the back of our parking lot, a **clothing drop-off shed**. It is always open and they will take clothing, shoes, blankets, belts, sheets and stuffed animals but not rags or pillows or household goods. Proceeds help the church!

We go to **Manna House** on the third and fourth Mondays of each month to help serve the homeless and hungry in the Newton area. If you can help, contact our coordinator, Barbara Noffke, at 908.876.3268 and her email is b.noffke@comcast.net.



FEMA REGISTRATION

If you had damage from Hurricane Irene passing through our area, you ought to register with FEMA. Their phone number is:

1-800-621-3362

Or

www.disasterassistance.gov

Or

www.fema.gov

You may be eligible for a grant or low interest loan. You will need to provide:

Your Social Security number

Private insurance information

Address and zip code of damaged property

Directions to the damaged home or property

Daytime telephone number

Rev. Matlack has complete information and can email it to you, if you wish.

Continue reading on the next page, please.

News from Joplin (speaking of FEMA) →

NEWS FROM JOPLIN

We have our prayer partners, the Toft family, who are members of the First Presbyterian Church there. They lost their house in the Spring tornado. They write to us:

Hi Rev Matlack,

Sorry to hear of the weather related problems in your area. It's certainly been a crazy year for such events.

Thanks to all for the prayers - I'm sure it helps.

I'll be serving communion this Sunday as it turns out.

Will look forward to meeting Amy when she comes for a visit.

Our retired former pastor, Rev. Dr. Bill Christman recently lost his footing while helping a daughter move into an apartment, fell backward and headfirst down four flights of stairs.....sustaining very severe head injuries. He is in a specialty hospital in Colorado now and is showing some small improvement, but is nowhere close to recovery. I'm sure some prayers in his behalf would be appreciated.

His wife, Gina, is with him there. Her address, for anyone who would want to send a card of encouragement, is: Gina Christman 3145 S York St Englewood, CO 80113.

Here is a picture from yesterday of our new house. Don't know the completion target date yet, but are going to inquire in the near future. Our outlook is: when it's done, it's done, whenever that may be. We're just thankful to be able to have it rebuilt.

I think Mary Ann is talking with our daughter in this picture giving her the latest update.

Thanks again for your love and support.

Sincerely,

Bob and Mary Ann Toft
Joplin

The Tofts are more than victims of this horrific natural disaster. They are our faithful Christian sisters and brothers. We are grateful to be able to keep them in our prayers and hope for the rebuilding of their home and community.

The "Amy" mentioned in their note is the pastor of Highlands Presbyterian, Schooley's Mountain area – the Rev. Amy Lincoln.

The picture they mentioned I am going to try to put on fpcstanhope.org I had included it here, but it was so large Cablevision refused to allow us to send the newsletter. So it goes. Enjoy.