



The Spire

The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, NJ
 140 Mountain Avenue Westfield, NJ 07090
 (908) 233-0301
 www.westfieldpc.org



Invite...
 Grow...
 Serve...

Mark Your Calendars:

- January 2,
Church Office is Closed
- January 7,
Women's Retreat
Sign-up Breakfast
- January 8, JOY Lunch
- January 20-22,
High School Ski Trip
Men's Retreat
- January 25,
Lunch and a Movie

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New Year's Resolution 2012

Every New Year people make resolutions. One of the most common is the resolution to exercise more. I expect that when I get back to the gym in January it will be more crowded than the last time I was there.

Shouldn't we be making a similar New Year's resolution for our spiritual lives?

■ There is a long tradition of talking about the devotional life of prayer, Bible study, etc., as spiritual exercise. Like most exercise, the spiritual exercises are valued for their extrinsic benefits. Few people hop on the stair-stepper at the gym for 30 minutes for the intrinsic joy of the stair-stepper (which can be more than a little boring). Rather, they do it for the extrinsic benefits of fitness, vitality and health.

■ Similarly, the spiritual exercises are valued for the way they strengthen us as Christians. Regular and specific prayers of thanksgiving can and should make us more grateful. Regular and specific prayers of intercession can and should make us more aware of the needs of God's other children. Regular Bible study should shape a way of looking at the world that makes us more loving, you get the idea.

Yet, unlike most physical exercise, people who engage regularly in the spiritual exercises also value them for their intrinsic benefits – that is, they connect us with God. They make us stop and pay attention, to sometimes see things we

might not have otherwise considered. They focus our thoughts and emotions.

Years ago, when I joined a gym I worked with a trainer who helped me put together an exercise regimen. Similarly, spiritual exercise is made more effective with some training. As I write this, I remember a great member of our congregation thanking the Spiritual Growth Workshop and saying that he had absolutely no idea how much he had to learn about prayer. I think that when it comes to developing a spiritual life, we could all use some help and guidance.

One reason I am so excited about the Unbinding the Gospel project and the E-Vent we are holding this coming Lent, is that it provides a short introduction to a wide-range of devotional exercises over a short six-week period. Another thing that helps me with physical exercise is somebody who holds me accountable. I am more regular, less likely to take it easy, when there is another person to exercise with. The same is true with prayer. An important aspect of the Unbinding the Gospel project is the weekly small group meeting to help hold us accountable and allow us to share what we've learned.

I hope a resolution to engage in some spiritual exercise in 2012 is among your New Year's resolutions.

—Ray Roberts

"Re-Gifting" Thank You 2011 from Presbyterian Women

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of this congregation for the "re-gifts" donated for shopping sprees at Norwood Terrace and Elizabethport. We were able to supply more merchandise than we have ever collected in prior years!

■ The office staff, the maintenance staff who stored the donations and helped load the goods into vans for transport, the team that sorted all the goods, and the members of PW who went to Norwood to man the Christmas shop all deserve an overwhelming round of

applause for all their hours of service.

We assisted 67 residents in their shopping at Norwood. Each received three tickets for free shopping and all their gifts were wrapped for them. They were very grateful! Most residents are in wheelchairs or otherwise compromised physically, so providing an on-site Christmas Shop with free shopping is a really an opportunity they would not enjoy otherwise. Thanks to all of you, we made it happen again!

—Ann Fontana

The Spire

The E-Vent of 2012



Lent is a season of spiritual focus for individuals and congregations. It frequently involves giving up something, perhaps a luxury, with the goal of redirecting the hunger, the cost, or the time involved in whatever we give up to the only One who can fill the God-shaped hole in our hearts.

The Presbyterian Church in Westfield will be making more of Lent in 2012 than we have in the past several years. We are clearing the

church calendar of church business meetings so our core leaders and members can focus on prayer and study. We will be seeking to enroll everyone in a daily devotional and weekly small group experience. We are even focusing our worship services on this as well. All in all, we are going to be making a big effort to help every member grow in his or her relationship with God.

—Ray Roberts

J. O. Y. — Just Older Youth



Our first JOY lunch of the new year will be January 8, the second Sunday of the month. The delicious meal prepared by the Fellowship Commission will be baked ziti, salad and garlic bread. A special dessert of Tiramisu is also planned - yummy!

Our very own Marnie Ainslie will be providing a special New Years Program — one you won't want to miss. RSVP to the church office by January 5!

Lunch and a Movie



Lunch and a Movie
January 25, 12pm

Join us January 25, (the last Wednesday of the month), for **Lunch and a Movie**. Be sure to bring a bag lunch— the Senior Network Committee supplies a dessert and beverages.

January's movie, *Calendar Girls*, will keep everyone laughing, so come even if you have seen it before! The more, the merrier!

Come to the George Plenty Room at 12:00 p.m. for lunch, followed by the movie in the Christian Lounge. Bring a friend!



Coming in Lent 2012

Unbinding the Gospel

Wherever Two or Three Are Gathered...

I was having dinner with several members of PCW earlier this week and asked them if anyone had a New Year's resolution. I think I heard crickets somewhere in the room. Eventually, someone piped in, "I'm not a fan of those things. Just sets you up for disappointment." I get that – I've definitely booted my share of New Year's resolutions. Nevertheless, I keep making them. This year, in fact, I actually have followed through and met the goal of the resolution I made at the end of 2010: to read entire Bible, cover to cover, in 2011.

What was it that made this resolution different than the others? Why did I follow through with this one in a way I had not in the past? The main ingredient that was previously missing was community. In 2011, I invited all of you to join me in reading through the Bible in a year. Without question, I would have found a host of good and justifiable reasons to veer off course or quit all together along the way, had it not been for the community of brothers and sisters in Christ going through this journey with me. There were certainly times when I thought about postponing or simply putting it off altogether, but the accountability of the community engaged in it with me kept me on track.

One important lesson that this experience has taught me is the very practical benefit of Christian community: "as iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17). How many of us are missing that essential element of *community* in our lives? Christian community is a basic building block on which

our lives as Christians are built: "where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them" (Matthew 18:20). Christ promises to be present among us as we gather together in his name, and as we dedicate our time and tasks to the glory of God.

Throughout this year you will be hearing about *Unbinding the Gospel*. *Unbinding the Gospel* is a project that PCW is undertaking in order to strengthen the ties of our community with God, with each other, and with those we encounter throughout our lives. As PCW's spiritual leaders and ruling elders, the church's session unanimously approved *Unbinding the Gospel* as a project. Since last spring, the session has been experiencing *Unbinding* in small groups during session meetings. Additionally, many elders, deacons and members have participated in *Unbinding* small groups this past fall.

The result is a trust that God is at work in bringing PCW together into the *Unbinding* project, and that God will also lead us through it as a community, establishing the good plans God has for us as Christ's church. As you hear and learn about *Unbinding* this year, I invite you to pray for the church as we move through this experience together, and to prayerfully consider how God might be inviting you into our common journey in *Unbinding the Gospel*.

-Rev. Mike Samson

"as iron sharpens iron,
so one person sharpens
another"

(Proverbs 27:17)

Westfield Daycare Center Open House

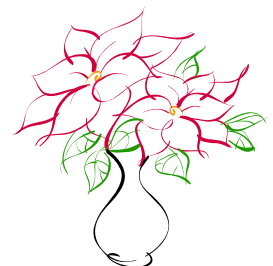
Westfield Daycare Center will hold an Open House on Saturday, January 28th, from 11:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. We encourage anyone interested to stop by for a tour. If any questions please contact Thera Rocco, Director, at thera@westfelddaycarecenter.org or 908-232-6717.

Christmas Decorating

Once again our sanctuary was beautifully decorated for Christmas by our wonderful volunteers! Many thanks to:

John & Cathy Lamond, Nancy Werber, Jean Sweet, Merrilyn Crane, Gary Hunsinger, Doug Dubois, Joe Sobala, Art and Barbara Horner, Marylyn Straight, Ann Fontana, Anne Heinbokel, Gerard Kieczkowski, Connie Muirhead, Wayne & Kay Schroeder, Yelana Villamena, Gayle & Barbara Hannah, Carolyn Fleder, Jane Curtis, Betty List, Penny Potok, Jennie Williams, Nancy Smith and Faye Sobala, Co Chairs

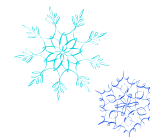
Open House



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JANUARY 2012



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Happy New Year 10am Worship 	2 Church Office Closed	3 9am Craftsmen 9am Searching 4 Work 6pm Confirmation 7pm Outreach/Welcome 7:30 Communications, Stewardship, Worship, Youth 8pm Mission	4 7am Dawn Patrol 10am Program Staff 1pm Agape Prep 3:15 Agape 5pm C.O.W.	5 7am Breakfast Club 9:30 PW Board Mtg 7:30 Chancel Choir	6 12pm Lunch & Book	7 7:30 Men's Breakfast 10am Women's Retreat Sign-Up Breakfast
8 8 & 10 Worship 9am Adult Education 9am Youth Education 10am Sunday School 11am JOY Lunch 5pm MS Fellowship 6:30 Youth Worship 7pm HS Fellowship	9 1:30 Parkinson Support Group 7:30 Stephen Ministry	10 9am Craftsmen 9am Searching 4 Work 1:30 Program Staff 6pm Confirmation 7:30 Session	11 7am Dawn Patrol 1pm Agape Prep 3:15 Agape 5pm C.O.W.	12 Presbyterian Women Circles 7am Breakfast Club 9:30 PW Circles Mtg 3:30 PW Circle Mtg 7:30 Chancel Choir	13 9:30 Bible Study with Pastor	14
15 8 & 10 Worship 9am Adult Education 9am Youth Education 10am Sunday School	16 MLK Holiday Church Office Closed 	17 9am Craftsmen 9am Searching 4 Work 1:30 Program Staff 6pm Confirmation 7:30 Office & Property	18 7am Dawn Patrol 1pm Agape Prep 1:30 Senior Network 3:15 Agape 5pm C.O.W.	19 7am Breakfast Club 5:30 Zambia Team 7:30 Chancel Choir	20 9:30 Bible Study with Pastor <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> HIGH SCHOOL SKI TRIP JANUARY 20-22 </div> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin-top: 5px;"> ANNUAL MEN'S RETREAT JANUARY 20-22 </div>	21 7:30 Men's Breakfast
22 8 & 10 Worship 9am Adult Education 9am Youth Education 10am Sunday School 5pm MS Fellowship 6:30 Youth Worship 7pm NO HS Fellowship	23 7:30 Stephen Ministry	24 9am Craftsmen 9am Searching 4 Work 1:30 Program Staff 6pm Confirmation 7:30 Deacons	25 7am Dawn Patrol 12pm Lunch /Movie 1pm Agape Prep 3:15 Agape 5pm C.O.W. 7:30 Life Long Learning	26 7am Breakfast Club 9:30 PW Sewing 7:30 Chancel Choir	27 Annual Reports Due 9:30 Bible Study with Pastor 6:30 New Member Pot Luck Dinner <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> Its Annual Report Time! All Moderators should submit their reports to Dawn Adam, dadam@westfieldpc.org by January 27! </div>	28
29 8 & 10 Worship 9am Adult Education 9am Youth Education 10am Sunday School 5pm MS Fellowship 6:30 Youth Worship 7pm HS Fellowship	30	31 9am Craftsmen 9am Searching 4 Work 1:30 Program Staff 6pm Confirmation				

Christian Education

“Night of Light” Advent Adventure: In December, children age 3 through 5th grade and their families celebrated Advent at a special Wednesday evening program called Advent Adventure. The theme “Night of Light” recognizes that Jesus, the light of world, comes to us in a special way during Advent. Children made Advent wreaths to take home and to donate to others. They also participated in scavenger hunts in the sanctuary where they found stars and other sources of light. Children ended the evening singing Christmas carols accompanied by our new Music Director, Kathleen Connolly. Many thanks go to all the parents who helped out with this event along with the Planning Team: Tisha Klofta, Jessica Cerino, and Emily Howell.

Family Christmas Eve Service: Children age 3 through 5 grade participated in our annual Family Christmas Eve Service as animals, shepherds, angels and stars. Many thanks to all the children who participated! (See names at right)

Remembering and Celebrating our 2011

Children's Mission Projects: Involving children in opportunities to serve and give of themselves is a priority for our children and families program at PCW. In 2011, children participated in seven different service projects as part of our Sunday School, Church on Wednesday and Vacation Bible Camp programs: 1) decorating “Bag of Love” (tote bags) for our homebound seniors; 2) assembling “Health Kits” for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance—these included combs, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, washcloths, and similar items; 3) tie-dying backpacks for children in Latin America as part of our summer Vacation Bible Camp program; 4) assembling and decorating Advent wreaths and Christmas ornaments for donation to a local health care facility; 5) making placemats for guests at a soup kitchen program in Elizabeth; 6) decorating and assembling gift bags and bringing in donations of Chapstick and skin lotion for guests at our church’s Agape program; and 7) donating toys to an elementary school in Elizabeth. Their love was spread locally, nationally and internationally!

Sunday School in January: Our 2 year old class listens to a bible story, does a related activity, plays and enjoy a snack each week. Kids Discovering Worship (Age3 through 1st grade) will participate in the following story sessions: *Meeting the Christ Child, Jesus is Baptized, The Boy Jesus in the Temple, Jesus in the Wilderness, and Jesus and the Children.* Our We Believe classes (2nd-5th grade) will participate in a special unit on “Thankfulness” through art and spiritual prac-

tices workshops. They will also start preparing for Children’s Sunday, February 12th.

Lunch Bunch News: Children in 2nd through 5th grade assemble lunches on the second Sunday of the month as part of the “We Believe” Sunday School program. The lunches are then transported to and handed out at a soup kitchen in Elizabeth that serves a meal at 3:00 p.m. The Lunch Bunch program used to be held once a month on a Tuesday afternoon, but many of our children were not able to participate due to schedule conflicts, so we have moved the program to Sunday!

ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE: Children's Sunday on February 12th: On February 12th, children in K-5th grades will help lead the worship-service. They write different parts of the worship service and actively lead parts of the service as well. They prepare for this special Sunday in their Sunday School classes during January and February. The theme for Children’s Sunday is “Attitude of Gratitude.” We would like to ask parents to make a special effort to have their children attend Sunday School on the following Sundays: January 8, 15, 22, 29 and February 5, and 12. In addition, a brief rehearsal will be held. The rehearsal date and time will be announced closer to the date of Children’s Sunday.

2012 Children’s Mission Projects: For the remainder of the school year, we have two mission projects planned for our 2nd through 5th grade “We Believe” workshop rotation classes. One project involves assembling a soup mix into jars and then selling them at church in March. The second project is a mission fair where children learn about all the various mission activities that the Presbyterian church (U.S.A.) is involved with. The Church on Wednesday (COW) program will also host some mission activities.

Mark Your Calendars:

Sunday, January 1

No Sunday School

Sunday, February 12, 2012

Children’s Sunday

Sunday, April 1, 2012

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, May 20

Kindergarten Bible Presentations

Sunday May 20

Sunday School

Teacher’s Appreciation Breakfast

Christmas Eve Participants

*Jeffrey Bennett
Camille Blaise*

JB Blaise

Spencer Brown

Sean Canavan

Josie Cerino

Sam Cerino

Abbey Colao

Lauren Cunningham

Aidan Dailey

Grace Dailey

Will Dailey

Isabelle Del Tergo

Lily Dimon

Owen Dimon

Jack Elfstrum

Logan Elfstrum

Sutton Factor

Adrian Fleming

Mia Fleming

Joseph Gamba

Jackson Garnecki

Logan Gibbs

Mason Gibbs

Shannon Gibbs

Casey Heintz

Paul Heintz

Michael Henry

Milone Henry

Rowen Henry

Genevieve Howell

Julie Hyman

Rachel Klemm

Sarah Klemm

Ella Johnson

Nicholas Madden

Declan McCauley

Maggie McCauley

Elise McMeekan

Laura Moore

Billy Moore

Eric Palia

Max Parhofer

Carolyn Parhofer

Avery Pierce

Danny Pierce

Elle Priesing

Max Priesing

Erin Roth

Hannah Sincliar

Samantha Stravach

Emma Sugrue

Julia Sugrue

Hannah Thomas

Cameron VanWyk

Anna Victorino

Max Victorino

Rebecca White

Theresa White

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Youth

Thanks to the following youth for participating in the Christmas Eve Family Service. We couldn't do it without you!

- Alex Bennett
- Will Bennett
- Sam Brown
- Tess Brown
- Sam Colao
- Cynthia Cote
- Jack Cote
- Andrew Dumont
- Jack Dumont
- Paige Dumont
- Caroline Ehrhardt
- Jack Fico
- Rich Fletcher
- Evan Gibbs
- Ben Howell
- Jake Klofta
- Rose Klofta
- Svetlana Marhefka
- Vlad Marhefka
- Jack McCauley
- Greg Morano
- Charles Nary
- Alyson Palia
- Sophia Palia
- Brianna Pastro
- Katherine Pink
- Emily Polak
- Malcolm Spurlock

FELLOWSHIP & BREAKFAST CLUB RESUME!
 After a brief hiatus for Christmas and New Years all of your favorite youth programs are back! The fun begins all over again on Thursday, January 5th, with Middle School Breakfast Club at 7AM! On Sunday, January 8th join the fun at Middle School Fellowship at 5PM, all youth worship at 6:30PM and High School Fellowship at 7PM. You'll be missed if you're not there!

AGAPE: Keep your Wednesdays open and come help us serve over 250+ of our friends in Elizabeth. We meet EVERY Wednesday at 3:15 pm in the church parking lot. No experience is necessary. We can use adult and youth volunteers each week. You will be glad you came!

SUNDAY SCHOOL All 6-12 grade youth in Sunday school will return to class on January 8th! Grades 6-9 meet in the Jim Cole Room and grades 10-12 meet in Lower Westminster Hall at 9am.

I want to give ALL the PARENTS who have volunteered to pick up breakfast for Sunday school and Breakfast Club throughout the 2011 year, a HUGE THANK YOU! You've all made my job THAT much simpler. I would also like to thank those parents who are volunteering for 2012. Without volunteers like you, none of this is possible! I thank you, as I am sure the youth do. Here's to another great year!

- Linnette Mercado

HomeFirst Update

Homefirst is dedicated to improving the quality of life for homeless families by providing stable, long-term and permanent housing solutions. The agency owns and operates 49 housing units in Westfield, Scotch Plains, Summit and Plainfield. For these families to succeed they need the support of various social services as well, and so the Family Success Center is the gathering place where individuals come together to build a community for a brighter future.

The Annual Christmas Party for Homefirst families and supporters was held this year at the

Family Success Center. Pictured at right (from l to r) are Kathy Higgins (Homefirst Comptroller), Judy Muscant (Board Member), Ellen McGovern (Homefirst Executive Director), and PCW Church members Marybeth Lapham and Jane Collins (both of whom serve on the Homefirst Board of Trustees).



Also pictured is Board of Trustees President Casey Woodruff leading a dedication ceremony for the opening of the Homefirst Family

Success Center and in celebration of Homefirst's 25 years of service to the homeless in Union County.



To learn more about Homefirst and how you can get involved, please check out their website at www.homefirstinc.org or visit them on Facebook to see the Homefirst Community Garden. You may also call (908) 753-4002 ext. 26 for more information or speak with any of the members of Circle #1 who regularly initiate mission projects to support Homefirst families.

Circle One: Margo Seaman, Leader, Judy Augustino, Sharon Campbell, Lisa Colao, Jane Collins, Carole Cook, Gwyneth Cote, Martha Fico, Tisha Klofta, Debby Kristiansen, Marybeth Lapham, Jennifer McCall, Carlene Palia, Caroline Youssef



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The Men's Fellowship Group Wants YOU!

The men's group meets on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. in Assembly Hall for great breakfasts and lively group discussions.

Over hot coffee, cereal, fruit, eggs, bacon and bagels this group of all ages discusses a wide range of topics contemporary, newsworthy, philosophical and spiritual. Guest speakers from outside and inside the church lead some of the topics.

Our next scheduled meeting will occur on January 7th where we will discuss ideas for the coming year as well as details regarding the Men's Retreat planned for January 20-22, 2012 in Harvey Cedars, Long Beach Island.

The retreat speaker this year will be Dr. Robert Johnson. Dr. Johnson is currently the executive director of Friends of Forman Christian College, the organization set up in the U.S. in support of Forman Christian College in Lahore Pakistan and

most recently was the Sr. Pastor at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church in Richmond, VA.

Following his doctoral work at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Dr. Johnson worked at the office of Theology and Worship at the PCUSA General Assembly. Following this he and his wife served as missionaries at Foreman Christian College in Lahore, Pakistan. Johnson previously lived at Forman with his wife Marianne and two sons, Nathan and Peter, from 2005-2008 where he was dean of the chapel and associate professor of religious studies. He also taught historical theology at Gujranwala Seminary during his time in Pakistan.

During his tenure as dean, Johnson instituted a large Christian life program for Christian students, who are a small minority in Pakistan. The program included a well-attended chapel as well as weekly Bible Studies, prayer groups and leadership committees.

Retreat registration forms are now available from Dawn Adam in the church office. Join us for this weekend of interesting discussions, spiritual renewal and fellowship.

Eagle Scout Project Supports Homefirst in Plainfield

Chris Gerckens is a life scout in Troop 72 here at PCW, and he is currently working on his Eagle Project. He has come a long way in Boy Scouts and his next big step is to become an Eagle Scout.

The project Chris is working on is to renovate the kitchen where a homeless family will be living at the Home First house in Plainfield. This project will include the demolition and removal of the current cabinets and floor. Next, he and other scouts will install a new tile floor, cabinets, and countertop.

Chris became interested in the homeless when he was younger while volunteering at the Agape

soup kitchen.

The conditions of the current kitchen are horrible, and Chris feels very strongly that the homeless residence would benefit from a new, clean kitchen. Chris is interested in any feedback or help on the project and can be reached via email at cgerckens@gmail.com.

For more information regarding Homefirst, please visit their website at: <http://www.homefirstinc.org>



Thank You from the Outreach and Welcome Commission

We want to thank all those who participated in the Live Nativity on the front lawn of the church on December 4th. What an exciting and busy event for everyone! The earlier time and the *amazingly cooperative* weather made for a seemingly record crowd. Thank you to the many members of the congregation who attended and especially to those who invited visitors.

Special thanks to the Fellowship Commission and the confirmands who assisted them for providing the hot chocolate and cookies for everyone. To those who participated by dressing up as part of the cast, we extend thanks and the opportunity for an encore in 2012.

—Gail Hein and Hal Benz, Co-Moderators,
Outreach and Welcome Commission

Thank You

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Women's Retreat Sign Up Breakfast



2012 Women's Retreat Sign-Up Breakfast
Saturday, January 7th
10:00 am
in the George Plenty Room



Please R.S.V.P. to Barbara Ringk at bringk@verizon.net or 908-322-9214
by Wednesday, January 4th.

**Enrich your retreat experience and share your gifts
in one (or more) of the following retreat committees:**

- Friday afternoon Welcome Table
- Friday night / Saturday night Hospitality Coordination
- Saturday night Entertainment
- Sunday morning Worship & Choir

The retreat is scheduled for February 24-26, 2012 at Stony Point, NY.
Mark the dates on your calendar.

Register now so you won't miss this opportunity to examine your priorities.

Women's Retreat Registration Form

Sign-Up Today!

2012 Women's Retreat
February 24-26, 2012
Stony Point, NY

Invite a New Member!

Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God: A Look at Your Priorities
with Ruth Workman

Certified Spiritual Director and Certified Supervisor of Spiritual Directors



Questions? Contact the 2012 Retreat Planning Team:
Debbie Himmel, 908-654-7540, djhimmel@comcast.net
Barbara Ringk, 908-322-9214, bringk@verizon.net



Our primary communication format is via e-mail with attachments.
Please let us know if you need phone calls and hard copy mailings.



2012 Women's Retreat

**\$100 deposit with this form will reserve a room.
Total Payment of \$225 due by February 10, 2012.**



Name: _____ Phone: _____
e-mail: _____ Roommate preference: _____

Mail / Deliver form and check made out to **PCW with Women's Retreat** in the memo line
To: The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, 140 Mountain Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090.

Confidential Scholarships Available – Contact Tina Barulli, Church Office ext. 23

The Spire

FISH Hospitality Network

As the season of Advent began, and we readied our hearts for the birth of our Lord, we needed to look no further than Lower Westminster Hall to have seen the Holy Spirit at work! Our church family welcomed eleven guests; five adults and six children, as part of the FISH Hospitality Network.

From the amazing set-up crew to all of the volunteers who helped serve breakfasts and dinners, the volunteers who gave up their comfortable beds to sleep on the couches and finally to the break down crew...a great big THANK YOU for being so willing to share yourself with our guests.

In this economy, the families that we housed are the working class that you read about: an RN, a daycare worker, a 25 year employee whose division was eliminated leaving her jobless. They found themselves struggling and eventually lost their homes. We are grateful that we were able to provide a safe, warm place for them to stay during the week.

Matthew 25:40 - *"The King will reply 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'*

— Carole Cook



Outreach and Welcome Offer Seminar for Those Considering Membership

The New Member Seminar schedule through June 2012 is as follows:

January 29th – 11:30 am to 3:30 pm

April 22nd - 11:30 am to 3:30 pm

June 3rd – 11:30 am to 3:30 pm

Join us for an informative seminar for anyone considering membership at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield. The new member class will give you time to ask questions and learn more about the church as you meet other potential new members. If you are trying to decide whether to officially join, this class is designed to help you with that process. The class

begins at 11:30 and includes time for lunch and fellowship before concluding about 3:30 pm. Child care is available and the children join their parents for lunch.

There is no need to reserve a space, but if you know that you are planning to attend, please contact Dawn Adam (dadam@westfieldpc.org) or Gail Hein, Co-Moderator of the Outreach and Welcome Commission (gailandalhein@verizon.net or 908-232-5098) or call someone at church office and inform them of your intent. Again, if you find that you are suddenly available, just come and join us. We invite you to join us!



Presbyterian Nursery School and Kindergarten

The Presbyterian Nursery School and Kindergarten will begin its 64th year in January 2012! The children have been involved in many Christmas activities including learning Christmas carols for our beloved annual Christmas Program which took place in the Sanctuary on December 21st.

The themes of caring and sharing are actively modeled in our classrooms. Our families donated almost 100 gifts for "TOYS for TOTS" during our "Cookies with Santa" event in early December and we are currently collecting books for underprivileged preschoolers in Plainfield.

Winter is an exciting time at PNS&K and provides great opportunities for learning. We are anxiously anticipating the cold weather which brings ice painting, sledding and animal track-

ing.

January starts our registration for the 2012- 2013 school year. We currently have 230 children

enrolled in 17 classes. Open houses and registration begin January 12th and conclude January 28th. Priority for enrollment is given to church members as well as an 8% discount on our tuition. Feel free to call or stop by anytime for more information.



PNS&K Christmas Program
December 21, 2011



The Spire

Financial Report

At its December meeting, Session approved the 2012 Annual Operating Fund Budget as follows:

- Total Projected Revenue of \$1,296,000
- Total Projected Expenses of \$1,419,360
- 2012 AOF deficit of **(\$123,360)** assuming full use of Investment Income from Unrestricted Endowment.

To address the large and growing deficit, Session established a Strategic Budget Task Force in March 2011. This group consists of representatives from Personnel (Al Pastro & Martha Kieczycowski) and Stewardship (Gary Zanfagna and Mark Fleder), plus the Clerk of Session (David Rogers) and Rev. Ray Roberts. Early in 2012, this committee plans to present Session with suggestions to reduce expenses.

In addition to acting on the Strategic Budget Task Force recommendations, Session will review the budget again in early April. To the extent that projected pledge revenues have not increased to cover the **(\$123,360)** deficit, the Stewardship Commission has requested that Session immediately take action to cut additional expenses so as to arrive at a balanced budget for all of 2012.

Update on the 2012 pledge campaign:
For the current year (the 2011 campaign),

there are 414 pledges totaling \$982,226.

As of 12/20/11, the 2012 campaign status is that 336 pledges have committed \$842,000 so far.

This is \$113,000 and 35 pledges behind where the church stood last year as of the same week (on 12/23) when the church had received 371 pledges for 2011 total commitments of \$955,000, or 97% of the total pledges received for the entire 2011 campaign.

	<u>Thru Nov 30</u>	<u>Projected FY</u>
Revenues	\$1,097,000	\$1,293,000
Expenses	<u>\$1,247,000</u>	<u>\$1,430,000</u>
Net Deficit	\$(150,000)	\$(137,000)

Annual Operating Fund results:

Because December is typically a month where many members catch up on their pledge payments, it is a month that normally is “positive” for net income. There is good reason to expect that the full 2011 deficit will be at or lower than the level that was budgeted!

Questions and comments are always welcomed! Feel free to contact me at mblapham2001@aol.com or at 889-6670.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

— Marybeth Lapham

Meet Our Newest Members

Please Welcome: *The Parhofers are the newest family to join PCW. Pictured at right are Patricia and Stefan and their children Max and Carolin.*

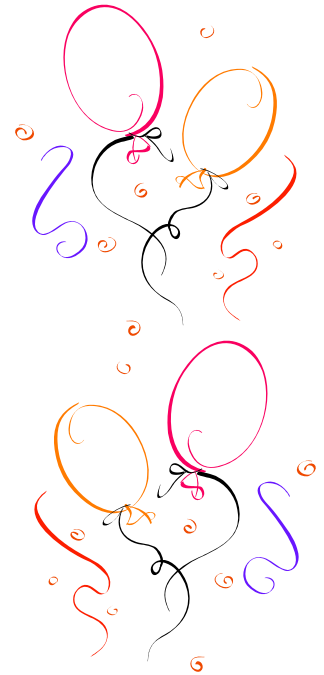
The Parhofers relocated to Westfield from Germany and have quickly become active in the PCW community. Both children participate in COW and are members of the Cherub choir. Members of the congregation have been enjoying Patricia’s musical talent as she played the recorder several times in worship. Welcome to PCW, New Jersey and the USA!



The Spire

Happy Birthday

January 1 Shepherd, Richard Bing, Honor Yearley, Anne Foltz, Peter	Timko, Charles January 7 Roberts, Katherine Schwartz, Henry	Palmatier, Amanda Danskin, Katharine January 16 Amaker, Mack Rosin, Debra Murphy, Deborah Doerr, Peggy Born, Jacquelyn Bigelow, Brian	deBrueys, Mary Meierdierck III, Paul
January 2 Burns, Kenneth Hennessey, Kevin Cimafonte, Lucas Simpson, Devin Barban, Zachary Lama, Victoria	January 8 Winter, Linda Slifer, James Pfaus, Brooke	January 17 Brand, Sherl Miller, Thomas Efthymiou, Erika Cook, Timothy	January 24 Duddy, Hugh DeMartino, Leslie Crenshaw, David Stock, Leslie Dailey, Gita Nary, Jennifer Gerckens, Kurt
January 3 Anderson, Jennifer Duddy, Kathryn Flaherty, Abigail	January 9 Luker, Joyce Schwartz, Lisa Zeitounian, Chloe Zeitounian, Kyle Timko, Linda Miller, Evelyn	January 18 Mellen, Jeanne Burke, Sara	January 25 Brumbaugh, Jane Jackson, Janet Kristiansen, David Shields, Tamara Waller, Victoria Seaman, Kathleen
January 4 Bovenkerk, Helen Curtis, G Graydon Kefalonitis, John Nary II, Charles McCall, Jennifer Jordan, Christine Petroric, Andrew Fraites, Charles Walker, Corinne Walker, Erick Lloyd-Kennington, Nicholas Lama, Cassandra	January 10 Stockwell, Sharon Scaperrotta, Brian Hickman, Jordan	January 19 Dunkley, Leslie Boyle, Jackson Marat, Dylan Miller, Jordan Demers, Grace Marmarou, Luke	January 26 Huff, David Lowe, Cheryl Sandstedt, Nicole Madden, Sarah Kole Jr, Jeffrey
January 5 Sailer Jr, Herbert Palma, Susan Carlomano, Karen deBrueys, Elizabeth Venturino, Taylor Heber, Audrey	January 11 Gray, Jessie Trimble, James Cederroth, Charles Johnson, Stephen Bender-Parsons, Meghan Liggera, Courtney Luker, Christian	January 20 Cook Jr, Robert Cooney, Jessica Panton, Matthew Downer, Emma Roth, Erin Quinlan, Michael	January 27 Shaw, Pamela Salotti, Meghan Mackay, Colin
January 6 Husch, Clara Doerr, Timothy Shepard, Peter Kelly III, Michael Pastro, Brooke Leiz, Matthew Nemec, Joel	January 12 Hedden Jr, William	January 21 Jordan, Patricia Kephart, Scott Lane, John Connolly, Eric Allen, Edward Swingle, Sydney	January 28 Schneider, Kay
	January 13 John, Sam Gruman, Lauren Kephart, Matthew Park, Stephen	January 22 Boyer, Eugene Armstrong, Gerald Black-Polak, Lisa Hoff, Jessica	January 29 Factor, Rebecca Foltz II, William
	January 14 Partelow, Alan LaMond Jr., John Rafferty, Kimberly Yeatts, Hunter Yeatts, Mason Gibbs, Mason	January 23 Rogers, David	January 30 Dougherty, Susan Santoro, Wendy McCauley, John Crosby, Tracy Yarusi, Jason Burke, Leah Lysek, Madeleine Priscoe, Quinn
	January 15 Richey, Lois Beglin Jr, Edward Burgdorf, Betsey Marino, James		January 31 Keller, Michael Albanese, Claire



Lunch and a Book

Start the New Year off by reading one of the most popular books of the year, "Little Bee" by Chris Cleave. We will be lunching and discussing this book on Friday, January 6th from 12-1:00p.m in the church library.

If you want to read ahead, our February book will be "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" by Rebecca Skloot. Any questions, contact Lisa Black at Imb.blacklaw@gmail.com.

Don't forget to bring your lunch!



The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, NJ

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Visit us on the web: www.westfieldpc.org

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Rev. Mike Samson, Associate Pastor	37
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Rev. Emily L. Wilmarth, Associate Pastor	46
E-mail ewilmarth@westfieldpc.org	
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T.O.P.S	908-654-5157
Nursery School	908-233-0766
Furniture Assist	
E-mail furnitureassist@westfieldpc.org	

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN WESTFIELD

- Worship Service in the Chapel at 8:00 a.m.
- Christian Education for Youth (grades 6-12) & Adults at 9:00 a.m.
- Worship Service in the Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday School (2yrs-5th grade) at 10:00 a.m.

Child care for infants thru 3yr olds is available in our cribbery located in Room 104 in the lower level of the Christian Ed. Building, 8:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.