



Fall 2024: Issue #2

The Presbyterian

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Over the summer, the Presbytery of the Coastlands held a series of four listening sessions. These events were for pastors and Ruling Elders, with the goal of strengthening the connections between the congregations and the presbytery, and also to encourage better connections among the various congregations of the presbytery. Berwin Guttormsen and I attended a listening Session at the First Presbyterian Church of Manasquan.

The listening sessions were moderated by our presbytery executives, the Rev. Dr. Mary Westfall and Ruling Elder Jean Woodman. These sessions also included the moderators of the Trustees of the Presbytery and the Commission on Ministry (COM). It's easy to think of "The Presbytery" as a distant entity, but these important committees are staffed by pastors and Ruling Elders, leaders who face the same challenges as us. These leaders volunteer their time to the presbytery and they are there to help congregations in need.

The Trustees are moderated by the Rev. Dr. Fred Garry, who serves as Senior Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen. The Trustees deal with all manner of property issues within the presbytery, including the sale and leasing of church property, insurance, and the financing of construction projects. And when a congregation is closed, the Trustees help to sell the church building and other real estate. Two of the most talented Ruling Elders I've ever met serve on the Trustees: Nancy Tindall (Allentown) and Walt Vincent (Hightstown). They're wonderful stewards of the church.

The COM is moderated by the Rev. Dr. Nina Reeder. Nina is honorably retired, yet she still gives of her time and knowledge to equip the saints in all of the congregations of this presbytery. The COM works closely with all congregations that are in the midst of pastoral transitions. For instance, if a congregation has neither an installed pastor, nor an interim pastor, COM will appoint someone to moderate the Session of that congregation. Currently, I am moderating the Sessions at Englishtown and Old Tennent. I do this because I'm called to serve the entire presbytery. More than that, I do this because my friend Nina asked me to. The COM also reviews the terms of call for all pastors in the presbytery and sets minimum standards of compensation for all of the clergy in this presbytery.

I'd guess that there were eight to ten Ruling Elders in attendance, including Berwin, and they asked lots of questions of our presbytery executives and committee chairs. Some of the elders were very frustrated and they asked tough questions. The presbytery leaders acknowledged the frustrations of the various elders and admitted that the transition to the new presbytery has been bumpy, and that they need to do more to connect with the congregations.

I thought it was a very productive meeting and a great way to hear what's going on in other congregations. I met several Ruling Elders whom I'd never met before and I think Berwin got to know some new folks, too. As we were driving back to Freehold, I asked Berwin what he thought. He said that he was glad to engage with other

elders and pastors and that “FPC is very much alive and well compared to other congregations within the presbytery.”

We’re all connected. The Presbytery of the Coastlands isn’t an anonymous, distant body. It’s Elder Nancy Tindall and Elder Walt Vincent. The presbytery is retired clergy, like Nina Reeder. It’s pastors of big churches, like Fred Garry, and it’s pastors of small and medium-sized congregations, like me. And it’s all of you, too.

The Presbytery of the Coastlands needs more ordained Ruling Elders to serve on its committees. We need committed servant leaders from all our congregations. If you are an ordained Elder—even if you’re not currently serving on the Session—please consider serving the greater church. The presbytery can use your time and talents and I would be grateful for your participation.

Grace & Peace,



Pastor Alan



To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:7

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FREEHOLD

SESSION

Bill Canning

Finance Commission

Berwin Guttormsen

Clerk of Session

Julie Heinsohn

Personnel Commission

Carol Matino

Worship Commission

Larry Moran

Property Commission

Vera Musser

Christian Education

Susan Pascullo

Worship Commission

Chuck Stapp

Mission/Outreach Commission

Sandra Whitehill

Mission/Outreach Commission

Nominating Commission



BOARD OF DEACONS

Judi Cavicchio

Lenora Chu

Robin Fox

Peggy Guttormsen

Barbara Jean Keune

Jean Pennett

Marie Schlechtweg

Michele Williams

CALENDAR NOTES



Sunday School Calendar:

There will be no Sunday School classes on October 13th. Classes will resume on October 20th.

Coffee Hour:

Sunday, October 13th following worship in the auditorium. *Coffee hour is monthly on the second Sunday following worship.*

Worship Calendar:

Pastor Alan will be away October 14th through October 20th. The pulpit will be filled by the Rev. Dr. Jefferson Hatch on Sunday, October 20th. If you have a pastoral emergency while Pastor Alan is away, please contact the church office.

The Sacrament of Baptism will be celebrated for:

Sierra Ryan Mote, daughter of Ryan Ashley Mote and Nicole Melissa Reese, on Sunday, October, 27, 2024.

PW Soup & Bake Sale:

Sunday, November 3rd following worship in Room A/B. More to come regarding this annual event.

Church Office
Telephone: 732-462-0234
Email: fpcsecretary2@gmail.com

JOIN US SUNDAY MORNINGS!

The 2024–2025 Sunday School year kicked off on September 15, 2024 and will run through Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2025.



September 15, 2024

Classes are held in Rooms A/B and the nursery which are located behind the sanctuary, from 9:00 AM to 9:45 AM.



September 15, 2024

Please let us know if your children are coming to Sunday School by either calling or texting Vera Musser at 732-685-3125.

We look forward to seeing you and your children Sunday mornings!

Christian Education Commission

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY



**World
Communion
Sunday**
was celebrated on
October 6th.

There was a whole host of breads at the Communion table and we celebrated Christ with us, loving us all.



And the Season of Peace culminated with the Peace & Global Witness Offering.



Thank you for your generosity and support. When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

DEACONS MINISTRY

Pastor Alan and Peggy Guttormsen recently spent some time with **Ginny Yanchus** at Preferred Care. Peggy shared this photo of Ginny and Pastor Alan in the courtyard there. It was a great visit!



As part of their ministry, the Deacons share fellowship with homebound members and the church community. Sometimes it's conversation, other times it's just listening or reading the Bible together and praying. In this way, the Deacons share God's love and grace and reconnect homebound members with their church family.

If you would like to schedule a visit or home Communion, please contact the Deacons or Pastor Alan. You can also reach out to the church office for assistance.



FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Presbyterian Women:
1:00 PM in Room A/B
2nd Tuesday of the month
(March through June and
September through December)

Contact - Marie Schlechtweg: 732-833-9076

Scripture asks us to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. As such, Presbyterian Women looks to nurture faith through prayer and Bible study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace, to build community, and witness to the promise of God's kingdom.



Prayer Shawl Committee:
10:00 AM in Room A/B
2nd Monday of the month
(September through June)

Contact -
Sandra Whitehill: 732-462-0234 or
email: fpcsecretary2@gmail.com

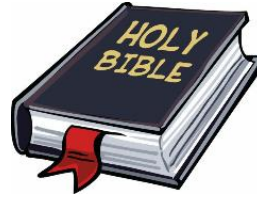
We update each other on upcoming requests and needs for shawls in the community and outside it. We bring along our knitting and crocheting and show any new stitches we're working on. We are always excited to teach people who want to learn new skills or revamp rusty ones; we have the tools on hand.



Unity Club:
12:30 PM in Room A/B
3rd Thursday of the month
(September through June)

Contact - Marie Schlechtweg: 732-833-9076

Join us for lunch and refreshments. It's a great time to meet other members for fellowship, friendship and good conversation.



Morning Koinonia:
10:00 AM in Room A/B
Weekly on Wednesday
(September through June)

Contact - Susan Beaton: 732-409-0808

We are a fellowship study group. Discussion is led by members of the group, including Pastor Alan, on a rotating basis. For more information, please speak with Susan Beaton or contact the church office.



Evening Koinonia:
7:00 PM (on Zoom)
Weekly on Wednesday
(September through June)

Contact - Alan Olson: 732-462-0234 or
email: fpcsecretary2@gmail.com

Pastor Alan leads a discussion of the scripture readings for the coming Sunday. If you would like the Zoom link, please ask Diane Canning or Pastor Alan.



Book Club:
11:00 AM in Room A/B
1st Monday of the month
(September through June)

Contact - Robin Fox: 718-442-4985 or
email: Beachwalker127@yahoo.com

Please join us for some fellowship and an always interesting discussion about the book we've read.





Are you inspired by the music at our services? Do you feel a calling to be a part of the musical praise?

We have a spot just for you! Explore our diverse musical opportunities and find the right fit for your talents:

- **Chancel Choir:** Lift your voice in harmony with our Chancel Choir. Rehearsals are every Thursday at 7:00 PM.
- **Handbell Choir:** Experience the joy of handbell ringing. Join us on Sundays at 11:15 AM.
- **Melody Makers (Ages 5-12):** Spark your child's musical talent on Wednesdays from 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM.

We also welcome volunteers to assist with various aspects of our music ministry.

Contact - John Cavicchio: 732-558-7525



BOOK CLUB UPDATE

The next meeting will be on **Monday, November 4th at 11:00 AM in Room A/B.**

The book to be discussed is *When the Jessamine Grows* by Donna Everhart. Please come join us. All are welcome!

If you have any questions, please email or call Robin Fox at:

Email: Beachwalker127@yahoo.com

Telephone: 718-442-4985

MUSIC NEWS

Upcoming Events

Music Appreciation Sunday:

Join us on November 17 at 10:00 AM as we celebrate the incredible talents of our musicians during the worship service.

It's a day to acknowledge and appreciate the dedication and spirit our music teams bring to our community.

Community Christmas Sing:

Get into the festive spirit! Mark your calendars for December 7 at 4:30 PM. Come along with family and friends to enjoy an evening of community singing and holiday cheer.



Explore My Latest Videos

For those who enjoy watching and listening to inspirational music from the comfort of your home, check out my most recent videos. Dive into the latest releases and let the music move you: [Watch Here.](#)

<https://urlgeni.us/youtube/playlist/LatestRelease>

We look forward to seeing you at rehearsals, services, and special events.

Your participation is what makes our music ministry so vibrant and impactful. Let's make beautiful music together!

Blessings,

John Cavicchio
Director of Music
732-558-7525

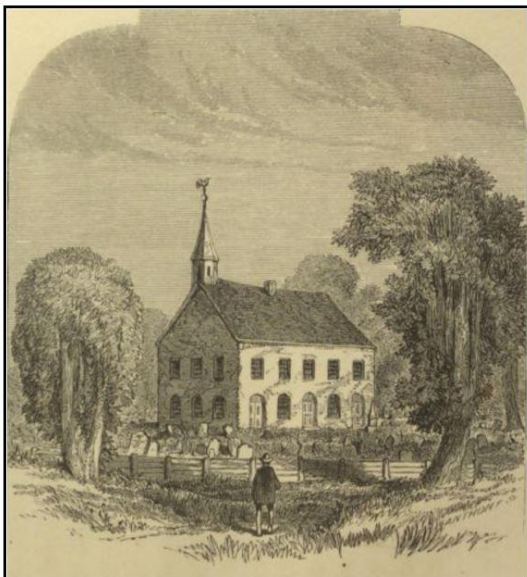


A BIT OF HISTORY

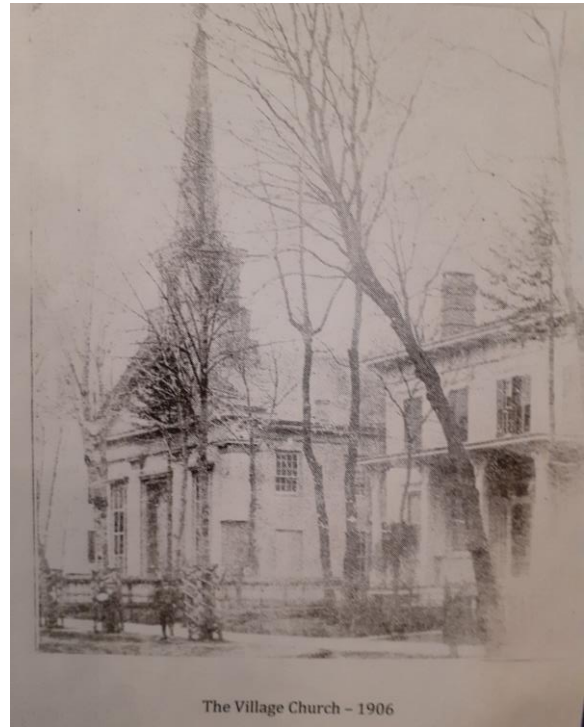
After being persecuted in Scotland, many Presbyterians came to the New World in search of religious freedom. In 1692, the Old Scots Church a.k.a. the Old Scots Meeting Hall was the place where they first met and also the site of the first Presbytery meeting in 1706. This picture of The Old Scots Burial Ground located on Free Hill in Wickatunk was likely the site of that church.



In 1730, a second church was built on White Oak Hill. Although it was originally called the Freehold Church, it was later changed to Old Tennent in honor of pastors and brothers John and William Tennent.



Since many people lived in the Village of Freehold, it was decided to erect a new church which was completed in 1837. It was aptly named "The Village Church" and started out with 32 members. It was located on what now is 57 West Main Street.



After awhile the congregation grew and the building was unable to support the increased population and activities. But even worse than that, was the integrity of the building. During the Civil War, routine maintenance could not be done because both the materials and the manpower were needed for the war. Many members no longer felt safe in that building and it was decided to build a new church.

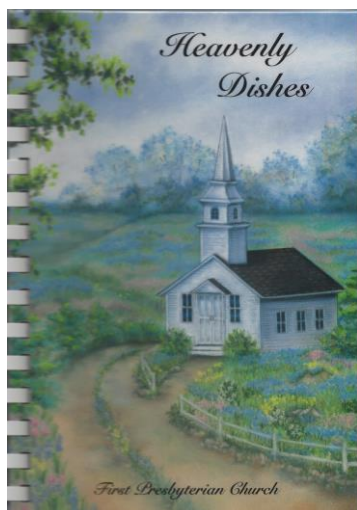
The site of Main Street and Brinckerhoff Avenue was chosen because it was large enough to make room for horse sheds and the increased congregational size. And we still call it our church home today.

Blessings,

Susan Croft

Historic Records Committee

RECIPE CORNER



In 2011, Presbyterian Women published **Heavenly Dishes**, a cookbook dedicated to all FPC members past and present who so generously supported PW over the years. Here, we'll look to share a recipe or two from that cookbook.

For this issue, we shine the recipe spotlight on **Baked Potato Soup** and **Pumpkin Bread**.

BAKED POTATO SOUP

- 4 lg. baked potatoes
- 2/3 c. butter
- 2/3 c. flour
- 6 c. milk
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 4 green onions, chopped
- 12 slices bacon, fried and crumbled
- 2 c. shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1 c. sour cream

Cut potatoes in half. Scoop out pulp and put in small bowl. Melt butter in a large pot. Add flour. Gradually stir in milk. Continue to stir until smooth, thickened, and bubbly. Stir in potato pulp, salt, pepper, and 3/4 of the onions, bacon, and cheese. Cook until heated. Stir in sour cream. Once prepared, can be kept warm in a slow cooker on low. Serve topped with remaining onions, bacon, and cheese.

Beth Nadolny

PUMPKIN BREAD

- 1 3/4 c. all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 c. granulated sugar
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. ground cloves
- 1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1 c. canned pumpkin
- 2 lg. eggs
- 1/2 c. vegetable oil
- 1/2 c. water
- 1 c. finely snipped dates
- 1 c. chopped walnuts

Grease a 9" x 5" x 3" loaf pan. Heat oven to 350°. In a medium bowl, thoroughly mix the flour, sugar, baking soda, salt, baking powder, and spices. In a large bowl, mix pumpkin, eggs, oil, and water. Add flour mixture to pumpkin mixture and stir just until blended and smooth. Stir in dates and nuts. Scrape batter into prepared pan and bake about 1 1/2 hours or until a cake tester inserted in the center comes out clean. Place pan on a wire rack to cool for 10 minutes. Turn loaf out and cool completely.

Robin Fox



WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

Welcome to our word search puzzle! Words are found in a straight line horizontally, vertically or diagonally – and may read either forward or backward. Take a moment to read and reflect on the passage, and then find the words on the list below the puzzle. The answers will be in the next newsletter! Enjoy!

John 3:16-17

16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

17 "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

G	I	C	L	I	A	B	O	Q	A	R	E
K	A	T	H	M	K	I	H	W	P	Y	V
E	N	V	G	L	O	S	M	O	B	E	E
M	N	H	E	T	P	E	Z	R	O	G	R
S	A	V	E	D	G	Y	X	L	F	U	Y
E	O	D	Q	L	O	V	E	D	E	R	O
V	P	S	T	X	D	G	J	T	H	D	N
E	U	C	T	I	A	U	Y	L	I	F	E
I	N	N	Q	L	L	B	P	I	M	M	E
L	W	S	O	N	I	F	D	R	O	A	Z
E	T	E	R	N	A	L	H	S	V	J	I
B	A	C	E	G	T	H	R	O	U	G	H

- GOD
- LOVED
- WORLD
- GAVE
- SON
- EVERYONE
- BELIEVES
- SAVED
- THROUGH
- HIM
- ETERNAL
- LIFE