

# SPIRE

***Jan 2011*** **THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH in**  
**New Brunswick, NJ**  
**IN THIS ISSUE:**



[Pastor's Message](#)  
[Souper Bowl Sunday](#)  
[Inspiring Words](#)  
[Presbyterian Women Event](#)

[Calendar](#)  
[Deacon's Review](#)  
[Angels Delivered](#)  
[Assistants](#)

[Leadership Training](#)  
[Church Blog](#)  
[Homeless Shelter](#)

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*New Year's Message*  
FROM THE PASTOR

## *So What Happens Now?*

What will happen now to move ahead during this interim time? As a reminder, tasks for the congregation to work through during the interim time include:

1. Coming to terms with history
2. Training new congregational leaders
3. Reconnecting with Presbytery and the denomination
4. Discovering a new identity
5. Committing to new future and new pastoral leadership

As we are Presbyterians, there is of course a procedure to follow during this interim time! Having put your interim pastor in place, the Session will appoint a small mission study team this month. The mission study team will work with me to create a series of events inviting you to share your past and current experiences and future hopes for this congregation. These events will include food, fellowship, and fun, as we lift up our shared life in this congregation.

The mission study team will collate what they learn from you, and will produce a mission study document. That document will be the basis for the Church Information Form you will use to search for the next installed pastor.

This mission study process is really important because it will help you to clarify what you believe to be God's ministry priorities for this congregation. When you become clear about your priorities in ministry, you will be able to look for a pastor whose gifts match those priorities. This congregation is at a crossroads, and this congregation needs your presence during this time. I pray that each one of you will commit to participating in some part of the mission study process. Your prayers, hopes, and conversation will chart the course for the choices that you all will make going forward. In this season of beginnings, I share with you a prayer by Jan L. Richardson.

### **A Prayer for Choosing**

What we choose changes us.  
Who we love transforms us.  
How we create remakes us.  
Where we live reshapes us.  
So in all our choosing, O God, make us wise;  
In all our loving, O Christ, make us bold;  
In all our creating, O Spirit, give us courage;  
In all our living may we become whole.

Grace and Peace in this New Year!

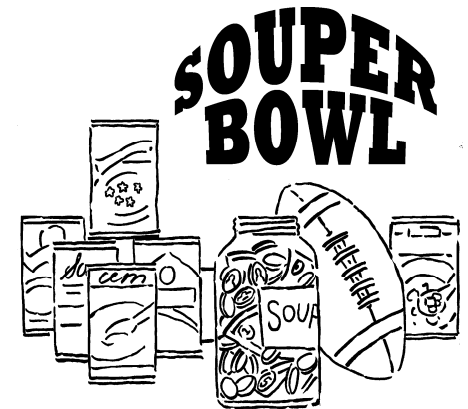
Pastor Leslie

***HAVE A BLESSED AND HEALTHY  
NEW YEAR***

***THE CHURCH STAFF***

## SOUPER BOWL - Sunday, February 6

In 2010 our congregation was one of 13,022 groups worldwide which collected a total of \$10,171,477 to help fight hunger by giving to charities which dedicate themselves to that end.



Did you know that our church has participated in the SOUPER BOWL of Caring ([www.souperbowl.org](http://www.souperbowl.org)) for 8 years? Over those years, we have donated a total of \$1,806. In the last six years our donations have gone of Elijah's Promise - a soup kitchen in New Brunswick. Once again our youth will stand at our doors following the worship service on February 6 taking your "SOUPER" Bowl donation. Elijah's Promise ([www.elijahspromise.net](http://www.elijahspromise.net)) receives 100% of our collection. There are no administrative costs - our donation goes through our church treasury and a check is sent directly to Elijah's Promise. Look for more information in our weekly church bulletins. We urge you to help put an end to hunger by donating to this worthy cause.

Carol Campbell,  
Christian Education Chairperson

## INCLEMENT WEATHER

If the weather report indicates extremely bad weather, please call the church office at 732-545-2111 for the status of the worship service. There will be a recorded message on the answering machine.

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***INSPIRING WORDS TO LIVE BY***

- 1] Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path through-out.**
- 2] Do you know why a Car's WINDSHIELD is so large & the Rear view Mirror is so small? Because our PAST is not as important as our FUTURE.**
- 3] Friendship is like a BOOK. It takes few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.**
- 4] All things in life are temporary. If going well, enjoy it, they will not last forever. If going wrong, don't worry, they can't last long either. So look ahead and move on.**
- 5] Old Friends are Gold! New Friends are Diamond! If you get a Diamond, don't forget the Gold! Because to hold a Diamond, you always need a Base of Gold!**
- 6] Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, GOD smiles from above and says, "Relax, sweetheart, it's just a bend, not the end!"**
- 7] When GOD solves your problems, you have faith in HIS abilities; when GOD doesn't solve your problems HE has faith in your abilities.**
- 8] A blind person asked St. Anthony: "Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?" He replied: "Yes, losing your vision!"**
- 9] When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them and sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.**
- 10] WORRYING does not take away tomorrow's TROUBLES, it takes away today's PEACE.**

Submitted by Agatha Asamoah

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN NEW BRUNSWICK  
PRESBYTERY  
EPIPHANY LUNCHEON AND PROGRAM**

*SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 2011*

*10 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.*

*Dutch Neck Presbyterian Church 154 South Mill Rd., Princeton Jct., NJ*

*Theme: “Let us talents and tongues employ”*

**Features of the Day**

- **Worship led by Music/Worship Interest Group**
- **Keynote Speaker: The Rev. Lynn Rubier-Capron**

Lynn earned her BM violin perf. from Converse College; her MM in violin perf. from Florida St; her MDiv from Columbia Theo. Seminary and is now completing a certificate in Spiritual Direction at Oasis Ministries. Her career since coming to Hopewell has been a mixture of parish ministry and ministry with her violin. She gives spiritual direction out of Hopewell Presbyterian Church where her husband, Michael is pastor, and she pastors Montgomery Ministries, teaches Suzuki violin and is putting together a Celtic fiddle and cover band with the Rev. Beth Scibienski of the Sand Hills Church!

- **A sharing of talents from local churches**
- **Epiphany Luncheon**
- **Dedication of white gifts for Trenton Rescue Mission**  
(toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, shampoo, razor, shaving cream, comb, brush; personal hygiene kits with wash cloth, socks, winter gloves, hats, scarf)
- **Dedication of Centsability Banks for world hunger**
- **Cake Ceremony led by Bible Study Interest Group**
- **COST: \$ 5.00 PER PERSON**

Call Helen Burd (732-297-6797) email [helenburd@msn.com](mailto:helenburd@msn.com) by January 3, 2011. Child Care available if you notify her. Directions to church available when you make your reservations.

## THE DEACON'S REVIEW

By: Deacon Frances Barboza-Clark

The December 12, 2010, Deacons meeting was called to order at 12 noon.

Gabe Suto read the devotional from MATTHEW 7: 7-12. During his Treasurer's report Gabe stated that he received a payment of \$20.00 from a person with an outstanding Deacon's loan. He also informed us that a total of \$3,190.00 is still owed to us from all the loans that the Deacons have granted. Gabe sent a Thank you letter to Gus Coleman of Pennsylvania for delivering 8 turkeys, for our Thanksgiving distribution to needy families. We gave to a total of 32 families Thanksgiving Food Baskets. He continued to inform us that we presently have over \$600.00 in donations for the Christmas food baskets that we will prepare and deliver on Sunday December 19<sup>th</sup>. after Worship Service. (A special Thank You to everyone who made a financial contribution to the Christmas Baskets). On Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup> Dick Veitch, Ida White and Gabe Suto will meet at 'BJ's to shop for all the food that will be required for the 23 Christmas baskets. In addition, Deacon Bob McBride stated that he would shop for food and give all those items for the Christmas baskets. (Thank you Bob for your generosity) Toys or clothing will be included in the Christmas baskets, for the families that have children. (Many Thanks to our generous Church Administrative Secretary, Barbara Nicol, who took it upon herself to purchase and donate all the toys and gifts for each Christmas basket). Gabe will request the assistance of Detectives Harry Hudson, Danny & Gabby Gallardo of the New Brunswick Police Community Outreach Unit, to help with the delivery of the 18 baskets. However, they could not assist because of a previous commitment.

Moderator Dick Veitch informed us that we received several Thank You cards from recipients of our Thanksgiving Food Baskets. Deacon Rita Asante read a Thank you letter from the woman to whom we had donated two women's winter coats. (Thanks to Karen Keithler for giving us one of the coats, and to the other anonymous contributor).

Elder Karen Keithler, presented the Session report, she stated that the budget for 2011 was passed; and that we are facing a large deficit. Because of these facts: the constant decline in weekly Tithes and Offerings and also that our tenant –The Day Care Center 's last day here will be on 12/31/10. In the meantime we are looking for another tenant to rent that space ASAP. Possibly to another Day Care Facility or Business in need of Office space. She also informed us that the Session accepted our (Deacon's) motion to reduce the number from 15 to 12 deacons.

A complete review of the Thanksgiving Food Baskets, preparation and delivery was held. All in all despite a few problems that we experienced ... the entire project was a complete success.

Pastor Leslie, informed us that she has discussed with Detective Hudson the problems we are having with the neighborhood children, playing Soccer in the church's parking lot. Kicking the ball against parked cars, the Church walls and doors. He informed our Pastor that technically the children are trespassing. Further investigation will be followed to try to handle this situation in an equitable manner. Also, she thanked all the Deacons for the outstanding job that we did on the Thanksgiving Food Baskets.

Deacon Lawrence Adjah reported that he had discovered that the antenna was disconnected, which he repaired, on the mobile amplifier system. He's continuing his "trouble shooting" on this system to ascertain if it can be repaired, because an entire new system will cost over \$3000.

Upcoming Deacons events for 2011 were discussed... they are the following:

- The Red Cross CPR retraining course will be held in February 2011, exact date TBA.
- The Deacon's clean-up day will be held on Saturday May 14, 2011.
- Deacons Sunday will be held on May 15, 2011.
- Deacons Sidewalk Sale will be held in June 2011, exact date TBA.

By: Deacon Frances Barboza-Clark

## ANGELS DELIVERED

Thank you to all those “Angels” who shopped for the children whose names were on the “Angel Tree.” This year, the Session approved our participation in the FISH, Inc. project that was begun 20 years ago by one individual who wished to have struggling moms and dads be able to give a present to their child(ren) at Christmas. Our church provided a warm article of clothing and a toy for 20 children. According to the Veterans who volunteer each year to pick-up from the participating churches, corporations and organizations, there were over 850 children gifted. What a “loaves and fishes” story of what one local person made possible from one act of kindness. And what a legacy to Cathy Kobilis’ father who died this past February; this Christmas, Cathy coordinated and managed the project in his memory.

“Angels” from our congregation were: Awatt Family, Ida White, Arleen VanBrunt, Dobbs-Allsopp Family, Carol Campbell, Grace and Steve Farkas, Mark and Bryce Skerbetz, Cornelia and Lawrence Adjah, Dick Veitch, Beatrice Cobbold, Kelly and Bob Hamilton, Linda and Tom Parr, Millie Skerbetz, Barbara Nicol, Asamoah Family, Linda LaMontagne and Helen Burd.



**our annual business.**

**The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 23, 2011 after the worship service in Friendship Hall with a snow date of January 30, 2011. We encourage every member to attend this important meeting. Your presence as a member is expected for the transaction of**

**Annual Reports for 2010 are due from Committee Chairpersons no later than January 9, 2011.**



## ASSISTANTS FOR JANUARY

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Lay Assistants</u>	<u>Notebook Collectors</u>
<b>Jan 2</b>	Awatt & Offiong Awatt	Ida White	Charlotte Essuman Precious Ampadu
<b>9</b>	Grace & Steve Farkas	Dick Veitch	Awatt & Offiong Awatt
<b>16</b>	Hilda Kocsis John Kocsis	Barbara Meyer	Dennis Decker Kate Corriero
<b>23</b>	Helen Bragg Eileen Russell	Dennis Decker	Helen & Jim Scudder
<b>30</b>	Evelyn Elike Akofa Elike	Carol Campbell	Carolyn & Craig Cannon

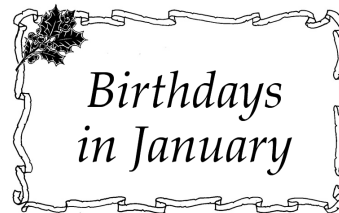


### **COMMUNION SET UP**

**January:** Awatt & Offiong Awatt

### **NURSERY**

Memie Catalla



<i>Tiffany Antwi</i>	<i>Jan 16 Age 16</i>
<i>Kwame-Apea Adubofour</i>	<i>Jan 26 Age 9</i>
<i>Samuel Kwakye</i>	<i>Jan 28 Age 13</i>
<i>Nana-Adwoa Adubofour</i>	<i>Jan 30 Age 16</i>
<i>Lovia Tetteh</i>	<i>Jan. 30 Age 2</i>

Dick Smith	Jan 3	Joy Anderson	Jan 22	Rosina Kissi	Jan 28
Effie Smith	Jan 9	John Kocsis	Jan 23	Ekan Onyile	Jan 30
Martha Decker	Jan 17	Nana-Yaw Asamoah	Jan 27		
Brittany Flach	Jan 21	Beatrice Cobbold	Jan 27		

## **A JUMP START FOR 2011 Leadership and Officer Training**

Something for everyone! This is a marvelous opportunity to learn about your responsibilities in our church. You will get information and inspiration that is rarely offered in one place in one morning or afternoon or both! Get excited and mark your calendar for January 22, 2011 (snow date is January 29!) at the Princeton Theological Seminary. All church officers and leaders are encouraged to attend and this year, if needed, we will take the church van for your convenience.

Beginning with registration time and a corporate worship, some of the various sessions and training for Elders, Deacons and Clerks are Stewardship Creation, Visioning for Local Churches, Preaching Lent, Welcoming all to Worship, Education and Spirituality, Music and more.... There is something for everyone – new members as well as old timers, new officers as well as experienced leaders. Call Helen Burd, 732-297-6797 for assistance/information in registering you or to coordinate your transportation.

### **BLOG....**

Yes, you can hear the Sermons, see the posting of Mission Yearbook of Prayer and Study, hear the prayers on [pcnbprayerandsermons.com](http://pcnbprayerandsermons.com)

Jeffrey Cobbold works tirelessly to provide the technology and education for our congregation in the world of computers and cyberspace. After worship on a Sunday in January he will set up “shop” in the office so that any person interested and needing assistance can subscribe to the Posterous blog. By subscribing, you will receive e-mail notice with each new post.



## ***INTERFAITH***

## ***HOMELESS MEN'S EMERGENCY SHELTER***

Once again we have been called to assist in the Interfaith Men's Overflow Homeless Shelter program in New Brunswick. As we have for more than 20 years, we will be hosting 15 homeless men in our Friendship Hall for two weeks during the coldest winter months. Our first hosting week is January 9<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup>. During this week we will need volunteers to monitor the area while the men sleep through the night. The men stay here from 7:00 PM to 7:00 AM each night. The volunteers work in teams of two to four people through the night. This requires many people to participate. If you can spare some time during this week, please look for our signup sheet for volunteers, which will be posted on the bulletin board across from the living room in December. If you can only spare a few hours, we generally schedule two sets of volunteers per night, one set from 7:00 PM to about 10:30 or 11:00, and another set which arrives around 10:00 PM for the night shift. In order to fill all of the volunteer slots, we have relied on other congregations in our church and in the surrounding communities to help with volunteer staffing. It has become a good opportunity to help people in desperate need and to meet people from other congregations. Whatever the reason, please consider giving a few hours during this week to help in this effort.

Mark your calendars that we will also be hosting the shelter the week of February 13<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup>. If you can't help the first week, consider putting some time aside to help the second week. Thanks for your continued support.

Bob McBride

**Coffee Hour Host: Property**

# JANUARY 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 <b>HAVE A BLESSED NEW YEAR</b>
2  Holy Communion	3	4  7:00 p.m. Hall Education Fund Meets in the office	5  7:30 p.m. Session Meets in the Board Room	6  6:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal	7	8  PW Epiphany Luncheon at Dutch Neck Presbyterian Church 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
9  Deacon Meeting after Worship	10	11  10:00 a.m. NJ Executive Presbyters Meet in the Living Room	12	13  6:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal	14	15
<b>INTERFAITH MENS HOMLESS SHELTER ALL WEEK IN FRIENDSHIP HALL</b>						
16  Mission Interpretation Committee Meets	17  Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observed  Office Closed	18	19	20  6:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal	21	22  Leadership Training at Princeton Theological Seminary
23  Annual Congregational Meeting after Worship	24	25	26  7:30 p.m. Session Meets in the Board Room	27  6:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal	28	29  <b>HAVE A BLESSED, HAPPY &amp; HEALTHY NEW YEAR</b>
30  Annual Congregational Meeting Snow Date  Elder Sunday	31			Regular Sunday Schedule 10:30 am Worship Service 9 am Sunday School for Sr. Highs and Adults 9 am Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Room 10 am Fellowship time with refreshments 10:30 am Worship Service Sunday School for children through 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Following service...Committee meetings as scheduled		