

The Presbyterian Church at
Shrewsbury
352 Sycamore Avenue,
Shrewsbury, NJ 07702

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The Towne Crier

Reflections from Tom

We are just entering the **Season of Lent**, a time of the “Christian Year” that many (or most) Presbyterians, and those of other Christian denominations, do not really “get”! Oh, we know when it is: the Forty Days preceding Holy Week, not counting Sundays, representing the 40 days of temptation of Jesus in the wilderness at the beginning of his ministry. And other famous “forties” – Noah in the Ark, Israelites wandering in the desert. We also know that it began with the Ash Wednesday service on March 1st. But, **WHY have this Season?**

Lent is a time of reflection and preparation, so that Holy Week and Easter have the life-changing meaning that they should – a participation with Jesus Christ in his ministry, in his dying, and in his resurrection. This is the foundation of our faith. Yet, we think of “reflection” as spiritual navel-gazing, and spirituality as something for monks and other reclusive contemplatives. “Preparation” sounds like a program to fulfill or to endure as a solitary quest.

NOT SO!!! In my reading, I came upon this quote: “Christianity is not a religion of Spiritual Lone Rangers or narcissists!” So True! In fact, the Apostle Paul wrote at great length to the first churches to emphasize that we are ALL in this together – many different gifts and abilities and

Inside this issue

Reflections	1
Lent	2
Church & Society	3
Worship.....	4
Christian Education .	6
Manse Task Force ...	7
Passport	8
Workshop.....	9
New Ministries	10
Stewardship	11
Lily Order Form.....	12
Schedules	13

Sunday Worship

- Sunday Adult Ed.
9:45 AM
- Sunday Worship
10:30 AM
- Sunday School
10:30 AM
- Coffee Hour
11:45 AM

The Presbyterian Church at Shrewsbury

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Church Staff

Interim Pastor

Dr. Thomas E. Robinson

Director of Christian
Education

Sherri Adler

Director of Music Ministries
Reid Masters

Bell Choir Director
Robyn Ioviero

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Tom Van Duyn

Sexton
Frank Harvey

opinions, but One God who pulls us together and moves us along.

This Season of Lent ... is a time to learn, fellowship, and grow in faith, not as a solitary endeavor. Rediscover what it means to be “a church”, a group of individuals, to be sure, but individuals who share a common bond of faith and purpose. Make a special effort to come regularly to church, to share in the traditions of the historic faith, and, to recognize that God is calling you in a unique and special way to use your spiritual giftedness.

Friends, we live in a time and a culture that are constantly pulling us away and apart. We need something solid and good, something up-building and uplifting, something daily and eternal, to pull the threads of life back together into a whole cloth. We need to be the Church God wants to grow strong in this place.

The Season of Lent ... is God's Gift to You, and You are God's Gift to each other!

Peace on the Journey through Lent,



Season of Lent – March 1st is Ash Wednesday

We will be observing the beginning of Lent, a Season of Preparation for Easter, with the Ash Wednesday service at 7:30 p.m. on March 1st. Along with Communion, we will also offer the Imposition of Ashes, which is a ritual using the ashes made from Last Year's Palm Sunday palm fronds. This is a symbolic connection with the sacrifice of Jesus during Holy Week and our living of Christ's ministry every day.

Lent is a period of forty days, which leads up to Holy Week, traditionally a period of preparation, reflection, learning, and repentance. For this reason, Purple is the liturgical color for the Season. It is a good time for studies of Discipleship, Commitment to Ministry, and Spiritual Discipline.



Church and Society



In 2011 Mission Belles, under the leadership of Jan Kirwan, began the mission of collecting non-perishable food items for the pantry at St. Anthony's of Padua in Red Bank. The need to help those in our neighborhood who struggle to feed their families was recognized. Jan called this the Manna Project as these items are like the life-giving manna that the early Jews depended on in their wandering in the desert. This is a year-long project. The Church and Society Committee is supporting this project by helping the Mission Belles with the collection of food items, spreading the word of the needs that exist, and helping wherever it is needed.

Since St. Anthony's is a predominantly Hispanic community, food items that appeal to them are suggested: canned or dried beans, bags or boxes of rice, canned vegetables and tomato paste/sauce, canned meat or fish, sweets, and breakfast items. Monetary donations are accepted allowing the two groups to purchase fresh food items such as fresh garlic, limes, avocados, papayas, pineapples, and oranges just before they are delivered. The Manna box is in the Church House lobby all week ready for any donations. Sunday worship is also a good opportunity to bring in items since food is delivered to St. Anthony's either on Monday or Tuesday of each week.

Few of us know real hunger. Please join in this communal effort to alleviate hunger in our own little corner of the world.





Birthdays

Marilyn Broege
Christine Castellano
Sandy Curtis
Joe Delgado
John Hanley
Kay Jensen
Sharon Kulkaski
Carol Marshall
Dianne Wellington
Mary Ellen Wilson



Happy Anniversary

Anniversaries

Bonnie and Bob Reid

Worship



What Does That Color Mean?

The Liturgical Color, that is, of our paraments.

The colors are used to differentiate liturgical seasons, and became a common practice in the Western church in about the fourth century. At first, usages varied considerably but by the 12th century the use of 5 colors were fairly constant: Purple, white, red, green and black. (We don't use black!)

Briefly, the colors express emotions and ideas that are associated with each of the seasons of the liturgical year.

Purple/violet is the ancient royal color and therefore a symbol of the sovereignty of Christ. Purple is used during Advent and Lent, the seasons of penitence.

White is used for special days or seasons in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, such as Christmas and Easter. Our special days are Transfiguration of the Lord, (Feb 26), Trinity Sunday, (June 11), All Saints Day, (Nov 1), and Christ the King Sunday, (Nov 26).

Red paraments represent the blood of Christ. When Easter season ends on Pentecost Sunday, white is replaced with red for that day. Pentecost celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit 50 days after Easter.

Green paraments are traditional during what is called Ordinary Time, the seasons from Epiphany to Lent and from Pentecost to Advent. Green symbolizes a time of growth as we strive to practice the teachings of Jesus.

February sees us transition from green, (with Sunday February 26 being white for Transfiguration of the Lord) to purple for Lent on March 1st.

Such meaningful colors!

Carol Streeper for the Worship Committee



Jesus Is the Question Book Study

Please join us for a review of all the questions from the book that we studied this summer – *Jesus Is The Question*. Whether you participated in the summer study or not, this would be a good Lenten journey. Please contact Joyce Davies to sign-up for this study. Dates/Times: Wednesdays - March 8, 15, 22, 29 from 7:00 – 8:30 PM in the OMEGA Room.



Save-the-date:

Sunday, April 9th (Palm Sunday) we will be having our annual Easter Egg Hunt right after the Children’s Message in church.



Vacation Bible School

We invite all children to soar with us at VBS Hero Central Vacation Bible School. This superhero adventure experience includes music that will energize your ears, interactive Bible fun, super science, cool crafts, hands-on mission hero work, delicious snacks, great games, and more! The fun runs from **Monday, July 10th through Friday, July 14th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM.** Look for Registration Forms soon!



Happy Birthday

March 16th James Thorn

Manse Task Force **The Future of the Manse**

As was discussed at the Congregational Meeting, before the Church will be permitted to hire an installed pastor who will reside in the Manse, the Manse will need to be renovated and brought up to acceptable living conditions. Moreover, it is pretty clear that the Church is not in a financial position to pay the pastor a housing allowance in lieu of providing housing in the Manse, which means the Manse must be renovated. The necessary renovation work identified includes among other things: total kitchen renovation; downstairs bathroom renovation; window replacement; an additional second-floor bathroom; electrical upgrades; and reconfiguration of upstairs bedrooms. The “back of the napkin” cost estimate to perform the necessary work is in the \$200,000 to \$240,000 range.

So how do we pay for it? Options for consideration include:

- A capital campaign.
- Taking the money from the Endowment, which is valued at approximately \$775,000.
- Borrowing the money from a bank.
- Renovating the Mini-Manse so it may be rented to generate funds to pay-off a loan to do the Manse renovation work.

But each of these options has potential issues.

- The Church had a capital campaign for renovations to the Church House and Sanctuary only a few years ago and there is a concern that the congregation is not ready for another campaign so soon. We also still have not paid off the parking lot loan from the 1990s.
- The Congregation could authorize taking money from the Endowment, but we already borrowed \$100,000 from the Endowment for the last capital campaign and reducing the principle of the Endowment will decrease the amount of money provided each year towards the operating budget from approximately \$30,000 to \$22,000 based on current guidelines.
- A bank might lend the Church the money, but it is highly doubtful that the annual operating budget can support making the monthly loan payments even if the loan is

amortized over 20 years.

- Converting the Mini-Manse into a revenue-producing property is intriguing and may ultimately be viable, but it will require municipal approvals for any change in use and will require the expenditure of funds to renovate it. It also is unclear how much money might be generated in monthly rent and there also is some concern that over time the money from rental of the Mini-Manse might be diverted to the operating budget or we might have periods of time when it is not rented.

We ask that every member of the congregation give careful thought about these options and provide your input to members of the Manse Task Force so it can provide a recommendation to Session on how to proceed.

Prayerfully,

The Manse Task Force (Libby Andia, David Apy, Joel Davies, Mark Northridge, and

Fellowship Committee

PASSPORT Small Group Invites YOU to Fellowship Hall to hear:

Rev. Dr. Tom Robinson, Rev. Dr. Annari Griesel, Rabbi Marc Kline
Sun March 12 2:00pm - **Exploring Israeli-Palestinian-Arab relations**



Linda Talerico - Friday April 21 7:00pm - Australia & New Zealand



Nancy Vodhanel - Fri May 12 7:00pm - Road Trip across the USA



FENG SHUI WORKSHOP

*Bring a photo
of a personal
space you love
and would like
to improve*



Let Feng Shui help light your way!

Join Rosemary Pappa, well known Feng Shui consultant as she shares:

- A brief history and definition of Feng Shui
- Three basic Feng Shui principles and their application
- Explanation of Ying and Yang
- Elemental balance definition and use of the five-element theory

TICKETS: \$12 For sale at coffee hour and at the door starting Feb. 19

Saturday, March 11 10am – 12pm

Presbyterian Church 352 Sycamore Ave. Shrewsbury



PCAS FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Sherri Adler 732.904.7273

Bonnie Tortora 732.530.3365

*Refreshments will
be served*

An invitation to participate in exciting new ministry at PCAS!

Our Session has approved the formation of three new Task Groups that will enhance and develop our communication outreach within our congregation and to the community.



If you would like to participate in one or more of the following groups, please contact the church office at pcas@verizon.net or Rev. Tom Robinson at revtom.pcas1@verizon.net and you will be connected to the Elders in charge! Or, call the Church Office to be connected for more info!

Electronic Presence Task Group: responsible for developing a dynamic Internet presence, including a church-based hosted website, a regularly-updated Facebook presence, and the provision of fresh content for both.

Audio-Visual Task Group: responsible for training a team of members/constituents to be knowledgeable and authorized to have access to and use of the audio-visual resources.

Community Contact and Social Media Task Group: responsible for “making PCAS visible and connected” in the community and with potential participants/new members.

STEWARDSHIP

ARE YOU WHAT YOUR CHURCH IS DOING WITH YOUR TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE?

In a conversation about writing this page, the question arose: what's the purpose? Sometimes, it feels like writing the page is just an exercise in meeting the deadline, filling the white space, crossing an item off the list of Things To Do. Alternately, the author of the text might find something spiritual in the exercise. What's in it for the reader is a different question. What remains is that more interesting question: what's the purpose of the page itself, of the words?

For me, Ted, as I write this, this is a forum for discussion of what it means to be a member of the church, a Christian, an American, an inhabitant of the planet, a child of God. It's an inquiry into values; an exploration of identity. We have freedoms. We have responsibilities. We have ethics and mores. We have *choices* – and with them *consequences*. There is no ducking any of this. We may sit on the sidelines and watch the game on the floor, but the outcome turns on our choices and our actions, as well as on our indifference and inaction. That's a lot to cover in 500 words. It's a lot more than banging on about pledges and paying off the mortgage on the parking lot.

Stewardship begins at the beginning, in Genesis 1:26, where we read “Then God said, ‘Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.’ Dominion. Dominion is our focus. Dominion is our fate.



The photo is of a pile of skulls of American bison, killed for sport, hunted almost to extinction – because we could. Given dominion, we did what we did because we could. It might be possible to find something more selfish and pig-headed, but it wouldn't be easy. In these fraught times, I urge you to keep in mind what it is to have dominion, what it means to be a steward. Think about how the spiritual rubs against the political, and remember that we can disagree without being enemies. Remember that we are all children of God. Remember that you are a child of God. Remember that the fate of this church, this country, this world depends upon you. You are a steward. Get busy.

Easter Lily Order Form



Our church will be graced with Easter Lilies on Easter Sunday, placed there by members of the congregation remembering loved ones.

Anyone wishing to order Lilies, please complete the form below, make your check payable to: **The Board of Deacons, Presbyterian Church at Shrewsbury**

Please give to a Deacon, or place in the mailbox outside the office.

DEADLINE TO ORDER – Palm Sunday, April 9th

\$7.00 each Place your order through the Deacons

I would like to order _____ Lily plant(s) at \$7.00 a piece to be placed in the sanctuary for Easter Sunday.

Total enclosed \$ _____

Name(s) in memory to be listed in Church bulletin:

Donated by:

_____ Phone _____

- I will take my Lily plant(s) after the Service on Easter.
- Please deliver my Lily plant(s) to a person who could not attend our services.

Liturgy

Date	Old Testament
5	Genesis, Chapters 2 and 3, selected verses
12	Psalm 121
19	
26	

Date	New Testament
5	Matthew 4: 1-11
12	John 3: 1-17
19	John 4: 5-42
26	John 9: 1-21 (selected verses)

Date	Sermons
5	From the Mountaintop – Into the Wilderness
12	How to Perform John 3:16
19	Laity-led Worship Service
26	Golfing at Midnight

Serving Schedules

Date	Coffee Fellowship	Date	Flowers	Date	Deacons
5	PW	5	Sherri and Ashley Adler	5	Team B
12	Mission Belles	12	Kim and Joel Davies	12	Team A
19	Dorcas	19	Peter Bruguere	19	Team C
26	Evangelism	26	Presbyterian Woman	26	Team D

Date	Candle Lighters	Date	Elders
5	None	5	John Hanley & Jules Plangere
12	None	12	Chris Kavan
19	None	19	Joel Davies
26	None	26	Kay Healy-Wedsworth