

From the Pastor's Desk...

In late January and February in worship we will be exploring the Beatitudes from Matthew 5. It is a great way to start of the New Year, as we discover that our happiness is rooted in our faith and how God would have us live. Instead of seeing all of the challenges around us, and feeling despair, why not transform them? See the challenges as opportunities to make a difference, to discover what it means to be blessed by God. It is making a choice that:

- In this age of cruelty, we will be kind.
- In an age where so many are driven by greed, we will be generous.
- In this age of deception, we will have the courage to be honest.
- In this age filled with in humanity, we will be human—for from the beginning of time, we were made in the image of God. Let that image shine bright in us. As we become all we were meant to be—God's beloved children.

This year, may we discover what it is to be blessed by God. It is a theme runs through scripture, from Abraham and Sarah who were "Blessed to be a blessing" to the sermon on the mount. It is as we discover what it means to be blessed by God that we build the kingdom of God in our midst and in our world. There has been so much talk about "Make America Great," but we are called to be citizens of God's kingdom and make a better world for all.

As we move from the season of Christmas, celebrating the God who has come to live in our midst, to a New Year, I am reminded again of the words of Mary:

'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name. Luke 1:46-49

God has richly blessed us, let us live lives that are a blessing to all that we meet.

Blessed to be a Blessing,

Rev. Dr. Janet Macgregor-Williams

**COUNT YOUR
BLESSINGS.
NAME THEM ONE BY ONE.
COUNT YOUR
MANY BLESSINGS
SEE WHAT GOD HAS DONE.**



January 2017

Worship Opportunities

Sunday, January 1st: Epiphany

10:00am ~Worship ~

~Festival of Lights ~

~ Communion ~

10:00am Church School

11:00am Coffee Hour

12:00pm Handbells

Sunday, January 8th:

10:00am Worship

10:00am Church School

11:00am Coffee Hour

11:15am WA Meeting

11:15am Deacons Meeting

12:00pm Handbells

Sunday, January 15th:

10:00am Worship / Installation
of officers

10:00am Church School

11:00am Coffee Hour

11:15am VBS Meeting

12:00pm Handbells

Sunday, January 22nd :

10:00am Worship

10:00am Church School

11:00am Coffee Hour

12:00pm Handbells

Sunday, January 29th :

10:00am Worship

10:00am Church School

11:00am Congregational Meeting

11:15am Coffee Hour

5-7:00pm Chili Cook-Off ~ FH

Joys & Concerns

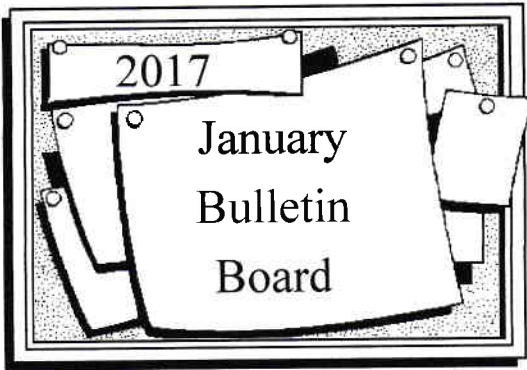
Concerns

- Joyce Harant—Dad in the hospital in Florida
- Ian Smith—friend in hospital with pneumonia
- Mary Hepp's father giving up after a stroke a year ago.
- Jan Halvorsen's father passed away.
- Jenn Flemming's friend, Chris, whose father died.
- Prayers for those having a hard time this Christmas, with losses, financial, personal and spiritual.
- Phyllis Wilson who is having cataract surgery
- Doris Osterhoudt is in the hospital
- Tara from Pennsylvania who had a bad accident
- Amy Weed had a co-worker pass away suddenly.
- Peter Wosyluk's cousin, Rene is very sick in the hospital.
- Friend in South Carolina who is alone for Christmas.
- Jennifer Flemings' friend from work, who has cancer.

Joys

- Joy for the Nativity in front of the church, thanks to Bob Sibson for making it.
- Claire Gray—joy that Ben is back in school.
- Tracy Stoft—Thanks for the prayers, getting stronger.
- The Deacons thank the congregation for donations of \$1000.00 to purchase gift cards for needy families in the community.
- Joy for the Christmas pageant and all the hard work of so many in putting it together. A special thank you to Chuck and Kathi Ening.
- Wendy Gruelich and Amy Weed's brother is doing well after surgery.
- Leah Majka grateful that they found a barn for the horses.
- Chris Rodek's sister-in-law, whom we have been praying for, is doing well and is able to celebrate Christmas with them.
- Chris Rodek's parents' church in Millville are back in their buidlig after the fire.
- Chris Rodek's Birthday on Christmas
- Maureen Lange's son Brian coming home.
- Rebecca Foody got a new puppy and a new kitten.

We support each other with our prayers



The Congregational Meeting of West Milford Presbyterian Church will be held in the Sanctuary on January 29th at 11:00 a.m. All items pertinent to the life and mission of the congregation may be discussed. Please plan on attending!
Copies of the annual report will be available on January 22nd in the vestibule.

**February Newsletter
Deadline is January 14th!**

Annual Reports Due
January 9th ,
2015

Save the date:
The West Milford Presbyterian Church is hosting our Annual Chili Cook Off , January 29th.. Enjoy delicious, freshly made Chili... The dinner is from 5:00 PM to 7:00PM

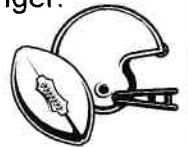
Bible Study
This winter our Bible Study group is continuing to explore who Jesus is. The morning group will start up again on January 10th at 10:30am.

Session Meeting
7:15pm
January 9th
Working Dinner

Happy New Year!!


Winter Has Arrived!
Don't Forget The Snowplowing Fund!

Souper Bowl of Caring is Feb. 5th
This is a national movement of congregations, schools, community organizations and compassionate individuals caring for others on Super Bowl weekend. Souper Bowl of Caring equips and mobilizes youth to positively impact their communities by collecting money or food on or near Super Bowl weekend. 100% of the collections are donated directly to the charity of each group's choice. ALL of the food and donations we collect goes to our church Food Pantry. We ask the children to bring a canned good and the adults to place a dollar (or more) in the soup pot for their favorite team. This donation was started by a youth group in a Presbyterian Church in North Carolina and now is a nation wide effort to help address hunger.
2016 West Milford Presbyterian Church raised \$200.00 plus 50 Food Items
2016 Nation Wide raised \$10,478,315.00
Participating Groups Nation Wide 6,853



Maureen Lange would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts and prayers in the death of her cousin Lisa.



Next Deacons Meeting is January 8th at 11:15am

**Staff Meeting
Jan 9th 2017
3:15 ish**

Financial Report YTD November 30, 2016

YTD Pledges honored total \$100,479.00 versus a budget of \$114,490.00, resulting in an unfavorable variance of \$14,011.00 or 13.9%.

YTD Total Income \$156,160.29 versus a budget of \$162,501.00, resulting in an unfavorable variance of \$6,340.71 or 4.1%.

YTD Total Expenses \$164,391.14 versus a budget of \$166,337.00, resulting in YTD under budget expenditures of \$1,945.86 and a YTD unfavorable variance of \$8,230.85

The 11 month average income through November is \$14,196.39 vs. a 11 month average expenditure of \$14,944.65.

The defensive interval ratio at November month end was 78.2 days.

The standard ratio for non-profit / religious organization is 3 to 6 months coverage of operating expenses.

The unfavorable Pledge variance of \$14,011.00 equates to 28.1 days of additional reserves.

At the November Session meeting the use of alcohol, (beer and wine), was approved for anyone who rents Fellowship Hall. Proof of insurance will be required. A new rental agreement will be drafted and in place before the rentals are allowed. It is hoped that this will provide the church with a new, sustainable revenue stream.

Additional, modest cost savings totaling approximately \$170.00 per year were implemented with two of the church's utility providers. The church will start realizing these savings in December.

Per Capita is under budget \$935.00 through November.

This is my last monthly Financial Report. It has been my privilege to serve as your Treasurer for the last 15 months. I hope the polices and procedures I have put in place will be maintained by my successor and serve as a cornerstone for future improvements.

Respectively submitted by
Finance Committee



~ ~ Notes from Session ~ ~

In November we accepted Brian Witt's resignation as Treasurer, effective Jan. 1. Brian has served with dedication and diligence. He has paid great attention to detail and brought new standards and procedures to how we handle the money you give to support the work of the church. We are truly grateful for all that he has done. We are delighted to announce that at the December session meeting we elected Amy Weed to be the new treasurer, effective Jan. 1. Though not on session, she will work with the finance committee and the office to faithfully manage the church funds. Amy brings years of financial experience to the position.



Per Capita

What is Per Capita? It is the first envelope in your packet of donation envelopes. The denomination charges each church a rate of \$42 per member. The money collected goes to help fund staff at Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly level in our denomination. The church has to pay your share, whether you give it or not. We ask for you to help us not have to take it out of our general budget, by paying your own Per Capita. To calculate how much you owe, multiply the number of members (youth who have gone through confirmation or adults joined by transfer or reaffirmation of faith) by \$42 and you will get how much you should pay.



DEACON'S DOINGS

I don't know about you but I always pick up my free copy of the Journal at ShopRite. I get a kick out of reading " Full Moon News" and enjoy the quotes at the bottom of the pages. The latest issue had a quote that really spoke to me, "One person can make a difference, and everyone should try." Think about it. . . We all want to help those who have less than us. Think of how we put money in a basket and it added up to \$1000.00 for gift cards to help families here in West Milford. Think of all the families we help with our food pantry, thanks to donations. Just two examples of making a difference. . . .

I'm happy (very happy-phew) to say the deacons are finished with a busy couple of weeks, hope you enjoy our efforts. We are already begun planning for 2017. Look for our upcoming events, special coffee hours-side note, please consider doing it one Sunday, Souper Sunday, Chili cook off, stone soup, etc.

Wishing you a wonderful 2017 and remember even one person CAN make a difference.

Happy New Year, Linda



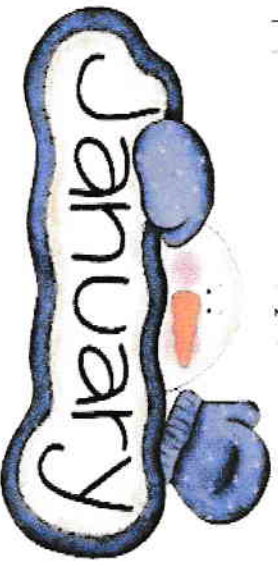
WA is thankful to Diane E. for chairing our Christmas bazaar. Thanks also go out to our senior saints, boy scouts, deacons , dorcas and Mary Martha circles. It was a very successful event and a fun time was had by all that participated.

CHILI COOK OFF

January 28th from 5-7 pm the Deacon's will be hosting our 7th Annual Chili Cook Off and Baking Competition. Our menu will include up to 8 types of chilies, our famous corn muffins, tea, coffee, iced tea and of course a sampling of fabulous baked goods from our baking competition! Tickets will be sold at the door: \$10.00 Adults, \$9.00 for Seniors and \$5.00 for young adults. If you are interested in participating please contact Dawn Syversten (973-853-6041), or any Deacon for information! Spread the word!



<p>New Year's Day</p> <p>10am - Worship 11am - Coffee Hour 12pm - Handbells 4pm - Claddagh Pipe Band 7pm - Boy Scouts</p>	<p>New Year's Day observed</p>	<p>7pm - Diabetes Class 7:30pm - Sr. Choir</p>	<p>7pm - AA Meeting 7:30pm - Al-Anon</p>	<p>9am - Sr. Saints 7pm - Band Practice</p>	<p>6pm - Session Party</p>	<p>11am - Food Pantry</p>
<p>10am - Sun. School 10am - Worship 11am - Coffee Hour 11am - WA Meeting 12pm - Handbells 4pm - Claddagh Pipe Band 7pm - Boy Scouts</p>	<p>3:30pm - Staff Mtg. 7:30pm - Session</p>	<p>9am - New Comers 10:30am - Bible Study 7:30pm - Sr. Choir</p>	<p>7pm - AA Meeting 7:30pm - Al-Anon</p>	<p>9am - Sr. Saints 7pm - Band Practice</p>		
<p>10am - Baptism Pyne 10am - Sun. School 10am - Worship</p>	<p>Martin Luther King Day 8pm - Camera Club</p>	<p>10:30am - Bible Study 7:30pm - Sr. Choir</p>	<p>7pm - AA Meeting 7:30pm - Al-Anon</p>	<p>9am - Sr. Saints 7pm - Band Practice</p>		
<p>11am - Coffee Hour 11am - Deacons Meeting 11am - VBS Planning 12pm - Handbells 4pm - Claddagh Pipe Band</p>		<p>10:30am - Bible Study 7:30pm - Sr. Choir</p>	<p>7pm - AA Meeting 7:30pm - Al-Anon</p>	<p>9am - Sr. Saints 7pm - Band Practice</p>		<p>9am - Scrappin Divas of</p>
<p>10am - Installation of 10am - Sun. School 10am - Worship 11am - Coffee Hour 12pm - Handbells 4pm - Claddagh Pipe Band 7pm - Boy Scouts</p>		<p>10:30am - Bible Study 7:30pm - Sr. Choir</p>	<p>7pm - AA Meeting 7:30pm - Al-Anon</p>	<p>9am - Sr. Saints 7pm - Band Practice</p>		
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2017