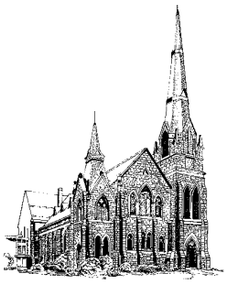


# FIRST PRESS

## DECEMBER 6, 2015

### *WELCOME VISITORS!*

*We are glad you have chosen to worship here today! Please come again!*

***Nursery care is provided for children up to 24 months in our Cradle Room during the 10:00AM Worship Service****. There is Christian Education during the 10:00AM Worship Service. The Cradle Room and Rest Rooms are located through the door to the left of the pulpit then left down the hallway.*

*The white brochure in the pew rack will tell you a little about this congregation. An Usher or one of the Greeters that you met as you came in will be glad to assist you with more information or you can visit our website: www.firstprescaldwell.org.*

***You are respectfully requested to turn off all pagers and cell phones. Our church is equipped with a hearing assistance system. Please ask the usher for a receiver.***

**GREETERS THIS MORNING ARE:**
Members of First Pres Youth Fellowship

**DEACON ON DUTY THIS WEEK**
Susan Jones - 973-768-3827

**AFTER THE 10:00AM SERVICE**
Join Donna & Kara Motsch
for coffee in Room 120

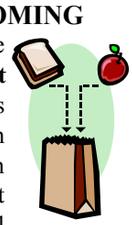
### STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

As of Thursday, December 3rd we have received **193 pledges** totaling **$534,872.** If you have not yet returned your pledge card, please do so as soon as possible. Once all the pledge cards have been received, the Finance Committee can begin working on the 2016 church budget. The total amount pledged for 2015 was $617,590.

***Also you can assist us by keeping your 2015 giving current and adding to that amount if possible.***

Thank you,
The Finance Committee --
Chuck McGrath, Chair
Bob Hicock, Treasurer

### SANDWICH NIGHT IS COMING



On **December 15th** we are gathering in Fellowship Hall **at 6:30PM**, to make sandwiches benefiting St. John's Soup Kitchen in Newark. This ministry has taken off and become a very important part of what our congregation is all about, SERVING OTHERS.

We look forward to seeing all of you and continuing to serve others, especially during this Christmas Season. Any questions, please reach out to Dave Johnson, 973-464-9121 or Joyce McGrath, 201-738-6531.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW
### CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

**NOTE DAY AND TIME FOR FAMILY WORSHIP**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2OTH**

**5:00 PM -** Family Worship Service
*The Inn Crowd*
☆Chapel Handbell Choir
☆Children's Choir
☆Cherub Choir
***Followed by the Live Nativity at 6:00PM***

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24th**

**8:00PM** - Candlelight Worship Service
☆First Church Ringers
☆Pilgrim Choir
☆Westminster Choir
☆Brass Quartet

**11:00PM** - Candlelight Worship Service
☆Chancel Handbell Choir
☆Chancel Choir
☆Brass Quartet

### CHRISTMAS BRUNCH
### DECEMBER 13, 2015 at 11:15AM

**TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW**
**AND WILL BE AVAILABLE AT COFFEE HOUR, ONLINE, OR DURING THE WEEK IN THE CHURCH OFFICE**

Adult $16 Child (6-9)$8 Tiny (0-5) Free
Family Max $50

### CHERUB CHOIR HAS BEGUN

Calling all Cherubs – pre-school and kindergartners! It is time to learn some special Christmas songs to **sing for the Family Worship Service on Sunday, December 20th at 5:00PM**. **Rehearsals have begun and will continue on Saturday, December 12 and 19 from 10:00-11:00AM in Room 120**. It's not too late to join us for lots of musical fun and some Christmas surprises! Call the church office for further information.

### ATTENTION ALL BAKERS!
### DEACONS' COOKIE WALK IS ON DECEMBER 12th

Annual Cookie and Goodie Walk NEEDS YOU! Sign up to bake cookies, pastries, candies, pies - whatever your special Christmas recipe is – and then bring those goodies to the church on Friday evening, December 11th from 4:00PM until 8:00PM or Saturday morning December 12th by 8:00AM. ***And don't forget to come back to the church*** (once you've dropped off those cookies and goodies***) to purchase some of the extraordinary items for sale*** at the **Deacons' Cookie and Goodie Walk** which will be held from **9:00AM until 12:00PM on December 12th**. Your purchase of the mouthwatering treats will not only benefit you during this holiday season (NO Baking!!!) but it also benefits the ministries of your Board of Deacons. So, come on out and volunteer to bake!

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NOTES

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

**KIDS KART** - We hope you will check out our Kids Kart at the back of the sanctuary. The Kids Kart has activity books, crayons, and books for children to enjoy during the worship service. Please take what you would like, but remember to return the crayons at the end of the service!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING** - Each week our children are encouraged to bring in their own offering to give during Sunday School. This year our offering will be collected in a swirling wishing well, so coins are welcome and encouraged! This year our Sunday School offering will go to provide scholarships for a week of summer camp at Camp Johnsonburg to children in need.

**KIDS CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA - Sunday, December 13th, 2:00-6:00PM. -** All children in preschool through 5th grade are invited to join us for a fun afternoon celebrating Christmas and serving others. We will have fun playing games, singing Christmas Carols, watching a *VeggieTales* movie and having a yummy pizza dinner. We will also be having our very own teddy bear building party - creating fun stuffed animals, one for ourselves and one for a child in need. The cost for the day is $30. Our extravaganza is limited to 20 children so please sign up with Jaime soon!

## YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

**SR. HIGH TRIP TO BENIHANA - TODAY - 11:30AM -** Celebrate Dave Diercksen's birthday with us today! Bring $20. Let Jaime know if you're joining us!

**JR. HIGH STUFFING STOCKINGS FOR CHILDREN - Thursday, December 10th - 6:30-8:00PM -** Come serve God by serving others with us this week! We will be stuffing stockings for children in need! Please bring small toys to help fill the stockings! No need to sign up, just show up.

## CARD-WRITING MINISTRY: YOU'RE INVITED TO LUNCH

In this season of giving, think about joining the caring friends who send monthly messages to our homebound members. Each volunteer takes one month of the year and sends cards with some personal words. (We can help you with sample messages.) Some months are shared by two volunteers and this past year one month was shared by five incredible teens! If you would like to know more, please drop by the **Heritage Room on Sunday, Dec. 20, immediately after the 10:00 service**. We'll have deli sandwiches and fruit, so plan to have a few bites and ask a few questions about taking part in 2016. This writing project is a simple mission, but we have gotten lots of positive feedback from those who are confined and for whom the day is long. These days, getting a piece of personal mail is an unusual treat. Call 973-896-8216 if you have questions.

## LOCAL FOOD PANTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP

**Did you know that the Caldwell Food Pantry now serves 80 families with children each week?** Due to increased need, The Caldwell Food Pantry is experiencing a shortage of staples important for each needy family. In December we will be collecting non-perishable food (i.e. pasta and sauce, canned meat and fish, vegetables, peanut butter, etc.), **but any donations are always welcome.** If you can help please drop off the items in the shopping carts in the church entrances.

**Hint:** Take advantage of store sale items and manufactures coupons that will help make your contribution donation dollars go even further!

## SOUP KITCHEN NEWS

We had another very successful Soup Kitchen this past Saturday. Over 70 meals, including take outs. We had a very involved volunteer staff and 3 from our congregation, a great job done by all.

Our **next Soup Kitchen will be December 26th** and we are looking for volunteers to serve with us. If you want to make a difference please call Joyce McGrath, 201-738-6531. If you are unable to serve in person, pick up a pan and prepare, no job is too small. SERVE IN THE LORDS NAME.

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministers are available to all who seek comfort and support through Christian caring. It is confidential, effective, and free.

To find out more call the confidential line at 973-228-0310 ext 235, speak to one of our pastors, or send an email: **stephen.ministry@firstprescaldwell.org**.

***My command is this:Love each other as I have loved you.***


**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT CALDWELL**

*326 Bloomfield Avenue, Caldwell, NJ 07006*
*Office Hours: M-Th 9:00AM - 5:00PM*
*F 9:00AM - 4:00PM*
*Office Phone: 973-228-0310 * Fax: 973-228-0629*
*e-mail address:* fpc@firstprescaldwell.org
*webpage:* www.firstprescaldwell.org
*facebook: The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell*
**Stephen Ministry** - 973-228-0310 ext. 235
stephen.ministry@firstprescaldwell.org


### CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

***SUNDAY, December 6 CHURCH FAMILY SUNDAY***
***2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT***

8:00 AM Mission Committee, Parlor
9:00 AM Confirmation Class, Rm 121
10:00 AM Worship Service
/ Young Children and Worship (Age 4 through 1st Grade)
11:00 AM Coffee Hour, Rm 120
11:15 AM Adult Ed Committee, Don Brown's Office
11:30 AM Adult Education Class, Parlor
11:30 AM Sr. High Advent Study, Youth Room
12:00 PM Jr. High Retreat Group returns from Johnsonburg
4:00 PM Pilgrim Choir (Grades 6 & 7)
4:45 PM Chapel Bells (Grades 5-8)
5:30 PM Westminster Choir (Grades 8-12)
7:45 PM First Church Ringers (Grades 9-12)

***MONDAY, December 7***
9:00 AM Nursery School Art Show, Rm 120
7:00 PM Yoga & Meditation, Rm 120
7:00 PM Venture Scouts, Youth Room

***TUESDAY, December 8***
9:30 AM Staff Meeting
5:00 PM Finance Committee, Parlor
7:00 PM *Off the Scale,* Rm 120

***WEDNESDAY, December 9***
9:30 AM Crafting Group, Parlor
4:30 PM Blaze (Grades K-5)

***THURSDAY, December 10***
7:00 AM Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Caldwell Diner
10:00 AM Old Guard, Rm 120
6:30 PM Chancel Handbells
6:30 PM Jr. High Fellowship Stocking Stuffing, Youth Room
7:00 PM Golf Meeting, Parlor
8:00 PM Chancel Choir

***FRIDAY, December 11***
5:30 PM AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall

***SATURDAY, December 12***
8:00 AM Dads With a Mission, Inc., Rockn' Joe Café
9:00 AM Deacons' Cookie Walk, Fellowship Hall
10:00 AM Cherub Choir, Rm 120
11:00 AM Youth Club Musical Rehearsal
11:30 AM Set-Up for Christmas Brunch, Fellowship Hall

***SUNDAY, December 13 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT***
8:30 AM Chapel Worship with Communion
9:00 AM Confirmation Class, Rm 121
10:00 AM Worship Service / Sunday School
11:15 AM Stephen Ministry Meeting, Conference Room
**11:15 AM Christmas Brunch, Fellowship Hall**
2:00 PM Kids Christmas Extravaganza (Age K-5th Grade), FH
4:00 PM Pilgrim Choir (Grades 6 & 7)
4:45 PM Chapel Bells (Grades 5-8)
5:30 PM Westminster Choir (Grades 8-12)
7:45 PM First Church Ringers (Grades 9-12)

# Our Staff

**Dr. Richard N. Sommers,** *Pastor/Head of Staff*
**Rev. Don Brown,** *Associate Pastor*
**Rev. Barbara Jo Piercy,** *Minister of Music*
**Jaime Staehle**, *Director of Youth & Children's Ministries*
**Nancy Felter,** *Office Manager*
**Lauren Restaino,** *Communications Specialist/Admin Assistant*
**Chris White,** *Building Manager/Head Sexton*
**Noel Piercy,** *Associate Director of Music*
**Laurie Fergusson**, *Youth Intern*
**Brittany Heun**, *Sunday Morning Receptionist*
**Ray Uhlendorf**, *Sunday Morning Sexton*
**Kathleen Carlson,** *Director*
*Weekday Nursery School - 973-226-6674*
*http://www.firstpresnurseryschool.com*
**David Hicock**
*Superintendent, Prospect Hill Cemetery - 973-228-4410*
*prospecthillcemetery@firstprescaldwell.org*
**Dr. Robert R. McGruther**, *Pastor Emeritus*
**Rev. Robert Pryor,** *Parish Associate*

## LOOKING FOR A GREAT NURSERY SCHOOL?

First Presbyterian Church Nursery School in Caldwell has...

*Small class sizes to meet the needs of children
*Amazing teachers who provide an atmosphere of warmth and mutual respect
*A hands-on, literature based curriculum where children experience joy in learning
*Wonderful communication with parents
*A place where children learn and grow to be the best they can be
*Programs for children ages 2 1/2 - 9 years old

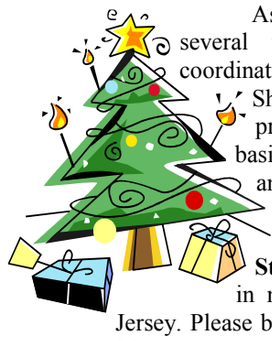
To learn more, call Kathleen Carlson at 973-226-6674 to visit our school or email at nurseryschool@firstprescaldwell.org.

**OPEN HOUSE DATES**
Wednesday, December 9th 9:30AM - 11:00AM
Thursday, January 14th 7:00PM - 8:00PM

## YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS

This is a review of the IRS rules concerning year end contributions of cash and securities. In general, the delivery date determines the year in which the contribution can be claimed as a deduction. If gifts of cash are mailed, the date of mailing is the delivery date. If gifts are delivered by any other means, the date the gifts are received by the charity is the delivery date. More specifically, **checks mailed with a postmark of December 31, 2015 will be credited as a contribution in 2015. Hand-delivered checks, received prior to January 1, 2016 will be credited as 2015 contributions.**

## STRENGTHEN OUR SISTERS CHRISTMAS PARTY IS COMING



As we have the past several years, First Pres is coordinating an Adopt-A-Shelter project to help provide some of the basic needs for the women and children at a homeless and battered women shelter called **Strengthen our Sisters**, in nearby Wanaque, New Jersey. Please be an angel this holiday season and bring some joy and Christmas spirit into the lives of those less fortunate by participating in this very worthy cause.

You will find the Christmas Tree with tag-ornaments near the Christian Ed Desk. Each tag-ornament has gift suggestions on the back. Just select an ornament from the Adopt-a-Shelter Tree and then **return your wrapped gift back under the tree no later than Monday, December 14th**. Please be sure to indicate on your tag what is inside your wrapped gift. **On the afternoon of December 19th, we will be hosting a Christmas party for the women and children from the shelter here in Fellowship Hall.**

Thank you in advance for your generous contribution and support of this project. If you have any questions about the project or are interested in other ways you can help support **Strengthen our Sisters Shelter** please visit their website at www.sosdv.org or http://shelterneeds.blogspot.com or you can contact Laura Schalles at 973-227-0599 or email: lschalles@yahoo.com

## HAVE YOU SEEN THE TREE IN THE GLASS STAIRWAY DECORATED WITH HATS AND MITTENS?

A 20+ year old tradition continues to provide warm mittens and hats to needy families in our immediate area. The mittens, donated by the nursery school families, as well as church families, will be distributed through the Salvation Army in Montclair to local families in need. Just place your hat and mitten donation on the tree the next time you pass.

## Green Faith TIP OF THE WEEK

***ENERGY:*** The average home spends about $2,000 on energy bills every year. By changing to appliances that have earned the *Energy Star*, you can save $75 a year in energy costs (Energy Star). *Energy Star* rated appliances use 10-50% less energy and water than standard models over their lifetime, making a big difference for the environment and your budget. *http://www.energystar.gov/*

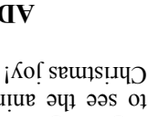
*Eco-tip provided by GreenFaith: www.greenfaith.org*

## THE LIVE NATIVITY IS COMING!!!!

Be a part of this great tradition at First Pres! We are looking for adults and teens to be Shepherds, Wise men, and even Mary and Joseph for our annual Live Nativity from 6:00-8:00PM on **Sunday, December 20th**. Sign up sheets will be available on the bulletin board outside Room 120 beginning TODAY. And of course all are invited to stop by to see the animals, have a cup of cocoa and some cookies, and share in the Christmas joy!

## ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET FOR YOU

The Adult Education Committee has purchased special Advent Devotional booklets, *Lift Up Your Heads*, for your use. It contains daily reflections for Advent from the works of Martin E. Marty beginning on the First Sunday of Advent through the day after Christmas. Please pick up your copy in the rear of the sanctuary or on the Christian Ed desk today.



## WOMEN'S ADVENT BOOK GROUP

This Advent, all women are invited to join us in reading *"Two from Galilee* by Marjorie Holmes. Pick up the book in the Church Library Cart in Room 120 (we only have one!) or purchase your own copy. We will meet together after the busy-ness of Christmas, on Wednesday, January 6th at 7:00PM in the Parlor for dessert and discussion. Please let Jaime Staehle know if you will be able to join us.

*"This is the fictionalized story of two real people whose lives were touched by God: two people chosen by God to provide an earthly home for His Son. Here are Mary and Joseph-a teenage girl and a young carpenter-alone, frightened, in love, faced with family conflict, a hostile world and an awesome responsibility. It is a story for young and old alike; for everyone who finds the Christmas tale a source of timeless beauty and wonder, a compassionate, emotional novel of divine love."*

## LOOKING FOR A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT?

Join us as the Church Life Committee sponsors a night out at the NJ Devils.
**When:** Friday February 26, 2016 7:00 PM
**Where:** Prudential Center
**Cost:** $54 per ticket (section 109)
If we sell over 60 tickets, we will qualify for a group photo on Center Ice following the game! We encourage everyone to carpool to this event.