

THE NEXUS

Presbyterian Church
55 Smith Street
E. Stroudsburg, PA 18301
570-421-5821
espresbyterian@verizon.net

January 2017

From Our Pastor

Dear Friends,

A good question to ask in 2017 is “Where does it hurt?” The Civil Rights Activist, Ruby Sales, asked this question repeatedly during the traumatic time of the civil rights movement. The Rev. Beth Scibienski, of the Grace Presbyterian Church in Kendall Park, NJ, learned to approach this question as she walked around her church’s neighborhood. “Where does it hurt?” “What is our Church’s Christian work?” “What can we fulfill?”

After finding out about Beth, from an article by Carol Howard Marriott in Christian Century, I’ve been following her blog. Beth asks good questions. I want to ask them more intentionally, too. I want all of us to ask them in 2017! Now I realize we do a lot with a little here at ESPC. But I also know that we have to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s ongoing leading, year to year, month to month, day to day, moment to moment. So, even as we dedicate this year to serving the Lord Jesus Christ, may we ask, ask again and continue to ask, “Where does it hurt?”

Peace,

Rev. Ed Freeborn

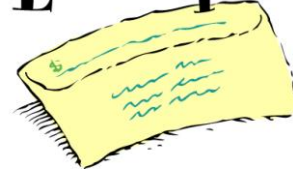
Sponsor

This issue of the Nexus is being sponsored by Charles Maclay. We thank you for your support.

Nexus Deadline

The Nexus deadline for the February Nexus issue is Monday, January 23rd.

Offering Envelopes



Initial Offering Envelope

The first envelope in the offering packet each year is designated as the Initial Offering. It can be used to include a special start of the annual gift to cover two of the overhead expenses that we incur each year.

The first is an apportionment assessed annually by the Presbytery. The assessment is based on the active membership of the church as of December, two years ago. For the year 2017, we are being assessed for our total active membership at the end of 2015. The apportioned amount is \$28.76 per active member and our total assessment is \$3,595. Our total active membership for the assessment is 125. If you wish to help offset that cost, you may choose to pay part or the entire assessment amount for you as a contributing unit.

The second overhead cost is for the envelopes themselves. The envelopes cost just a few dollars, and any amount you wish to contribute would be greatly appreciated.

Use of the Initial Offering Envelope is optional. If used, you do not have to designate how you want your gift to be applied. Simply include a gift in the Initial Offering Envelope and place it in the offering plate. Thank you for your past and continuing generosity.

New Officers

On Sunday, January 8th, we will ordain and install officers. Please keep our Elders and Deacons in your prayers. New Officers are:

Elder Wendy Emery
Elder Rick Sanker
Deacon Lisa Elliott
Deacon Margie Staffaroni
Deacon Lucas Swanson

Retiring Officers

We have been blessed by the faithful service of the following officers who are now “retiring” from active service as they complete their terms:

Elder Debbie Prince
Elder Tim Swanson
Deacon Elda McCoy Erbe
Deacon Deborah Freeborn
Deacon Lisa Menio

Women’s Circle

The Women’s Circle group will meet on Tuesday, January 10th at noon in the church lounge.

Men’s Lunch

The Men’s luncheon fellowship will resume on Wednesday, January 11th as noon in the church lounge. Good food. Good fellowship. Good guys. You’re invited!

Adult Education in January

On Sunday, January 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th, following worship, Rev. Freeborn will be offering an Adult Education event entitled “10 Spiritual Practices for Our Senior Years”. The course will look at the special opportunities of the senior season of life and spirituality helpful to this season. Come join us!

Treasurer and Stewardship Report, through November 30, 2016

Income \$213,996.05 (YTD)
Expenses \$217,541.48 (YTD)

Net \$ -3,545.43

Year-to-Date Giving:

Pledge giving: \$122,008.00
Non-Pledge: \$ 9,645.00

Communion Dates for 2017

First Sunday in the New Year	January 1, 2017
First Sunday in Lent	March 5, 2017
Maundy Thursday	April 13, 2017
Easter Sunday	April 16, 2017
Pentecost	June 4, 2017
Summer Communion	T.B.A.
World Communion Sunday	October 1, 2017
First Sunday in Advent	December 3, 2017
Christmas Eve	December 24, 2017

Birthdays

Celebrating birthdays during **January**:

Sue Ellis, Brenda Bruce, Doris Schoonover, Ed Flory, Bobbie Long, Mikayla Charpentier, Geraldine Gower, Betty Drescher, Jeff Gibbons, Fred Krach, Ed West and Lois Swisher



Wedding Anniversaries

Celebrating wedding anniversaries during **January**:

**Jack and Kathy Kauderer
Dick and Jo McNally**

Youth Events

Epiphany Pageant

For all children, youth (and any adults!) who would like to participate in a play for Epiphany.

Practice: Saturday, January 7 from 9 am - 11 am

You MUST attend practice to get a main part.

Pageant: Will be held during worship on Sunday, January 8 at 10 a.m. Make sure to arrive by 8:30 a.m. to do a final run through and dress in costumes.

If you have any questions, please speak with Jen Henshue

Youth Group

This month we will meet for Youth Group on January 8 and 22 after church until 1 pm. We will have lunch, a snowball fight one week and a mystery to solve the other! We hope you will come join us!

Family Snow tubing Trip to Camelback - Saturday, January 28, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. On Saturday, January 28, Families and children and youth of all ages are welcome to join us for a group trip to Camelback to go snow tubing! No skills are required and it is fun for everyone (including adults...I promise!) Cost is \$30 per person and we need you to RSVP no later than Sunday, January 22. We will meet at the church at 8:30 am and carpool over to Camelback. We will tube from 9-12 and then carpool back to the church where we can enjoy some hot cocoa and snacks. You can RSVP by calling, texting, or emailing me. If your family needs, there is scholarship money available...so just let me know and we can take care of it.

Save these Dates!!

High School Retreat at Camp Johnsonburg: March 31-April 2

Middle School Retreat at Camp Johnsonburg: April 21-23

More information to come next month!



A Brighter Christmas was had by four local families, including 12 children, thanks to our very caring congregation. All of the wished for gifts were wrapped, returned, and ready for pick up before Christmas. The families were overwhelmed and very appreciative of your compassion and willingness to help their children experience a warmer and Brighter Christmas.

Once again, the ESPC family has demonstrated its overwhelming generosity and compassion for others.

Thank you for your support.

The Mission Committee



Coffee Hour Sponsors

We will continue to have coffee hours on the second Sunday of every month. They will be sponsored by various groups. The Men's group will host the first coffee hour, to be held on Sunday, January 8th, following worship.

The Deacons will continue to host the coffee hours on the last Sunday of every month.

Nexus Staff

Pastor: Rev. Edmund T. Freeborn

Editor: Jen Carmella

Contributing Editors:

Barbara Braithwaite, Allan Erbe, Jen Henshue,
Judy Schreck

January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Year's Day Worship, 10:00 am Communion	2 Church Closed	3	4 Sweetbriar Pre-K. 9:30 am – 12:30 pm	5	6 Sweetbriar Pre-K. 9:30 am – 12:30 pm	7 Epiphany Pageant practice 9:00 – 11:00 am Special Session/ Deacon's meeting, 9:00-12:00
8 Worship, 10:00 am (Epiphany Pageant) Coffee hour, 11:15 am Youth Group, 11:15 – 1:00 Adult Ed., 11:30	9 Sweetbriar Pre-K. 9:30 am – 12:30 pm	10 Women's Circle, noon	11 Sweetbriar Pre-K. 9:30 am – 12:30 pm Men's lunch, noon K-Group, 7:00	12	13 Sweetbriar Pre-K. 9:30 am – 12:30 pm	14
15 Worship, 10:00 am Adult Ed., 11:30	16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Church Closed	17	18 Sweetbriar Pre-K. 9:30 am – 12:30 pm	19	20 Sweetbriar Pre-K. 9:30 am – 12:30 pm	21
22 Worship, 10:00 Special Session Meeting, 11:15 Youth Group, 11:15 – 1:00 Adult Ed., 11:30	23 Sweetbriar Pre-K. 9:30 am – 12:30 pm	24	25 Sweetbriar Pre-K. 9:30 am – 12:30 pm K-Group, 7:00	26	27 Sweetbriar Pre-K. 9:30 am – 12:30 pm	28
29 Worship, 10:00 Congregational Meeting, 11:15 Session Meeting, 11:30 Adult Ed., 11:30	30 Sweetbriar Pre-K. 9:30 am – 12:30 pm	31				