

(Back Cover From Issue 16, December 1986)

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

St. Luke 2:11



Merry Christmas

the OPEN DOOR

+ **FIRST**
Presbyterian Church

150 North Broadway, PO Box 787
South Amboy, NJ 08879

Friend, Guest, Visitor



Pastor Jeffrey Carney
First Presbyterian Church
150 North Broadway,
PO Box 787
South Amboy, NJ 08879

December 2016

ISSUE 237

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

(this cover was used from Issue 50 thru Issue 99)

Special Tribute Issue

As a tribute to our dear friend Jean Bunting, we are dedicating this issue of the Open Door to her and the rest of the Evangelism Committee. They started this church newsletter back in June, 1984. For this issue we went back to the original booklet style newsletter, and even used an old cover and back page. All of the graphics used in this issue are from their original photo books. Also, we pulled some articles from past issues which are labeled through out the book.



Prayers for Our Homebound Members & Friends



Roberta Bossong

A.C.R., 485 River Ave, #30, Lakewood, NJ 08701

Burt Kurtz

PO Box 119, Pocono Summit, PA 18346

Virginia Porter

64 Dayton Road, Jamesburg, NJ 08831

Herb Sargeant Sr

3058 Bordentown Ave, Parlin, NJ 08859

Agnes Schaefer

Madison Center, 625 State Rt. 34, Matawan, NJ 07747

Lorraine Scharff

6 Bates Court, Parlin, NJ 08859

Please remember our homebound with a card and prayer.



Office e-mail: firstsouthamboj@optimum.net

Pastor's e-mail: fpcsapastor@optimum.net

Web Site: www.fpcsachurch.org

Facebook page: [fpcsamboy](https://www.facebook.com/fpcsamboy)

Phone : 732-721-4516 **Fax:** 732-721-9208

Sunday School 9:00 am
Sunday Worship 10:30 am

2016

PASTOR – Rev. Jeffrey H. Carney

CLERK OF SESSION - Joan Downes

TREASURER - Elaine Lopez

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT -

Geraldine Wines

SECRETARY - Shirley Weaver

ORGANIST - Kevin Shoemaker

OFFICER NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Arvid Holt, Millie Crosby

Stephanie McAleer, Carolyn Nappe

Peggy Holt, Lori Ryan, Madhu Solanki

YOUR ELDERS / THE SESSION

(Responsible for Governing our Church Affairs)

Millie Crosby Joan Downes

Gail Hawkins Arvid Holt

Elaine Lopez Dorothy Rhodes

YOUR DEACONS

(Responsible for Assisting our Church and Community in Times of Need)

Mary Dieker Stephanie McAleer

Ken Gibson George Schaefer

Megan Jarvis Shirley Weaver

FINANCIAL REPORT

OCTOBER 2016

Offerings \$ 9,838

Covenant Income + 3,181

Total Income \$ 13,019

Disbursements \$ -18,024

LUKE 6:38 "AND JESUS SAID THAT AS WE GIVE IT WILL BE GIVEN

BACK, OVERFLOWING."

-Elaine Lopez, Treasurer

the OPEN DOOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
150 North Broadway
South Amboy, NJ 08879



The Road to Christmas

As I write this article, it is 60 degrees on a warm and sunny November afternoon. It feels more like we are on the verge of Spring than Winter. It is hard to believe that Christmas is only a little over a month away. Recently we even got a jump start on outside Christmas decorations while it was unseasonably warm!

But the real task that lay before us during these days is preparing our hearts and minds for Christmas. We are on the cusp of the season of Advent. Advent means in the Latin "to come." During the next four weeks we have the opportunity to prepare for the coming of the King into our world and our hearts once again.

Over the years Advent for me has become like a good book that I start to read and then put aside, only to pick it up and savor the season when Advent comes around again. In fact I have several books where I do just that — I begin to read and treasure the stories and experiences of Christmas. Perhaps this year the true meaning and spirit of Christmas will run a little deeper and burn a little brighter within as we get ready to travel to Bethlehem in our hearts and minds to receive the Christ child once again.

How are you preparing for Christmas? As we move through the coming weeks of Advent, take time to read the Christmas story in the Bible again. Behold the wonder of the shepherds and the excitement of Mary. Read again your favorite Christmas stories and poems that herald the coming of Christ.

There will be the inevitable rush of the crowds and frenzy that comes with Christmas, but as Christians we can behold the deeper meaning of the Word becoming flesh as we kneel beside the cradle in Bethlehem and welcome the light of Christ into our lives again. May this Christmas bring its own special blessings to your heart and home as we behold the wonder of His coming.

*Christmas Blessings,
Pastor Jeffrey*





God's Gifts

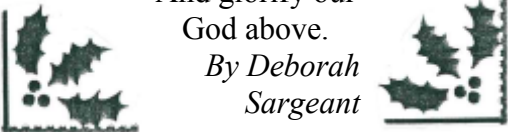
We all have special gifts,
Given by heaven above,
To lift, to heal, to help,
But most of all to love!
They are not for our use,
For selfish needs or plans,
For others more than self
Is what our Lord demands.

Compassion moves our hearts,
And Jesus moves our hands,
Our feet, our very lives,
Obeying his commands,

Together we succeed,
A church of unity,
We are his body, one in Christ
And giving joyfully!

Teaching, caring, joy of sharing,
These are ways to love,
To show God's gifts to others,
And glorify our
God above.

By Deborah Sargeant



"Please Untie The Nots" by Iyanla Vanzant

Dear God:
Please untie the nots that are invading my mind, my heart and my life.
Please remove the have nots, the can nots and the do nots that invade my mind.
Please erase the will nots, may nots and might nots that invade my heart.
Please release me from the could nots, would nots and should nots that invade my life.
Most of all, dear God, I ask that you remove from my mind, my heart and my life all of the am nots that have allowed me to hold back.
Please erase from my mind the thought that I am not good enough.
Please remove from my heart that I am not loved enough.
Please untie from my life everything that I clutch that supports the belief that I am not enough.
Today, dear God, I come to you humbly and reverently asking that you untie, eliminate and erase all of the nots that have invaded every aspect of my life.

For your mercy and your grace I am so grateful.
Let these words take on the presence of the Holy Spirit to become living conditions in my life.
And so it is!

Donations of none perishable foods, and toiletries. Donations can be left in the office, marked Food Pantry!

Thank You and Happy Holidays!

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Hebrews 13:16



FOOD PANTRY CONT...

We fed 77 families of which children 88, Seniors 22. Overall total was 243 people. Please think of use for Christmas the Food Pantry could always use

Attention Committees
Annual Reports are due January 1, 2016



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA Dec. 11th



Breakfast with Santa after service. Please **Register** your child by Dec. 1st. We need to make sure Santa knows who's coming. Registration forms are in the weekly bulletins.
- Missions & Deacons

Sunday School

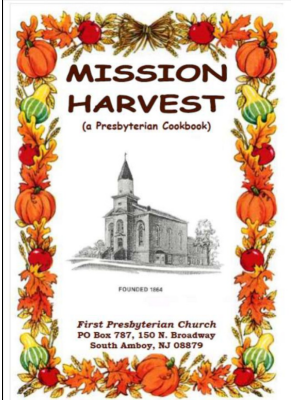
We'll have our Christmas Program on Dec. 11. There will be no classes on Dec. 18th, 25th or Jan. 1st. Classes resume Jan. 8th. We hope everyone has a wonderful break for Christmas and New Years!



Pictures of the Sunday School practicing their song with Kevin, and their Artwork for Thanksgiving.

MISSION HARVEST COOK BOOK \$12 Each

for more info
Phone: 732-721-4516
or email:
firstsouthamboy@optimum.net

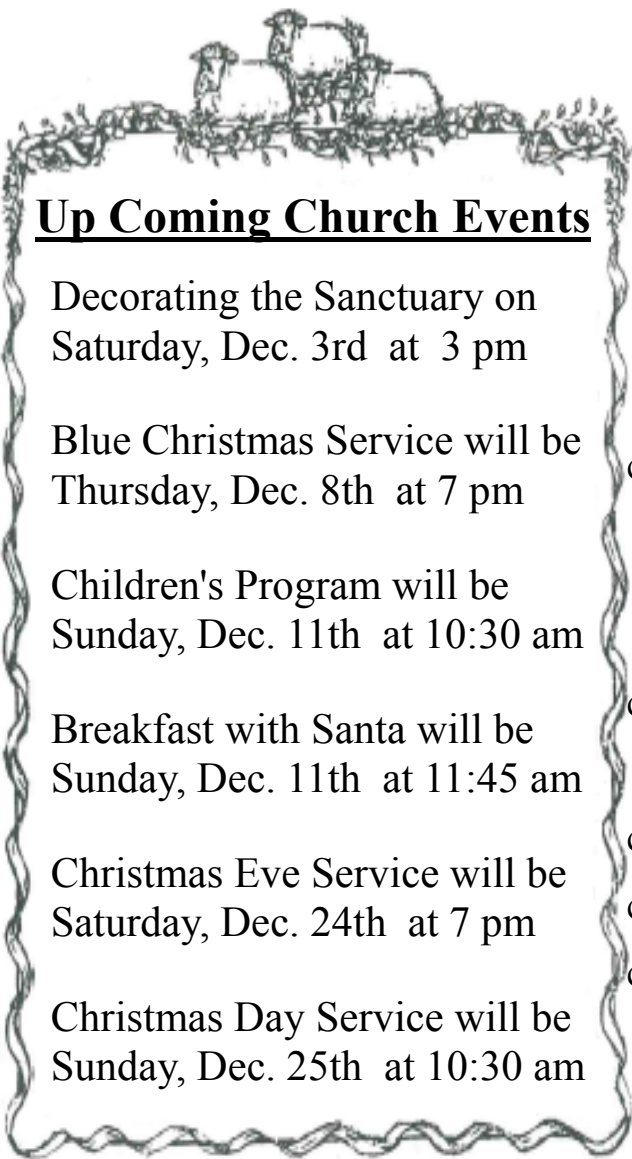


DEACON'S FOOD PANTRY

It's Thanksgiving once again!

Thanks and praise to God for the opportunity to open our food pantry to our community once more. We served 77 families. Regulars and new applicants, all of whom expressed heartfelt Thanks for the food they received. Thanks to all who donated turkeys. A special "Thank You" to our faithful volunteers for giving of their time and service in making this day successful. To God be the Glory, great things he has done. - Megan Jarvis





Up Coming Church Events

Decorating the Sanctuary on Saturday, Dec. 3rd at 3 pm

Blue Christmas Service will be Thursday, Dec. 8th at 7 pm

Children's Program will be Sunday, Dec. 11th at 10:30 am

Breakfast with Santa will be Sunday, Dec. 11th at 11:45 am

Christmas Eve Service will be Saturday, Dec. 24th at 7 pm

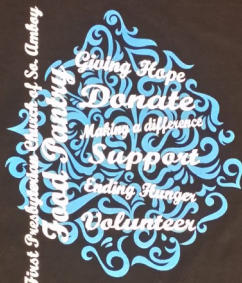
Christmas Day Service will be Sunday, Dec. 25th at 10:30 am

Support Our Food Pantry

T-shirts \$15 each

Sizes Available:
S, M, L, XL, 2XL

for more info
Phone: 732-721-4516



Christmas Isn't

Christmas Isn't :

Bags and bows or stockings filled with toys
Or parties, lots of food and rushing to the stores.

Christmas Isn't :

Buying everything we see, the clothes, the shoes, the cars or all the jewelry!

Christmas Isn't :

The lights and decorations hanging on your tree, Or even saying, "Merry Christmas!"
To everyone you meet.

Christmas Is :

The Christ Child that was born in Bethlehem!

Christmas Is :

The love we give to family and friends.

Christmas Is :

The Peace within our hearts, that Jesus came to give... The Joy we share with others,
And show them how to live!

By Debby Sargeant

THE OPEN DOOR

We are really proud to report to you that this issue of THE OPEN DOOR is the 100th. Our church paper was founded on June 1984 by the Evangelism Committee members: Jean Bunting, Elaine Lopez, Alice Schwankert, Carl von Gruchalla, and Roberta Bossong. After the Lord called Carl home the rest of the committee has continued the work he helped us start. Today we have added Lula-Mae Modzelewski, Iris Silver, and Gerri Wines to our list of volunteers. Never did we ever even imagine 100 with the original committee members still here. Others have helped us gather information and individual committee chairs have been so faithful. Thanks be to God.

We will be giving the deadline dates of all issues in the future because we really need to in order to have the time we need to do a better job. If your item comes in late we will enter it in the very next issue. Please keep our committee in prayer. Thank you.

(From Issue 100, December 2000)



"...AND SINCE WE'RE JUST HAVING LEFTOVERS TONIGHT, IT'S ALREADY BEEN BLESSED."

TIME TO ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Christmas Poinsettias will be \$7.50 each. Orders will be taken until December 18th.

You can also order flowers "In Honor of" or "In Memory of" a loved one for Sunday worship. Sunday worship flowers are \$25.00 for both urns. Please make all checks out to **CASH**.

Thank you.

Jean Greene 732-727-8690



December Anniversaries

Wishing a very Happy Anniversary to:

Carla & Gerry Ring
December 18th



Anniversaries

Ruth & Sandy Beselinoff
December 23rd

Jeffrey & Cynthia
Cochran Carney
December 29th



Debra Kurzawa
External Case Manager

275 John T O'Leary Blvd, South Amboy, NJ 08879
T 732.721.8200 • C 732.322.4840 • F 732.721.4438
Efax 732.782.0331 • dkurzawa@venetiancc.com



December Birthdays

Wishing a very
Happy Birthday to:

Dec. 8th - Jean Chubway
Dec. 8th - Joan Travisano
Dec. 21st - Phil VanHorn
Dec. 29th Christine Vella

Want to see your special date listed? Give the office your birthday and/or anniversary info.

BELLEVILLE • LIVINGSTON (973) 481-9319
Email: Ronharvey1pennroofing@gmail.com (973) 992-ROOF
Residential/Commercial 1-800-608-ROOF (7663)
FAX (973) 483-2456



SHINGLES • ROOF REMOVALS • REPAIRS • RUBBER
SLATE • TILE NEW & REPAIR • EPDM • TPO • STANDING SEAM
MAIN OFFICE 73-75 Rutgers Street
Belleville, NJ 07109
RON HARVEY
Estimator/Project Manager
CELL (732) 551-8475

Happy New Year



South Amboy
100 North Broadway
South Amboy, NJ 08879
(732) 721-0187
www.amboymbank.com

CELEBRATING
125
YEARS OF TRADITION

COFFEE HOUR

NOTICE

Since we are lacking new volunteers for our Coffee Hour we need your help to offset the cost. Year after year, we have the same volunteers absorbing the cost to provide a coffee hour for all of us. Some months we have as little as two volunteers financially supporting the coffee hour. We also have volunteers who provide for two months.

Therefore, to help offset the cost of our Coffee Hours, we will now have a coffee can for **Donations**. This new option will help our volunteers and will defray the cost our volunteers have to pay out of their pockets. All **Donations** collected will go toward future Coffee Hours.

In addition, Please consider volunteering for **one** coffee hour **per year**. Your help would be greatly appreciated. As always, we are thankful for everyone's help in cleaning up. As a family, let us support each other and work together.

Thank you, Your Session



Jean Bunting went home to be with our Lord on 11/4/16. Jean grew up on lower John Street here in So. Amboy, with her sister and brother. Her father was the main barber in town, with his shop on Broadway. She grew up and went through elementary school here with Leroy Kurtz. She loved her cats and spend a great deal of caring for them. Although, she was a private person, Jean was a dedicated member of this church. She has been coming here whole life and cared very deeply for her church family. She played many rolls here: She was Secretary of Sunday School for over 50 years and served on the Christian Education Committee. She was on the Evangelism Committee, the Open Door Committee and served on our Board of Deacons. She even volunteered as Church Secretary for many years. Every so often they would offer to pay her and her response was always the same. "if you pay me, I'll quit." One of the wooden chairs up in the front of the Cchurch was even dedicated to her. (The one Pastors sits on during the Children's Message.) She continually gave of herself to this church, and had many, many, friends here. She will be greatly missed.



VERY SPECIAL THANKS FOR ALL WHO SERVED IN 1998

- * Art Bossong - Church Treasurer
- * Jean Bunting - Church Secretary
- * Joan Travisano and Lula Mae Modzelewski - Financial Recorders
- * Jean Chubway and Jean Bunting - Church Bulletins
- * Jean Greene and Ann Agen - Sanctuary Flowers
- * Louise Sprague - Church Historian
- * Jennie Campbell and Mary Vigilante - Scheduling and overseeing Fellowship Hour
- * Alice Schwankert - Junior Church
- * Janice Karwatt and Alena Lynch - Nursery Co-ordinators
- * Carol Palmer, Robert Rand, Pastor Croak and Mary Gigantino - The Light Fellowship
- * Carol Palmer - Junior Choir
- * Beth Mottley - Worship Committee
- * Ladies Aid - President Ann Agen
- * Doris Tynan - Cradle Roll
- * Margaret Bullard - Security
- * Barbara Ballo - Sunday School Superintendent
- * Jean Bunting - Sunday School Secretary
- * Joan Travisano and Jean Chubway - For Congregational Reports
- * Our Sunday School Teachers and those who substitute - Mary Jane Ziobro, Gerry Wines, Iris Silver, Annemarie McCarty, Pastor Croak, Beth Knox, Beth Mottley, Joanne Manion, Christine Cole, Marianne Rand, and Linda O'Donnell.

HEBREWS 12:28

THEREFORE, SINCE WE RECEIVE A KINGDOM WHICH CANNOT BE SHAKEN, LET US SHOW GRATITUDE, BY WHICH WE MAY OFFER TO GOD AN ACCEPTABLE SERVICE WITH REVERENCE AND AWE;

(From Issue 88 December 1998)



Pastor Brian Croak, Mary Porcello, & Jean Bunting unveiling of the chair with dedication to Jean. Oct. 12 2002



Jean Bunting and Leroy Kurtz Oct. 11, 2002



Jean Bunting served as Church Secretary for over 10 years, starting in 1989.

Thank the Lord for You!



INK CARTRIDGES RECYCLE

Please continue to bring in used ink cartridges. We get credited \$2. per recycled cartridge and we may recycle 20 cartridges a month. Of course it is immediately used to purchase office supplies. Keep up the good work.

THANK YOU!!!!

Because of YOU we saved big bucks again. We ordered \$62.00 of colored copy paper from Staples and paid only \$15.00. Keep recycling your ink cartridges. We usually received \$45.00 - \$50.00 every month thanks to you. Next month we need to order a case of legal size white copy paper for our bulletins (\$65.00) So keep them coming. Thank you for saving your church \$\$\$\$.



LIGHTING THE PATH TO HOPE



Core Health is dedicated to providing quality care and excellent services to those suffering from the effects of substance abuse. Our program is based on core beliefs and values that foster an educational and supportive environment to help adults take the crucial first steps toward recovery.



December 2016



*If you pause to reflect,
you will find time to
count your blessings.*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 9am Spanish Worship 12 noon Missions 3pm Decorate the Church
4 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship/Communion 11:30am Coffee Hour 1pm New Life Pentecostal	5 9:15 am Deacon 6pm Scouts	6 7pm New Life Pentecostal	7	8 7pm Blue Christmas	9	10 9am Spanish Worship
11 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship / Sunday School Program 11:30 am Breakfast with Santa 1pm New Life Pentecostal	12 6pm Scouts	13 10am Session 7pm New Life Pentecostal	14 7:30pm Scouts Leaders	15 9:30am Bagging	16	17 9am Spanish Worship 9am Food Pantry
18 10:30am Worship 1pm New Life Pentecostal \	19 6pm Scouts	20 7pm New Life Pentecostal	21 Winter Begins	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 9am Spanish Worship 7pm Christmas Eve Service
25 CHRISTMAS DAY 10:30am Worship 1pm New Life Pentecostal	26 6pm Scouts	27 7pm New Life Pentecostal	28	29	30	31 9am Spanish Worship

~Schedules~

PLEASE GET A SUBSTITUTE FOR YOURSELF IF YOU CANNOT BE THERE ON YOUR ASSIGNED DATE. RECORD CHANGES IN SCHEDULE ON MASTER COPY LOCATED IN OFFICE, ROOM 2.

READER SCHEDULE

December

4th Elaine L.
11th Anthony V.
18th Joan D.
25th Ruth B.

USHER SCHEDULE

December

4th Paul H, George S, Carol N.
11th Arvid H, Olivia J.
18th Lori R.
25th Gail H, Elaine L, Madhu S.

NURSERY SCHEDULE

December

4th Molly S.
11th Elaine L.
18th Joan D.
25 No Nursery

COMMUNION SERVING

DED 4th Madhu S, Joyce S, Megan J, George S.

COMMUNION SET-UP

DEC 4th Dorothy R. Ken G.

COFFEE HOUR

DEC 4th
Elaine L, Joan D, Norma M.