

Weekly Opportunities

Sundays

9:00 am – Children’s Sunday School

11:00 am – Service of the Lord’s Day

Mondays

7:30 pm – Bible Study in the Parish House

Tuesdays

11:00 am – Bible Study at Berkshire Valley



Pres Notes

***The News and Prayer Letter of
Presbyterian Church***

Oak Ridge

April 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

First and foremost, I do pray that this finds each and everyone of you well and surrounded with blessing! You will clearly notice a very new kind of format to *Pres Notes*, there's been talk for quite some time to try something new, so here goes... If you like this new format, please let us know. There is no way for us to know if this is something to continue or not unless we hear from all of you!

As we come out of the winter

months, know that there is an incredible amount that is being planned and worked on here at the church. Of course, I have to first give a few words about the renovation of the Parish House. Plans are moving forward to do a massive renovation of what has always been known as the ‘Paneled Room’. Hats off to everyone who has been involved with getting that project moving and underway! I don’t think people realize just how much work has gone into the renovation plans and into the Capital Campaign that is making all of this possible. With just a handful of your fellow church members, the future of this church is being cemented into place! I encourage everyone to ask questions, to engage and to be a part of this work that will make a massive difference to what Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church has been to this community, and moreover, what ORPC CAN be to this community.

Once

the renovations are complete, plans are being formed to start some programs that will prayerfully be more appealing to the greater community and to a somewhat younger audience. We are a small congregation, and we greatly value that, but we do need to make a greater appeal to younger folks if we want

****The Fourth Friday of each month, Oak Ridge and Berkshire Valley Presbyterian churches have been providing the labor to serve our brothers and sisters in need at Manna House at First Presbyterian Church, Newton. For information on serving or just how to get involved, please call Carol Mullen who would love to hear from you!**

You can call her at 973-697-3409

****RIGHT NOW** planning for Faith In Action is underway. If you would like to be involved with this year's planning, please see Pastor Chris. Faith In Action Sunday is planned for May 19th. As last year, we'll be working in our community of Oak Ridge.

and with Strengthen Our Sisters in West Milford.

ORPC to continue its 200 year history.

I also want to give a few words to the relationship with Berkshire Valley. The Joint Church Committee, which was formed after my arrival, has been working together to create a very special Lenten experience for both congregations. By the time many of you see this, we will have had that celebration on March 31st, and I'm hoping that a great percentage of you reading this will have been there! I won't use this space to talk about what Mardi Gras is, but know that the Joint Committee really does take its mission seriously and are working hard to ensure that the relationship between the two churches is a healthy, productive and loving one...as it most certainly should be.

And of course, we have Easter celebrations coming in during the second half of this month of April 2019. This is our most GRACIOUS time of the year! Holy Week celebrations will begin with Palm Sunday on April 14th, Maundy Thursday at Oak Ridge on the 18th at 7 pm, Good Friday at Berkshire Valley on the 19th at 7 pm, and then Easter Sunday on the 21st. On Easter Sunday, celebrations will begin at sunrise on Lake Shawnee where there will be an Ecumenical Sunrise Service beginning at 6 am, then there will be the regular 9 am at Berkshire Valley, followed by the 11 am service at Oak Ridge. I invite all to the sunrise service, but then to also join your Oak Ridge family for regular worship. We will celebrate communion together on that truly important morning at the 11 am service.

I do pray that all of us together will be in prayer over the coming months especially. We have a lot going on here at ORPC and there really are numerous opportunities for folks to be involved. Your church needs you, just as much as you need your church. Talk to me about what that can look like, together, we can make Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church the hopping, lively center of faith that it's most certainly been in years past!

**In Christ's Service,
Pastor Chris**

Worship News

Communion dates over the next few months are as follows:

April 1st, April 18th, April 21st, May 5th & June 2nd

April 1st – 5th Sunday of Lent & Self Development of People Sunday

April 18th – Maundy Thursday

April 21st – Easter Sunday

May 5th – First Sunday of the month

June 2nd – First Sunday of the month & Intercultural Church Sunday

**Of special note: If anyone would like to try their hand at preaching, have a talk with Pastor Chris, he'll help you through the process to present the message that God has seeded within all of us. Consider how God uses you, and can further use you, for the glory of His church!

Presbyterian Women's Retreat

The Presbyterian Women of the Newton Presbytery held a Retreat on March 9, 2019 at The Shrine of St. Joseph in Sterling, NJ. It was attended by 30 ladies. The theme was Making a Spirituality Center at Home. The speaker was Colleen Duffy, the Associate for Family Nurture at The First Presbyterian Church of Newton. The retreat center is in a beautiful area of NJ. It is warm and comfortable with a lovely dining room, delicious food and a beautiful church.

We learned about how a Spirituality Center can be set up in a church or in a home, and is a wonderful spot for prayer, contemplation, and hands on activities for both adults and children. Colleen set up 6 stations around the room with an activity related to forgiveness, prayer, drawing near in community, family devotions and memorizing scripture, to name a few. We spent the morning engaging in each station, had lunch and then had time to visit the gift shop or walk on the spacious grounds. We then had the afternoon to experience 6 more stations and have a question and answer time. Cindy Riggs and I attended and brought back ideas that we hope to share with our congregations.

The Retreat is just one of the events organized by The Presbyterian Women of The Newton Presbytery. All women are invited to come to the Spring and Fall Gatherings, as well. If anyone is interested in the events, please contact Carol Mullen(973-697-3409).

PCUSA Mission

The One Great Hour of Sharing and Pentecost Offerings

This Easter season has the PCUSA's largest opportunity for sharing with the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. One Great Hour of Sharing resources are divided between PCUSA's three largest outreach divisions; The Hunger Program, Self Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Even though this is a collection that we take within the couple weeks of the Easter celebration, folks can still contribute to this at any time. Take note of the special bulletin inserts that you'll find on the Sundays leading up to Easter!

And then, on Pentecost Sunday, we take the Pentecost Offering which is our church's offering that's devoted to ministries that support our young people during their first 'third' of life. This is certainly one great way in which we can invest in the future of our church!

Mission & Nurture Committee

The committee is looking at **Hearts for Honduras (H4H)**, a mission that is led by the Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church, the Berkshire Valley PC is also involved with this mission. H4H started a school about 20 years ago and has helped change the community they're in in so many ways. Their mission continues to grow and is exciting to see. Stay tuned for more info soon!

If you'd like to support people in need in developing countries, the Presbyterian Mission Agency's **Giving Catalog** is available in the narthex. You can buy a pig! Or a chicken! Or a bicycle for a pastor! Or other items...the list is extensive!

We'll be participating in **Samaritan's Purse: Operation Christmas Child** in October, so watch for more information soon. We filled 9 boxes last year with

items that kids need or just have fun with. Interestingly, Pastor Chris' children loved getting these boxes when he was a missionary in the Middle East.

And last but not least, the **Prayer Shawl** ministry continues to bless the knitters and crocheters as well as the recipients. Several are available, so just reach out if you need one for yourself or someone you care about. And you feel called to join us, we have willing teachers, so come learn a new skill!

A Note On Bible Study

As anyone who has been to church in recent months will know, we have been journeying our way through the Book of Acts of the Apostles. That of course starts of with the first Pentecost – when the Holy Spirit came to be with us once Jesus ascended to heaven – and follows the very beginnings of the church. What Peter and the original apostles were doing to get the church going, but then over half of the book is about what Paul was doing to get the Word spread to the gentle communities. I requested that everyone begin this period of time by sitting and reading through the entirety of the book, those who did just that walked away having had quite an eye-opening experience. The story when put together in one shot like that makes a big difference than just hearing a few verses here and there on Sundays. Now, imagine if you were attending regular bible study on either Monday evenings or Tuesday mornings!? We have a good group that can always use another voice and person to rejoice with as we hear and dig more deeply into God's word. Those who do attend are glad that they do, our study not only digs deeper and sheds light in a way that hasn't been done previously, but helps to understand the message on Sunday morning more fully.

COME AND BE A PART OF THE CONVERSATION!!! You'll be glad you did....

We've Got The Music In Us

Our dedicated choir has been busy preparing music for Lent and Easter.

Mindful of the fact that we are part of a community that comes together every week to celebrate our unity in the Body of Christ, the choir performs a wide variety of music. In this season, our music adheres to the overall theme of Lent, but also recognizes our gratefulness for the blessing of being able to come together as a family to praise our Lord.

So, our selections are prayerful, introspective, joyous, and enlightening. Spirituals, ballads, uplifting contemporary music are all part of our contribution.

We hope our music inspires you. And please think about helping us further our mission. Come join us! We have plenty of room. There are no auditions!! We would love to have you.

"Those who sing, pray twice!!!!"

Joyfully, Mike

& our Newton Presbytery website

www.newtonpresbytery.org

Why Go To Church?

A church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember more than a couple of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters To The Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married now for 30 years. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not prepared these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church and read my Bible for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

The Word of God is our spiritual food, when you read it, it will give you wisdom, understanding why bad things happened to good people and most importantly, you will know your purpose in this life...and you will have a good and close relationship with Jesus. When you are DOWN to nothing...God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

I would like to encourage everyone to visit the Presbyterian Church, USA website to see the many differing ways that our church is at work in our communities and in our world. The Presbyterian Church, USA website is just full of information that can inspire, inform and equip!

www.pcusa.org

*****Per Capita*****

I know that from time to time we hear a word or two about Per Capita, but for some reason it never really seems to settle in with folks as to just what it is or does. I'd like to present here a few facts about Per Capita and encourage folks to pay their Per Capita, it truly does make a great difference to the church annual budget when you do. Our church must pay our Per Capita if we are to continue to have a strong Presbyterian Church, USA that makes a difference in our local and national communities.

1. Per Capita is how we at the congregational level fund the governing bodies that make our church what it is. This year the Per Capita per active member is \$37. Out of that \$37, \$23.95 is kept by our presbytery, \$4.10 is passed along to our Synod, and then the remaining \$8.95 is sent off to the General Assembly.
2. Per Capita not only pays the salaries and basic expenses of the presbytery – things like the electric bill at the presbytery office – but also funds training workshops for the churches, local mission projects and mission grants to the congregations, as well as the other MANY services that the presbytery provides to its local churches.
3. The monies that are then sent on to the Synod and to the General Assembly are monies that provide for the substantial work of those bodies, as well as for many targeted programs on the local church level, such as efforts toward minority community outreach, and then also our national church programs such as PCUSA at the UN and at our capital in Washington, DC.

Sight & Sound

On March 30th a group of 28 folks from Oak Ridge and Berkshire Valley Presbyterian Churches convoyed out to Lancaster, PA to see the Sight and Sound Theatre's production of Jesus. It was a great trip, as well as an inspirational one!

NOW, everyone will have another opportunity to see a Sight & Sound production, but this time it won't include the long trek to Lancaster. On April 9th, 11th and 13th, there will be a live broadcast of NOAH from Lancaster, and it will be shown at the AMC Rockaway, tickets are only \$13.33.

This a great way to prepare yourself for Holy Week the following week!

The Deacon's of ORpc

Our Deacons are busy at work doing all of the usual things that deacons do. Our Board of Deacons is made up of Carol Flynn, Chuck Flynn, Rich Barry, Tom Stephens, Cindy Riggs, Ruth Breckenridge, Nancy Harm and Nancy Schipper.

AND they can always use our help!!!

As we know, ORPC has been partnering with the Milton Methodist Church, supporting the amazing work of their food pantry. The following items are ones that would really be of great help to those who do receive assistance from the New Hope Food Pantry.

-Canned meals such as Spaghetti's, Beef Stew, Franks & Beans

-Canned meats such as tuna, beef, Spam & sardines

-Cereals cold and hot. Instant oatmeal is always great because the packages can be divided up if need be. They also offer good nutrition.

-Peanut Butter and Jelly is always a needed stock item!

-Crackers are always great because many have a long shelf life and can act as a replacement for bread.

-Soaps and personal hygiene items are always appreciated. Bar soap is great because they can be given out singularly. Shampoo is always great too, and better than conditioner which is not usually as needed as shampoo.

-Toilet paper is always great!

-Dish soap is good too! Often there are smaller bottles of dish soap that can be gotten on sale for a dollar. Those are great and always greatly appreciated!

*****Special Note : Folks who are in need do often have food stamps to help them, however with those, they cannot get hygiene items or paper products.**

Your Deacons at Work

As all are aware, our Deacons are an integral part of our congregation. In recent months, we've initiated and managed a transportation list to aid members who need rides, as well as a list of those willing to provide a meal when that is a need in our church family. Deacons also handle prayer requests and manage the prayer chain through our Yahoo Group; **let us know when you have a prayer need!** And we send out cards/notes to members who are mentioned in prayer concerns at church, to let them know they are being thought of and prayed for.

Your Deacons have also been partnering with the Milton Methodist Church, supporting them and our local community by collecting food for their community food pantry. **See the list provided in PresNotes to know what to bring to church on any Sunday!** Along with these regularly in-place efforts, we've also been managing the ORPC Deacons Fund. This past year we've provided \$400 to assist a member with needed dental work, \$483 for the propane bill of a local resident, \$500 to the ORPC Memorial Fund in honor of a deceased member, \$310 for the Jefferson Township Summer Camp, \$225 for a local resident's rent, \$344 for a local resident's electric bill, \$513 for glasses for a local resident so that he could get a new job, \$155 for a local resident's rent, \$200 toward a local resident's electric bill, and \$87 for Christmas baskets for shut-in members. Deacons have also taken the initiative to assign issues to be addressed with the Memorial Fund, such as Parish House renovations.

Please help us to help our congregation by letting us know of any needs. And know also that each member has been newly assigned a Deacon; you should be hearing from your Deacon soon. Enjoy the connection and perhaps invite them over for a cup of tea!

Carol Flynn
Moderator of the Board of Deacons

Birthdays

April – June 2016

April

Bill Walter – April 3rd

April 3rd

Kristyn Riggs – April 4th

Elijah Woody –

Mary Parr – April 11th

Joe Riggs –

April 20th

May

Shirlane Yannuzzi – May 1st

3rd

Bob Nicholson – May 16th

May 25th

Cindy Riggs – May

Lynda MacDonald – May 10th

Nancy Walter –

Mike Yannuzzi – May 30th

June

Steve Harm – June 10th

Stephens – June 11th

June 15th

Tom

Nancy Harm –

Jeff Elam – June 16th

Adeeb Doyle – June 28th

My Pet Project/Parish House Renovations Update

We really have gotten off to a running start with our *MY PET PROJECT* campaign, but we are still not where we need to be!

ORPC is blessed with a very nice manse. After Pastor Jim retired, and with the repairs made, we've been very fortunate to have renters who appreciate it for what it is. That we have the manse currently as a source of income has been great! And, we are blessed to have such a lovely, historic sanctuary which is in great shape due to all of the attention that it has gotten in recent years. We would love to have a bathroom in the sanctuary which really is an issue for our older and much younger folks, but we know that there are several other items that are higher on the list of priorities that need to be taken care of first.

And that brings us to the Parish House! The original section of the Parish House was built in 1937. It was and has remained an integral part of the mission and ministry of our church. However, due to all of the attention that was needed by the Manse and the Sanctuary, needed repairs and renovations to the Parish House were consistently moved to the bottom of the pile of priorities. We are now in the place where much of this work can no longer wait. Imagine what would happen if we never did needed repairs to our homes!

In recent months we replaced the roof on the entirety of the Parish House. Many may not know it, but it was in such poor shape that there were several bad leaks when it rained, one of them was right over Pastor Chris' desk! And, we finally got a bathroom installed in the upstairs area. That was not only important for our own folks who have trouble with stairs, but actually brought us into compliance with

state regulations for public spaces. AND, we got a team together and painted the large fellowship space, boy does that look better!

Now we have to deal with our space known as the Paneled Room, for which it has not one spot of insulation in its walls, imagine the effect that has on heating and cooling bills! And of course, that's not all....

PLEASE BE A PART OF THIS EFFORT THAT WILL HELP TO ENSURE THE VIABILITY OF OUR CHURCH. THESE NEEDS ARE NOT JUST COSMETIC, AS SOME MAY THINK. IF YOU HAVE NOT CONTRIBUTED OR PLEDGED ALREADY, PLEASE CONSIDER HOW MUCH ORPC MEANS TO YOU AND BE A PART OF THIS WORK. IT CAN'T BE DONE BY JUST A FEW WHO ARE WILLING, THIS MUST BE A COMMUNITY EFFORT

****News from My school****

As we all know, it's been a while now since Laura Woody took the reins of My School. But do we know about all of the work that Laura and her new team have done in working to rejuvenate My School? In the year and a half since Laura began, just about all of the staff has changed. Ms. Karen is still in the Nursery, but the rest of the staff have either changed responsibilities or are completely new.

Ashley Hueber replaced Jill Moore when she retired at the end of last year. Ashley has a BA in Early Childhood Education and has worked here at My School for almost 10 years, staffing just about every position available. A fun note is that Ashley also attended My School in her much younger years. She's done a great amount of work in transforming her classroom to a new bright space at My School that inspires and encourages. What a fun place to learn!!



And then for the 2 & 3 year olds we have Ms. Jeannie. Jeannie lives close by to My School here in Oak Ridge, has a BA in English and Sociology and has just about completed her BA in Early Childhood Education. She too has made her classroom a bright and fun space to learn and create. Stop by and see the new spaces!!



To Keep In Your Prayers

Here at ORPC we lift-up in our prayers each Sunday morning a whole host of issues that we are carrying in our hearts. There is power in prayer and the more we lift-up those concerns, the more we can feel

confident that the prayers will be answered in a way that God knows will always be best. Keep the following concerns in your prayers as you speak with God, and let us know what to add to our list.

Bob and Lois Wells

Dick and Bernice Greenwood

Val, Karen, Ray, Anita, Sam, Dotty & Robert

For Andy needing strength to face challenges

Traveling mercies for our families who are traveling

Safety in our schools and on our streets

Prayers for our country, that we come together

Prayers for the ministry of My School

Peace in the trouble spots of our world, especially for

New Zealand

The Congo

Nigeria

The Holy Land

Syria

Mozambique

USHERS

**April 7th – Rich & Nancy Schipper, April 14th – Mary Parry & Laura Woody,
April 21st – Joe & Cindy Riggs, April 28th – Don & Jane Sommer
May 5th – Chuck & Carol Flynn, May 12th – Steve & Judy Sabatino,
May 19th – Jeff & Sue Elam, May 26th – John & Martha Scheri**

**June 2nd – Bill & Nancy Walter, June 9th – Rich & Nancy Schipper,
June 16th – Mary Parry & Laura Woody, June 23rd – Joe & Cindy Riggs**

The Financial Picture of ORPC

General

The congregation is operating at a \$12,162 deficit through 2/28/19, compared to a budgeted deficit of \$16,452.

This is not unusual, as the winter month's expenses include heating and snow plowing expenses.

Compared to February of 2018, our expenses were almost the same, while our income was \$9,038 less than the same time last year. As we move into spring and summer (and with the help of the Golf Outing), the deficit is turned around to a break-even or even a small surplus.

Pledging

Historically, our congregants who pledge fulfill their pledges. However, pledge income has declined over the last several years due to our membership decline.

What can be done? Our non-pledging members need to pledge. And, we need to push ourselves to increase our membership. Ten new families pledging just \$25 per week would increase our income by \$13,000 per year, or about fifteen percent. Not to mention the new energy and involvement they'd bring.

Capital Campaign Finances

We're off to a strong start. The replacement of the Parish House roof and furnace repairs were covered by initial one-time capital donations. We've also done a lot of work on our own, at little to no expense.

We have a \$200,000 mortgage commitment from Lakeland Bank, which will allow us to complete all of the planned projects, and perhaps a couple more. The mortgage payment will be \$1163 a month.

However, the money to cover funding for our planned major improvements needs to come from smaller, regular monthly donations. However, only 5 of the 35 active "giving units" (families) have committed to capital pledges – 14.3% – for a total of only \$375 per month.

We need to fill that gap, to the tune of \$788 per month. If only eight families pledge \$25 per week, we'd have more than enough to make our mortgage payments. And, if more families pledge at \$25 per week or higher amounts, we'd be able to pay down the mortgage ahead of schedule.

So, as you consider your capital pledge, know that every little bit helps -

Campaign - What Just A Little Can Do

Weekly Capital Pledge	Donation over 5 years	Donation over 10 years
\$10.00	\$2,400.00	\$4,800.00
\$15.00	\$3,600.00	\$7,200.00
\$20.00	\$4,800.00	\$9,600.00
\$25.00	\$6,000.00	\$12,000.00

"If it is to be, it is up to me!"

REPORT OF SESSION First Quarter 2019

In the new year, Session welcomed incoming Elder Dave McDonald, he now chairs the Worship Committee. He replaced outgoing Elder Janet Breckenridge. We also have two new Deacons, Nancy Schipper and Cindy Riggs.

Together the Session members have been working hard to decipher the current priorities that need attention, all of which have been outlined here your PresNotes, and the best ways to insure the future of Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church.

We all look forward to the paneled room becoming a more efficient multi use space; during the day, for day care use and, after hours, for fellowship & congregational functions. In short, Session leadership believes that physical improvements are the key to our Church's renewed mission in the community and future.

Our Pastor Sharing relationship with BVPC has been an important part of ORPC's new way of doing ministry. Pastor Chris has brought our two churches together with joint worship and fellowship activities planned in association with the Joint Church Committee. Elder Sue Elam & the Mission Outreach committee have been involved in joint mission project planning with BVPC as well.

We have trimmed our Active Membership roll to 67 members as of 2019, which lower our per capita expense to a realistic level. We have welcomed a new member to our rolls, Kim Wall comes to us from the Branchville Presbyterian Church.

Our manse tenants have signed a new lease at an increase of \$50/month for two years and have been excellent tenants.

Session Elder Responsibilities:

Sue Elam ~	Mission & Outreach
Rich Schipper & Jeff Elam ~	Operations
Dave McDonald ~	Worship
Mary Parr ~	Membership
Karen Sharp ~	Human Resources
Georgia Stephens ~	Fellowship
Laura Woody ~	Christian Ed/My School
Ray Woody ~	Finances/Admin

Deacons :

Carol Flynn – Moderator
Rich Barry
Cindy Riggs
Nancy Harm

Chuck Flynn – Treasurer
Tom Stevens
Ruth Breckenridge
Nancy Schipper

Location: Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church Parish House 321 Oak Ridge Road, Oak Ridge,
NJ 07438

Homeowner's Insurance



What you need to know!

Robert Bura, Metro Public Adjuster, will provide an educational and informative lecture on home insurance. Knowing what is not included and what may be excluded in your policy is very important. Find out what your insurance company is banking on that you do not know. Your home is your most valuable asset. This program will inform homeowners of their rights and what happens when you need to file a claim. Mr. Bura will show how to properly file a claim so you receive the settlement you are entitled to.
Date: April 23, 2019 @ 7:30 PM