



The Spire

BOONTON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • December 2010

Faith, Hope and Love in **ACTION!**

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

Dear Saints,

A little over 6 weeks ago, much of the world was glued to a television for at least part of an epic, all-night rescue of 33 Chilean miners who had been trapped for two months, 2,000 feet below the earth's surface. It was a stunning, miraculous and heart-warming experience for all involved, the least of which were we, safely tucked away in our living rooms, as we watched history and lives being changed forever.

I was delighted some weeks later to stumble upon David Letterman interviewing Edison Pena, one of the 33 miners, who had come to New York City to run the NYC Marathon. Evidently Pena had decided to run the NYC Marathon after two months of 'running laps' underground, while he was trapped, as a way of passing the time as well as keeping himself healthy — physically and mentally.

I watched with amazement as Letterman deftly and gently ask questions of Pena, a man that Letterman clearly could admittedly identify with in any way, shape or form. As Letterman queried and waited for the translator to relay his questions, it was remarkable to watch them both in the lag of translation.

It felt as if the live (and the home) audience was privy to holy space.

Letterman gingerly asked, "...and I don't know anything about mining but I gather there are many rooms and small sections and narrow halls, and as a new miner, what was that like for you?"

As Pena watched and waited to receive the translation, you could almost see him

having a visceral memory of his then naiveté. He responded. "The first time I walked into the mine I wanted to turn around and get out, but that wasn't really an option — so I just kept going deeper and deeper into the mine. I wanted to go back, and I said 'Can't we just turn around?' But it doesn't work that way."

As Letterman and Pena both began to hit their conversational stride, overcoming the challenges of a live interview with a translator, they discussed many things; the meager living conditions, the difficulties of food rationing, problems with personality conflicts and sanitation concerns — many of which were hard to hear.

But the stunner, was Pena's surprising description of having to wear sunglasses the moment he was brought up to ground level because after having been underground for so long, there was so much light that he couldn't take it in.

Saints, this is a wonderful metaphor for the waiting and enduring of the darkness of Advent. It is a time of waiting AND darkness and waiting IN darkness.

For many, life comes to an end this time of year; actually more than all other times of year, combined.

We also physically lose light daily and have decreasing levels of daily sunlight light until the "Longest Night" — Dec 21st.

Liturgically we also mark Advent with dark colors of navy blue or purple vestments and paraments.

And it is also often a difficult time as we remember and deeply miss, loved ones

who may no longer be bodily (or even mentally) among us in our pews, at our tables, in our homes.

But Advent is meant to be a preparation time, a waiting time for the coming of good, better and brighter things to come.

Solar-wise, it literally starts to get lighter again as of Dec 25th (if only by a half a minute for so) and increases daily until June 21st.

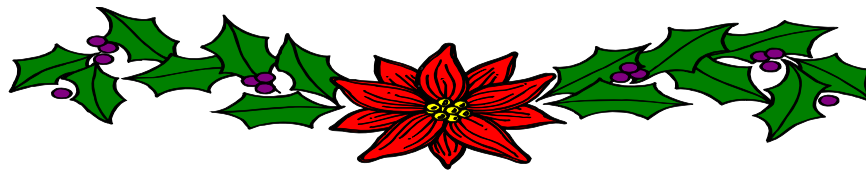
Time-wise as Christmas draws nearer and nearer we get less and less obsessed with perfect Christmas events and more and more open to surprises of the Holy Spirit, big and small.

And most importantly faith-wise, the light of Christ, the hopefulness born of an innocent child, from mysterious beginnings and humble roots, begins to again rule in our hearts and remind us again that In Jesus Christ, there is hope (and proof!) that God's love can overcome the darkness of not only our fears and worries, but all that threatens our faith.

So wherever you are in your journey, your life and your faith, whether you are feeling lost and trapped below the surface or waiting for a loved one to return, TRUST that God is with you, and watching over you, and guiding you through a capsule to bring you ultimately to a place which is so bright, that (as ZZ Top says) "you'll have to wear shades."

Renewing with you in Christ.

♥ Jen



PW EVENTS: Mark Your Calendar and Check Your Cookbooks

COOKIE WALK

PW is asking all the ladies of the church to mark their calendars for the upcoming events: We are looking for bakers for the *Cookie Walk* which will be held on Dec. 12th. right after church in Reighart Hall. There will be a sign-up poster on the PW board outside the office.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Our annual *Christmas Luncheon* will be held at Marilyn Ward's house on Thursday Dec, 9th. at 12 o'clock. It will be a pot luck luncheon so sign up on the poster on the PW board.

POT LUCK DINNER

There will be a *Pot Luck Dinner* at Marisa Crozier's on Friday Dec. 17th. at 6:30PM and a poster will be on the PW board for this one too. Don't forget all the women are members of the PW and are welcome to come and enjoy the luncheon and dinner. They are wonderful and enjoyable! ♥



BUDGET 2010:

- **INCOME** is tracking on budget.
- The **EXPENSES** are now tracking on budget.
 - Currently the budget net income is -\$10,862.00
- The additional contributions to the restricted funds total \$150,512.70 for the period.
 - Peacemaking, \$1,110.00.

JANUARY 1 – NOVEMBER 14, 2010					
	Pledged	Non-pledged	Plate	ZERO*Budget	Expenses
2010 Budget	122,961.54	35,384.62	2,211.54	201,736.54	201,736.54
2010 Actual	112,600.40	54,610.88	3,115.56	190,874.82	189,967.41
2009 Actual	117,720.50	35,920.00	1,826.45		

* Current income compared to zeroing out the deficit budget.

TRINITY FUND:

- Currently the **pledged** amount to the fund is \$383,473.71.
- The amount **received** stands at \$357,459.84.

MISSION CAMPAIGN:

- \$2,736.24 has been **collected** in 2010.
- \$1,963.60 has been **distributed** to missions to date.

First Presbyterian Church
presents

The Metropolitan Saxophone Quartet

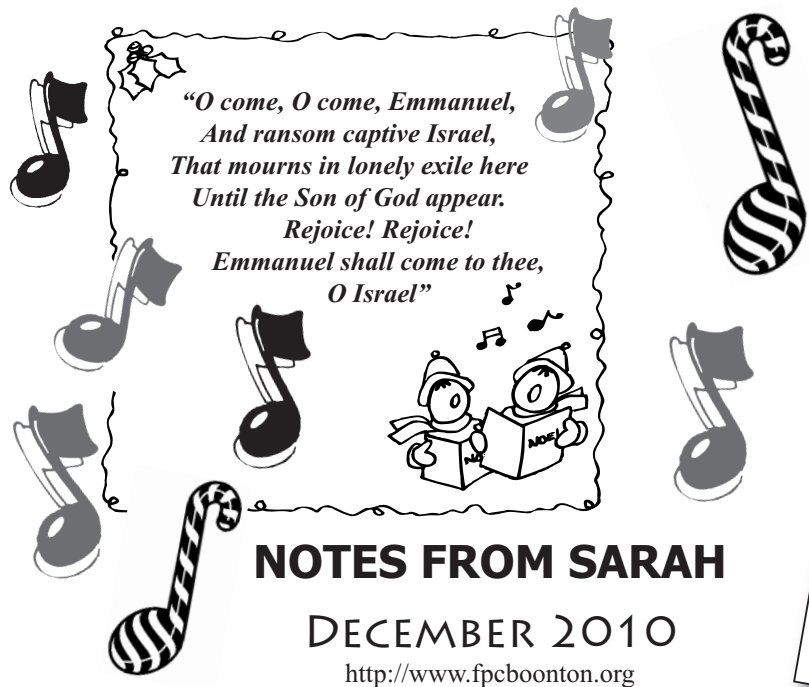
Sunday, January 30 • 7:30PM

The Metropolitan Saxophone Quartet is setting new standards for saxophone performance. With their excellent precision of classical saxophone techniques as well as their "Burning" jazz and big band charts, the Metropolitan Saxophone Quartet achieves a high level of performance in a variety of settings, while captivating their audiences of all ages. With their excellent and enthusiastic love of music combined with their light sense of humor, the M.S.Q. brings joy and fun into each performance and has audiences wanting more.

The M.S.Q. has been playing in New Jersey and New York since 2004.

The Quartet consists of Erik Conough, soprano saxophone, Andrew Lopez, alto saxophone, John Di Egidio, tenor Saxophone, and Michael Cardillo, alto saxophone. All are performers and teachers in schools, colleges, and their own private studios.

The program will be held on Sunday, January 30, in the church sanctuary at 7:30PM, directly following the Soup and Chili Cook-off. Admission is free and a free will offering will be taken at the conclusion of the concert. ♥



*"O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel!"*

NOTES FROM SARAH

DECEMBER 2010

<http://www.fpcboonton.org>

REHEARSALS for our annual Christmas Eve Pageant at First Church are commencing! All interested child(ren) and parents are requested to attend. There are speaking and singing parts for those interested to be on stage and also behind the scenes roles to be filled.

Rehearsals are being held on the following
Sundays from 11:30 AM- 12:30 PM:
Sunday, December 5
Sunday, December 12
Sunday, December 19

Please contact Sarah Frederick, organist/choir director, with any questions.

HEAR YE, HEAR YE!

Music Ministry at First Church is in full swing and singers and ringers alike are diligently rehearsing for the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Attention Choirs:
Rehearsal schedules are as follows:

Chancel Choir
Thursday evenings 7:30 – 9PM
NO REHEARSALS ON DEC 30 & JAN 6.
REHEARSALS RESUME ON 1/13/11

Hand Bell Choir
Thursday evenings 6:30 – 7:30PM
(Hand Bells:
Dec. 2nd & 16th -
Perform in church on
Dec. 19th)
REHEARSALS RESUMING
ON 2/3/11.

Rehearsals will not be held before or after church on Sundays, Dec 26th and Jan 2nd. Enjoy this time off to celebrate the Christmas and New Year season!

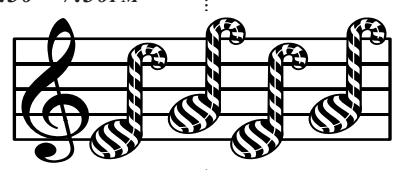
A note of thanks to the Children's Choir for sharing their gift of singing during morning worship on Sunday, November 7. Their song, "Do Lord (Way Beyond the Blue)", received high praise from members of the congregation. Additional thanks to

guest musicians Christie Scott, clarinet, and Lynn Peterson, soprano for joining the chancel choir and enhancing the anthem, "Jesus Calls Us" on All Saints Sunday. The service was musically and spiritually enriching for all the saints present and the saints with us in spirit.

A Christmas Choir Cantata will be presented during morning worship on Sunday, December 12th, entitled "Journey of Promises" by Joseph Martin. It will feature the Chancel Choir and readers from the congregation. The narration is heard from the voice of a prophet and a voice of fulfillment of the traditional story of the birth of our Lord. Come one and all to celebrate the season and to enjoy this enriching musical experience.

The Hand Bell Choir will be ringing during morning worship on Sunday, December 19. Come hear the joyful ringing of the holiday season from their new performance location!

If you are interested in becoming a member of any of the above-mentioned choirs, please call or e-mail the organist/choir director, Sarah Frederick (973-334-3535, ext 18, babbledon247@yahoo.com). Hope to see you at the next rehearsal! ♥



Ever wonder about the abbreviation of ASAP? Generally we think of it in terms of even more hurry and stress in our lives. If we think of this abbreviation in a different manner, we may begin to find a new way to deal with those difficult days...

There's work to do, deadlines to meet
You've got no time to spare,
but you hurry and scurry...
(Always Say A Prayer) • ASAP

It may seem like your worries are more
than you can bear,
Slow down and take a breather...
(Always Say A Prayer) • ASAP

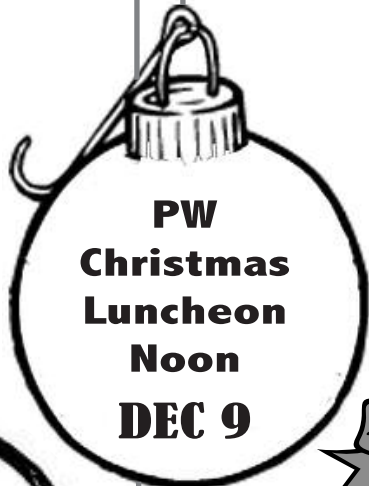
In the midst of family chaos,
quality time is rare.
Do your best; let God do the rest...
(Always Say A Prayer) • ASAP

God knows how stressful life can be and
wants to ease our cares.
He'll respond to all your needs...
(Always Say A Prayer) • ASAP

Today we're saying a little prayer that God
will send a smile to you

And send you special blessings through
everything you have to do

ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER





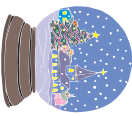


SELECT AN ANGEL TAG FROM THE TREE. DONATE A GIFT BY NOON, DEC 10.

Christmas Poinsettias
Decorate the sanctuary for Christmas in memory/honor of a loved one.
\$10 per plant





December 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2nd Sunday of Advent 5 9 am - Confirmation Class 10:00 Worship-Communion 11:15 Coffee Hr. 11:15 Children's Pageant Rehearsal ROCKT.T. Angel Tree Shopping 2:00 Manse Open House 7:00 A.A.	6 7:30  Evangelism Comm. Meeting	7 10:00 Needlers (at Sophy's) 7:30 MI and Stewardship Comm. Mtg.	1 6:45 PresbyAires The Wynwood 7:30 PW Board Mtg.	2 Hanukkah BAEC 10,000 Villages • Dec 2 - 4 • Main St, Boonton	3 6:00 Cubs - Wolves/ Webelos I 7:00 Cubs - Webelos	4 Tekna Thecu Babysitting Fundraiser NIGHT OUT for Mom & Dad
3rd Sunday of Advent 12 9 am - Confirmation Class 10:00 Worship - Cantata "Journey of Promises" 11:15 Coffee Hour 11:15 Children's Rehearsal 11:15 am - PW Cookie Walk 4 pm - Church-wide Caroling 7:00 A.A.	13 7:30 SESSION & Deacons Mtg.	14 7:00 A.A.	15 6:45 Committee Annual Reports Due PresbyAires Franciscan Oaks	16  6:30 Hand Bells 7:30 Chancel Choir	17 4:00 Girl Scouts Troop 57 6:30 PW POTLUCK Dinner at Marisa's 7:00 Cubs Pack 201	18 Noon Girl Scouts 453
4th Sunday of Advent 19 9 am - Confirmation Class 10:00 Worship 11:15 Coffee Hour 11:15 Children's Rehearsal 5:30 ROCK-Party/Secret Santa 7 pm - Longest Night Service 7:00 A.A.	20 7:30 Christian Ed. Mtg	21 10:00 Needlers (at Sophy's) 1st Day of Winter 	22 7:00 Deacons Meeting	23 7:30 Chancel Choir	24 Christmas Eve Family Service & Pageant • 7 PM Lessons & Caroling 11.1.PM	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS Celebrate The Birth Of Christ 
10:00 Worship Guest Preacher - David Muysken Guest Organist - Carol Dornbush 11:15 Coffee Hour 11:15 Children's Choir 7:00 A.A.	27 Church Office CLOSED 7:00 Worship Comm. Meeting	28	29	30	31 Happy New Year!	1 JANUARY 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY 



In Memory of Loved Ones

The First Presbyterian Church **Memorials Committee** was created by Session action in 1979. Since then, First Church has had an organized system to collectively express our love for our departed members and loved ones with our contributions to the Memorials Fund. Throughout the years the numerous contributions have resulted in many dedicated projects to the honor of those memorialized and the benefit of all. Our Sanctuary, choir, music, education, buildings, and furnishings have all benefited from this generosity.

In 1986 we created our **Memorial Garden** to offer a peaceful resting place. In 1988 the gift of the **Memorial Crosses** allowed us to honor our loved ones within the Sanctuary. In 1992 the Memorials **Scholarship Fund** was created to benefit our youth as they continue their development and education. The most recent recipient of many memorial donations is the on-going **Trinity Campaign** and its projects. See information on all these opportunities on the bridge.

The Memorials Fund offers a wonderful opportunity to support many needed projects, and the opportunity to honor loved ones. These contributions are evident all around us. ♥

Your Memorials Committee

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Saturday • December 11

Think there's no job for you. Well think again! We need people to untangle lights, trim the trees, set up the manger scene, hang the banners, drape garland—you name it and we have that job. Come join the fun starting at 9:30 AM with coffee, donuts and bagels.

Also, there will be crafts for your children in Reighart Hall until Noon.

Thanks!! so much!

A special thanks to all those church members who helped with the **BE OUR GUEST** breakfast. About twenty-five members of the community took advantage of the opportunity to have a free breakfast and take some warm clothing home with them.

Thanks to the women of the PW who prepared a delicious breakfast of egg and sausage bake, and oatmeal, and pancakes. The gift of hospitality was evident as church members mingled with guests at the table inviting them to partake of the breakfast and peruse the clothing.

Thanks to the Deacons who collected, sorted and arranged the clothing. They were helpful in directing the guests to appropriate articles of clothing. Upon leaving, each guest received a \$15.00 gift card for WalMart — provided by the Deacons. The guests were all pleasantly surprised and grateful for the gifts offered. **Throughout the morning we were blessed as we provided blessings for our guests.**

A special thanks to Rev. Jen for her direction and encouragement in planning and executing this mission project. Also thanks to Norma who is always so helpful with office work and to Marilyn Davis for her artwork. One more thanks to the other members of the Evangelism committee for their support and help coordinating this event. **Many hands made the work light and we are grateful.** ♥

*Diane Kearney, chairperson,
Evangelism committee*



♥ ♥ ♥ GIFTS ♥ ♥ ♥ In Memory of Loved Ones

In Memory of: Martin & Tina Hornick

Given By:

Doris Hornick
Nancy & Timothy Briarton
Lois & Don Estler
Arlene & Doug Langdon
Donald Nix

December Birthdays

- 4 LOIS MAIDA
- 6 MELISSA BRAMAN
- 7 MICHAEL SALAS
- 12 KATHY PIZAR
- 17 RICK REED
- 19 ERIKA COWAN
- 22 LATTY RYERSON (LOBB)
- 23 PAUL WERNER
- 25 JESUS
- 27 JEFFREY BINGHAM
- 27 GEORGE PILIPPOFF
- 31 JOHN CROZIER
- 31 DAVID BRAMAN



AND GOD SHALL GRIEVE WITH ...



THE FAMILY OF JOHN ZYGMUNT — *John, 24 year-old cousin of Rebecca Nickel, was called to his Lord on November 16. Please pray for his parents, John Sr. & Dorothy, their children, Jessica & Shaun, and for family and friends that mourn his loss and pray for eternal peace for John.*

THE FAMILY OF MICHAEL ROBERTS — *Dawn Michael's is a friend of Kathryn Veliky, Dawn's older son Michael was killed in action in Afghanistan. Dawn and her younger son Sammy, age 7, suffer from Cystic Fibrosis. Keep them in your prayers.*

THE FAMILY OF JOHN GRECCO — *friend of Gordon Galloway, had a sudden and tragic death. Please keep his wife Karen, friends, and all who mourn John's death in your prayers.*

THE QUESTA FAMILY — *is mourning the passing of Ray Questa, father of Anthony, Lloyd Charlton's son-in-law.*

THE ARENA FAMILY — *Mary Arena, grandmother of Chris, great-grandmother of CJ & Daniel, was called to her Lord at age 95. The family is grateful for her life and her example of living a simple, faithful and loving life. Keep the family in your prayers.*

THE HYDE FAMILY — *Beth Ann Hyde, friend of Kim Riter, was called home to her Lord after many years of battling with cancer.*

THE FAMILY OF MARY VITALE — *Mother of Carol Carhart, is enjoying heavenly rest. Mary was called home to her Lord on Sunday, November 28, 2010. Please pray for Carol and Dan Carhart, and Carol's brother, Eddie.*

THE FAMILY OF GEORGE ENGERT — *member of FCB living in Nashua, NH, was called home to his Lord on Saturday, November 27, after battling cancer. Please keep his wife Mary in your prayers.*

THE FAMILY OF ELSIE GOULD MCCLAIN — *former member of FCB and last surviving sister of the late Mildred Nix and aunt to Donald Nix, Elsie was called home to her Lord on Thurs., Nov. 25, at Good Shepherd Village, following a brief illness. Please keep Donald, the McClain and Nix families in your prayers.*



IN OUR PRAYERS: Concerns

FRANK WISWALL — *is suffering from hip and back pain following a fall. While he is thankful for no broken bones he needs prayers for healing and freedom from pain.*

JOHN TURNER — *friend of Martel Roberts has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. Prayers are asked for guidance and support.*

SARA MCGOUGH — *Sarah Frederick's sister-in-law's sister; gave birth prematurely to Sydney Lynn, 4.3 lbs., born in October. Please pray for stability of mother and child.*

SANDRA JERICH — *friend of Marcia Reitz, has been diagnosed with breast cancer. Prayers are asked for Sandra.*

JIM CARGILO — *Gayle Lobb's boyfriend, is having health issues. Prayers are asked for peace of mind and good results from tests.*

SHERI — *cousin of Bobbie Vida, was injured in a car accident. Prayers are asked for a swift and full recovery.*

MAUREEN SEUBERT — *aunt of Daniel Ambrosiani, was diagnosed with bone cancer and is undergoing radiation treatment. Please keep Maureen in your prayers.*

JULIA AGNELLI — *mother of Donna Kurley's friend, has been battling cancer and is now under hospice care. Please hold Julia and her family in prayers.*

MARY OWEN — *friend of Marisa Crozier, has been diagnosed with cancer. Please keep Mary in your prayers.*

BRENNA HASSELMANN — *10-yr old granddaughter of Tom and Louise, had surgery to repair a collapsed lung and biopsy the infected tissue. Pray for Brenna and the entire family as they await results.*



JOYS

LOYD & TERRY CHARLTON — *Welcome grandson, Jackson Scott Crespo, born on Nov 22 to Bekak and Ray Crespo (Terry's son). Praise the Lord!*



OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM — *Let our prayers be with all soldiers as they defend the freedoms that we hold so dear. We are truly grateful for their service to our nation. We will continue to hold all our service personnel in our prayers until they ALL come home.*

Merry Christmas

First Presbyterian Church

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Website: www.fpcboonton.org

Rev. Jennifer M. Van Zandt, *Minister*
Sarah Frederick, *Music Director*
Norma Moreno, *Administrator*

LABEL

Messages of Thanks and Support...

Postcard from Judy Kolwicz

Dear Session:

What a delightful afternoon yesterday (Sunday) was! Thank you for inviting us to hear the master play your wonderful new organ. It was a good event to welcome the community as well. Sounded to me that all had a good afternoon. Thank you for arranging it.

Dear Rev. Jen,

Bob and I enjoyed the Organ Dedication Concert. Diane Bish was really great! She was so interesting and funny. So much was put into the concert.

Your church looked so beautiful with the new paint. It looked just great! You do a wonderful job.

In Faith and Love,
Bob and Elsie Morris

BRENNA NICKEL

Dear Session of FPCB,

It was wonderful to see you all a few weeks ago. I greatly appreciate your taking time out of a busy meeting to hear what I am up to. I am so grateful for your continued financial support of my seminary education. It will be especially helpful this year for my commute back and forth from Philly and Princeton. Lastly, I am thankful for your continued prayers as I begin the process of looking for a call. I am sure it will be an exciting, but somewhat anxious time, so I am glad to have the First Church family behind me.

Many Blessings,
Brenna



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PLEASE NOTE: If you would like to have *The Spire* Newsletter emailed directly to your home computer each month – please send Charles Homeijer an email at chh.home@yahoo.com This would be convenient for you and save us the cost of paper, ink and regular mail.

The Spire Committee