



# THE SPIRE

BOONTON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • February 2012

*Faith, Hope and LOVE in ACTION!*

Dear Saints,

A few weeks ago while driving on Route 46, a car waiting to pull out into traffic caught my eye. It wasn't particularly snazzy; in fact, it was a pretty tired and worn minivan that had seen better days. It wasn't the rattiness of the car I was drawn to, but the shoe polish inscription on the large back window panel. I was sure I had misread it. Luckily when I entered the turning lane onto the boulevard the minivan caught up and then passed to the right of me so I could read the window graffiti again. Indeed I had read it correctly. It said: **"20 years married and still in love."**

Wow.

Most of the time the window graffiti I see are things like "Go Bombers" or "State Champs" "We're #1", etc.

I got a brief look at the driver but there was nothing remarkable about him — at least on the outside. But I now think there's something remarkable about him on the inside. As I drove along the boulevard, I wondered what his life is like, what he does for a living and what his spouse is like. I wondered how they spend their time, if they have children, and how they originally met. But mostly I wondered what inspired him to drive around with that written on his car.

For the cynics who are reading this, yes I know, it may not be his car. Maybe it's his wife's, his daughter's or his neighbor's car. Maybe he's a car mechanic giving it a test drive before returning it to its rightful owner. But still...there's at least one couple who is happy, proud and honored to share with the world that they have a happy marriage that they want to celebrate.

February is traditionally marked as the month of love and the 2012 stewardship campaign. "12 months of Giving" is sharing that theme as well. And I believe it's a good one. Some people, relationships and even communities are easier to love than others.

It may surprise you to know that as we sweep up the final pine needles and seek to preserve our poinsettias, that **Ash Wednesday is February 22nd**. This is the beginning of Lent, a time to intentionally show God that we love God by recommitting ourselves to prayer, penance and forgiveness.

Forgiveness, I think, is the hardest work of all to do. Yet, it is crucial for our personal growth, healing from old wounds and disappointments and the pathway for deeper, more honest relationships with God, ourselves and one another.

"US News and World Report" did a study about 10 years ago with 100 couples seeking data about what preserves marriage. 50 of the couples were still happily married, 50 couples were unhappy and teetering on divorce. When polled about how the unhappy couples dealt with conflict, the vast majority said that unresolved personal insults during conflict were the cause.

LOVE

When the happy couples were polled about the same issue, the vast majority responded: being able to forgive and move on.

**Easier said than done.**

Lent is an important time for us to ponder, especially the ways in which we do not love others as God loves us. Along with Lenten bible studies, special worship services and lay witnesses in worship I invite you to start thinking about your own Lenten focus and how forgiveness can play a part in that. **And when you can't seem to find the courage to even consider forgiveness, ask the One in whom forgiveness and restoration is the very definition of Love.**

*Loving and forgiving with you in Christ,*

♥ Jen

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# OPEN HOUSE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2012

AND

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2012

9:30 AM – 11:00 AM



973.334.2410

513 Birch Street • Boonton, NJ 07005

Come and visit our school, meet our teachers  
visit the classrooms, sit in on a class  
Openings available in the fall in our  
3 & 4 year old programs

Call 973-334-2410 for more information

TELL A FRIEND!

## From Kids

### *DID NOAH FISH?*

A Sunday school teacher asked, 'Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?' 'No,' replied Johnny. 'How could he, with just two worms.'

### *THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD*

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible - Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter. Little Rick was excited about the task - but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, 'The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know.'

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## Reminder . . .

If you would like to receive *The Spire* by email as a pdf document -- please send an email to Charles Homeijer at [chh.home@yahoo.com](mailto:chh.home@yahoo.com)

This would be a big help in our efforts to be as cost-effective as possible. That way we can save on paper, labels, toner, copier supplies, postage and time to print out and deliver to the post office. The pdf of the newsletter is also in color!!

Also - If you want information to be included – THE Deadline for *Spire* submission of articles is the 15th of each month.



## NOTES FROM SARAH

FEBRUARY 2012

<http://www.fpcboonton.org>

*“Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven to earth come down;  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling;  
All thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,  
Pure unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation;  
Enter every trembling heart.”*

### HEAR YE, HEAR YE!

As the winter season continues to progress, so too do the weekly choir rehearsals at First Presbyterian. New music for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter has been distributed and is diligently being rehearsed. Those involved in the music ministry at First Presbyterian Church continue to demonstrate their enjoyment and dedication by attending rehearsals and singing during Sunday morning services.

Special thanks to the Metropolitan Saxophone Quartet (M.S.Q.) for musically enhancing our morning worship service on January 29th. Thanks to their fine arranging skills, the chancel choir had the opportunity to sing a favorite gospel anthem, “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”, accompanied by M.S.Q. and piano. M.S.Q. continued to grace us with their excellent and enthusiastic love of saxophone music during the evening concert in the sanctuary following the soup and chili cook-off. Thank you to all who came to support both physically and musically fulfilling events at First Church!

### PLEASE MAKE A NOTE:

*A Spring Children’s Music Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, May 13th.*

**Rehearsals will begin on SUNDAY, MARCH 4th, 11:15 AM –11:45 AM.** The children will begin rehearsing for a spring “musical” for all ages. Parental support and involvement is encouraged during rehearsals. All interested children and parents are encouraged to attend! Music packets will be distributed at rehearsal.

### February Rehearsals as follows:

**Chancel Choir**, Thursdays,  
7:30 – 9 PM

**Hand Bell Choir**, Thursdays,  
6:30 – 7:30 PM  
(Feb 2 & 16; Mar 1, 15, & 29)

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, [babbleon247@yahoo.com](mailto:babbleon247@yahoo.com)). Hope to see you at the next rehearsal!



# WELCOME

## TO OUR NEW OFFICERS FOR 2012

At the special meeting of the Congregation the following officers were elected for a three-year term:

**Elders:** Shannon Ambrosiani  
Bob Bingham  
Lisa Hordnes  
Peter Lanigan  
Scott Walker

**Deacons:** Terry Charlton  
Abby Hettrich  
Marty Homeijer  
Arlene Langdon

**Personnel:** Donna Keoppel  
**Memorials:** Samantha George

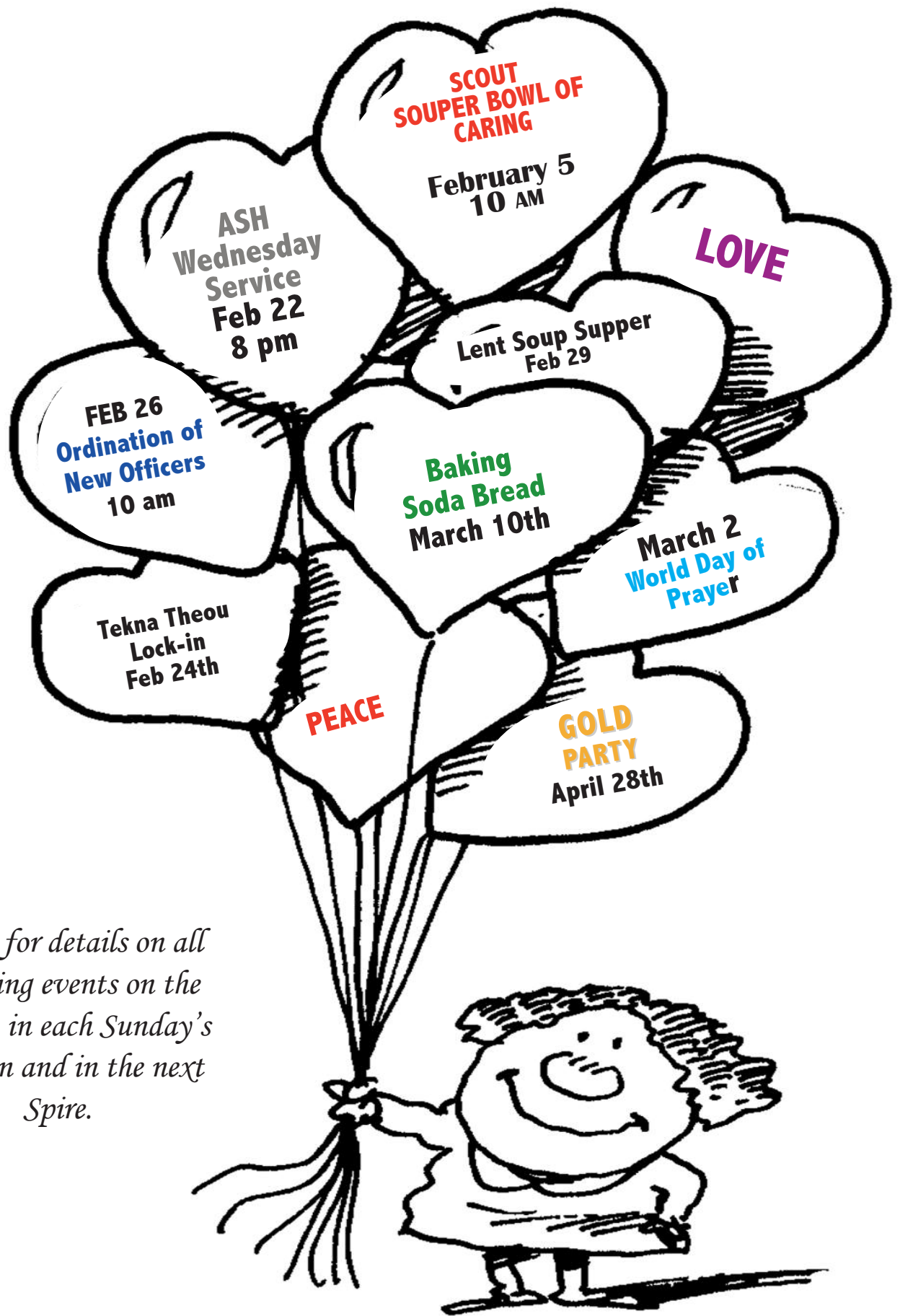
As we welcome our new officers — we heartfully thank our dedicated members who served our Session, for their time and service.

Please also welcome our new Maintenance Manager Wendy Kida. ♥









## FEBRUARY

- 1.....Krista DeLuca
- 5.....Sandy Crisafulli
- 6.....Donna Kurley
- 10.....Gregory DeLuca
- 14.....Andrea Phillipoff
- 17.....Mark Hettrich
- 17.....Doug Langdon
- 22.....Amy Cartelli
- 24.....Dan Carhart
- 25.....Lisa Cowan
- 27.....Gail Coe
- 28.....Ian Nordfors



*Watch for details on all upcoming events on the Boards, in each Sunday's Bulletin and in the next Spire.*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>JANUARY 29</b> 10:00 <b>Worship</b> 11:15 Coffee Hour 11:30 <b>Worship Comm.</b> <b>5:30 PW Souper Supper &amp; Chili Cook-off</b> <b>7pm Metropolitan Saxophone Concert</b> 7:00 A.A.	<b>JANUARY 30</b> 11:30 <b>New Officers Training</b> 4:30 NJ Conservatory	<b>JANUARY 31</b>	<b>1</b> 3:30 NJ Conservatory 6:45 <b>PresbyAires Troy Hills Ctr.</b> 7:00 <b>PW Meeting</b>	<b>2</b> <b>Groundhog Day</b> 6:30 Hand Bells 7:30 Chancel Choir 	<b>3</b> 7:00 NJ Conservatory 7:00 Cubs/Webelos	<b>4</b> 8 am – 1 pm Cub Scouts Pk 201
<b>5</b> 10:00 <b>Worship COMMUNION</b> <b>SCOUT SUNDAY - Souper Bowl of Caring</b> 11:15 Coffee Hr. 11:30 Tekna Theou/ROCK 7:00 A.A.	<b>6</b> 4:30 NJ Conservatory 7:30 <b>MI and Stewardship Comm. Mtg.</b>	<b>7</b> 10:00 <b>Needlers (at Sophy's)</b>	<b>8</b> 3:30 NJ Conservatory	<b>9</b> 6:30 Cubs 7:00 <b>Boonton Revitalization Committee</b> 7:30 Chancel Choir	<b>10</b> 4:00 Girl Scouts Troop 57	<b>11</b> Noon Girl Scouts 453 5:30 Jake's Eagle Scout Ceremony
<b>12</b> 10:00 <b>Worship</b> 11:15 Coffee Hour 7:00 A.A.	<b>13</b> 4:30 NJ Conservatory 7:30 <b>SESSION</b> 	<b>14</b>  <b>VALENTINES DAY</b> 7:00 A.A.	<b>15</b> 3:30 NJ Conservatory 6:45 <b>PresbyAires Sunrise Assisted Living</b>	<b>16</b> 6:30 Hand Bells 7:30 Chancel Choir 	<b>17</b> 6:30 Cubs	<b>18</b> Noon Girl Scouts 453
<b>19</b> 10:00 <b>Worship</b> 11:15 Coffee Hour 11:15 <b>ROCK Meeting Monster Golf</b> 11:30 <b>Fellowship Meeting</b> 3:00 <b>ASAP Support Group</b> 7:00 A.A.	<b>20</b>  <b>PRESIDENTS DAY</b> Church Office Closed 4:30 NJ Conservatory 7:30 <b>Christian Ed. Mtg.</b>	<b>21</b> 10:00 <b>Needlers (at Sophy's)</b>	<b>22</b> <b>8 pm ASH WEDNESDAY Worship Service</b> <b>Washington's Birthday</b>	<b>23</b> 7:00 <b>Boonton Revitalization Committee</b> 7:30 Chancel Choir	<b>24</b> 4:00 Girl Scouts Troop 57 <b>TEKNA THEOU LOCK-IN</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 10:00 <b>Worship ORDINATION / INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS</b> 11:15 Coffee Hour 11:30 <b>Worship Comm.</b> 7:00 A.A.	<b>27</b> 4:30 NJ Conservatory 7:00 <b>Deacons Meeting</b>	<b>28</b> 7:30 <b>Worship Comm. Meeting</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Leap Year Day</b> 3:30 NJ Conservatory <b>Lenten Soup Supper</b>	 <b>February</b>		

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## "TWELVE MONTHS OF GIVING"

### OUR COMMITMENT TO STEWARDSHIP

Sometimes events or conditions preoccupy our thoughts.

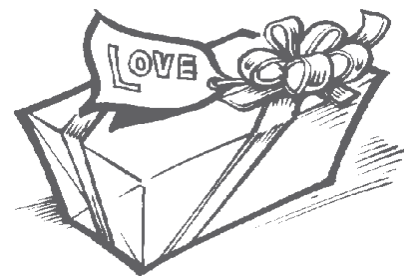
The different approach to our Stewardship Campaign may need to be better understood.

But, our dedication and commitment is always there!

A very strong response in the latter months of 2011 indicates just that. With all that is going on in our lives, we may not have had the time to consider what our commitment for 2012

will be. The Session relies on those commitments to plan and carry out the mission of the Church. We thank all who have responded with their pledges, and ask the rest of us to prayerfully consider our gifts and send in a pledge for 2012.

Our "On-Going Campaign" leaves January behind, which was dedicated to "Per Capita", and now focuses on "Love" for February. Each Sunday that theme will be a part of our worship and should resonate through all of us.



Each month our financial status has been reported in the *Spire* to keep us a part of all that is First Church. We made up a lot of ground on the negative numbers and ended 2011 about \$5,000 short of breaking even. We can all be thankful and proud. Only a few weeks into the new year, numbers won't tell us much. But, we will continue to keep you informed of the financial status throughout the year as we have done in the past. ♥

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## SCHOLARSHIPS

Available:

**2012 SCHOLARSHIP  
APPLICATIONS  
&  
RE-APPLICATIONS  
ARE AVAILABLE**

— for students with good academic grades, character, and background experience who will be attending an accredited college or professional school. Applications must be submitted by March 1, 2012. For more information, or to request an application please contact the office:

[office@fpcboonton.org](mailto:office@fpcboonton.org)

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## SOUPER BOWL OF CARING - FEB 5

Tekna Theou and R.O.C.K. will be collecting dry goods and financial donations for the Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday February 5.

All FOOD will be donated to Boonton Food Pantry  
All MONEY collected will be donated to a charity selected by the youth groups.

Please support the youth of our church in this effort. ♥

Missions

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## GOLD Party is Being Planned

Save the Date!! SPECIAL event

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HAS A BUDGET SHORTFALL. THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE WILL BE HOLDING A FUND-RAISER "GOLD PARTY" on April 28th, at 7PM. Watch for more details as we get closer to the date, including an eVite and sign-up. Begin helping to make this event a success by sorting through your old jewelry and thinking of friends to invite for a fun evening. ♥

# AND GOD SHALL GRIEVE WITH ...



**THE FAMILY OF CHARLES ZULLI** — friend of Diane and Don Kearney. Charles was called to his Lord on January 10, after battling pancreatic cancer. Prayers are asked for Charles' family that they may feel God's presence and comfort.

## IN OUR PRAYERS: Concerns

**CHERYL WENDT** — daughter-in-law of Barbara and Peter Wendt, will have treatment for recurrent breast cancer. Keep her in your prayers.

**DANA REINKE** — niece of Marisa Crozier, had emergency back surgery. Prayers are asked for a swift, full recovery.

**JIM MORGENLAND** — friend of Liz & Mark Hettrich, is hospitalized and undergoing chemotherapy in preparation for bone marrow transplant. He was diagnosed with Burkitts Lymphoma. Please pray for Jim, his wife, and two teenage sons.

**DANIEL ROSANDER** — Betty Tilli's grandson, is undergoing neurologist testing to diagnose health issues. Prayers are asked for Daniel's health.

**FRANK AGNELLI** — close friend Donna Kurley, is still hospitalized recovering from neck surgery as well as other serious health issues. Prayers are asked for hope and healing for Frank and for Donna as his caregiver.

**GAIL COE** — needs our continued prayers for healing and relief of back pain.

**RANDI SACCO** — wife of Dan Keoppel's close friend, had surgery. Prayers are asked for healing and swift recovery.

**SUNNI CHI** — wife of Dan Keoppel's co-worker, is 17 weeks pregnant and had an infected IV. She is now on bed rest. Prayers are asked for healing and a healthy pregnancy.

**DEAN BEVERLY** — 12 year-old son of Shannon Ambrosiani's cousin, had open heart surgery in January. Prayers are asked for Dean, his parents and sister.

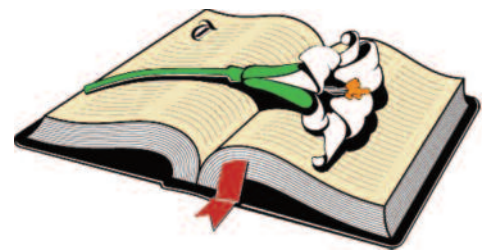
**OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM** — Let our prayers be with all soldiers as they defend the freedoms that we hold so dear. We are truly grateful for their service to our nation. We will continue to hold all our service personnel in our prayers until they ALL come home.

# JOYS

**MAE WISWALL** — is thankful to God for her speedy recovery from hip replacement surgery, and thankful to the church for the care while recovering.

**MIKE STORA** — is home doing well after being hospitalized. The heart concerns were negative. Mike is thankful for the prayers and calls.

**FRED FAEHRER** — was released from the Oncology Program at Sloan Kettering. Sixteen years ago he was diagnosed with very advanced melanoma and given a 7% chance of survival. Thanks to treatment and prayers from many friends, he now has been given a clean bill of health. Thank God for miracles!



## GIFTS IN MEMORY OF



### LOVED ONES



#### In Memory of:

Alice Middleton

Ruby Weller

Mildred & Aldrich Nix

#### Given By:

Betty Tilli

Mae & Frank Wiswall

Donald Nix

For the Memorial Fund

# First Presbyterian Church

513 Birch St • PO Box 149  
Boonton, New Jersey 07005  
973-334-3535 • FAX 973-334-3549  
Website: www.fpcboonton.org

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

**The  
CHURCH  
receives  
THANKS**

## Boonton Social Services Lucille Rockis

First Presbyterian Church of Boonton  
Board of Deacons

Dear Deacons

Many thanks for your generous and kind donation for the Food Pantry. I appreciate your help as do the recipients of your concern. They are grateful to you for accommodating their needs.

Prayers and wishes for a blessed and happy new year.

Again, thank you,  
Lucille and Robin

January 5, 2012


Ms. Sandra Thoele, Treasurer  
First Presbyterian Church of Boonton  
P. O. Box 149  
513 Birch Street  
Boonton, NJ 07005

Dear Ms. Thoele:

On behalf of Jersey Battered Women's Service (JBWS) we are grateful for your gift of \$250.00.

This year marks 35 years since JBWS began serving the needs of domestic violence victims and their family members. Providing these vital services to our clients is only possible due to the tremendous financial and volunteer support from neighboring families and businesses, like you. Your support will help us continue to offer our safe and comfortable residential facilities and confidential services to all who need them. JBWS is a place for victims and their children to begin the healing process and embark on their journey to self-sufficiency.

Sincerely,



Patricia Sly  
Executive Director



P.O. Box 1437, Morrisstown, NJ 07962  
Phone: 973.267.7520  
Fax: 973.605.8808

## OPERATION HOLIDAY

First Presbyterian Church of Boonton  
Board of Deacons

Dear Bd. of Deacons

Thank you so much for your generous support of Operation Holiday. Your caring and concern for others less fortunate is invaluable. It is only because of people like you that we can reach out to the hundreds of cases that we receive each year who are in need.

Sincerely,  
The Board of Trustees