



# The Spire

BOONTON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • January 2012

*Dear Saints,*

Here we are in January and if you read this before January 6th, we will still be in the Twelve Days of Christmas. While you may well know the song “The Twelve Days of Christmas” — you may not know that it was fashioned to help mark the days between Christmas and Epiphany. **Epiphany is the marking of the magi seeing**

**Christ’s start and coming from the East bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.**



The twelve days of Christmas and the “Feast of Epiphany” are often more highly celebrated in Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodox Christianity than they are in Protestant circles, where the magi are often tacked on to the Christmas story.



However, if you read Matthew 2:1-12 the wise men seeking Jesus (and Herod’s dastardly plan) is a separate event in an unknown timeframe after the event of Jesus’ birth. Check out the two different nativity stories told to us



in only two of the four the gospels, Matthew and Luke.

The reason that I bring this up is that most of us probably consider Christmas as a glorious and mammoth single day and we are often exhausted and relieved when Advent and Christmas are over. I don’t



know about you, but by late December my Christmas tree is as dry as a bone. My ornaments are falling off of branches that are now concave. Pine needles have found their way into my washing machine and I have finally opened and sent my last Christmas card. I have found time to rest and relax and visit and celebrate, but the story of Christmas is far from over. In fact, it is just getting started.



The Magi are only now getting on their way to seek Jesus. And so should we. As tired or relaxed or overstuffed as you may be feeling, I encourage you to try to mentally and spiritually follow along with Matthew’s story of the magi



who now commence their journey to worship Jesus.

This fallow time is indeed the ideal time to be intentional about seeking Jesus ourselves and pay Him the homage He is due. I wonder...how much homage did we really offer Jesus on Christmas as we sped from house to home bearing treats and gifts? Were we really able to acknowledge the grace of God choosing to dwell among us as we ate to our fill or tried to be thankful for gifts we might never enjoy or use?



I have seen (and participated) in extravagant gift giving, tireless efforts to decorate and celebrate, and even our stock market that relies on ‘black Friday’. The question I ask you to now consider, in these twelve days of Christmas is...**are all of these plans, preparations and celebrations equal to or less than how much we actually pay homage to the new born king?**



I think for most all of us, I already know the answer...

*Paying homage with you because of Christ,*

♥ Jen

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# Annual PW Event

# SOUPER SUPPER & Chili Cookoff

## January 29th • 5:30 PM

Those making soup or chili please bring it at 5:00 pm. There will be a sign-up sheet for those cooking and for the all important tasters. Please sign up for this annual, tasty, important and FUN event. The Metropolitan Saxophone Quartet that gave a lovely concert last year will again be entertaining us at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary and giving us a five minute "taste" for what will be coming just before the soup/chili tasting contest begins. (see page 3 for details)

## Annual Congregational Meeting and Luncheon

Sunday, January 22, 2012

After Worship Service • 11:15 am

### SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

**Tekna Theou and R.O.C.K.**

will be collecting dry goods and financial donations for the Super Bowl of Caring on Sunday, February 5.

ALL FOOD will be donated to the 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.



# NOTES FROM THE CHOIR DIRECTOR

JANUARY 2012 • <http://www.fpcboonton.org>



*"In the bleak midwinter, frost wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give him, give my heart."*

## HEAR YE, HEAR YE!

The Advent season and Christmas Eve services were adorned with uplifting musical presentations by those involved in the music ministry at First Presbyterian Church. **Thank you to the Chancel Choir, Hand Bell Choir, vocalists and instrumentalists for sharing your time and musical talents in worship services during this celebratory season.**

**Special Note of Thanks** to all the participants in the musical presentation of "*A Festival of Lessons and Carols*" presented on Sunday, December 11. This uplifting and seasonally enriching musical worship service was the result of the support and dedication of the members of Chancel Choir and Hand Bell Choir volunteers. **Additional thanks** to our readers from the congregation for volunteering their time and talents to this artistic endeavor. **Thank you also** to the members of the congregation lending your voices to the cantata and for your ongoing support of the music ministry at First Presbyterian.

During the 7pm Christmas Eve service, "*The Very Important*

*Christmas Pageant*" provided a humorous version of the inspiring story of the birth of our Lord. **Special thanks** to the parents, children, and youth who contributed their time and talents to make this pageant a success!



**Attention Choirs:** There will be no rehearsals on Thursday, January 5th. Rehearsals will not be held before or after church on Sunday, January 1st.

### PLEASE MAKE A NOTE:

Rehearsals will resume as follows:

**Chancel Choir** - Thursday, January 12th

**Hand Bell Choir** - Thursday, February 2nd

**Children's Choir** – TBA – stay tuned!

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 (570-947-6330, [bableon247@yahoo.com](mailto:bableon247@yahoo.com)). Hope to see you at the next rehearsal! ♥

## First Presbyterian Church PRESENTS

**The Metropolitan Saxophone Quartet**

**Sunday • January 29, 2012 • 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 audience 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 with performances held at Nyack College in Nyack, New York and throughout churches and community facilities throughout North Jersey. The M.S.Q. has a unique understanding of music which is evident in their arrangements of many classical and jazz selections, touched with humorous movement and excitement in their performance.

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 29, 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. ♥

# SIMPLIFY YOUR DONATIONS

**E**ach Sunday we worship together, we participate in sharing our blessings from God with those less fortunate than us.

Through the support we provide through our church, many missions are able to improve the lives of those less fortunate. We at First Church rely on a dedicated team of volunteers to process your contributions efficiently. One way to make that job easier is for all who wish to contribute to use the provided offering envelopes.

Anyone can request a dedicated box of offering envelopes from the financial secretary through the church office or by emailing a request to [chh.home@yahoo.com](mailto:chh.home@yahoo.com). Your box will be numbered to allow the collection team to quickly enter your contribution. In each pew there are always contribution envelopes for visitors and for special causes as they occur throughout the year. We encourage you to use them to provide a secure container and a means for identifying your contribution. The current tax laws require a receipt for all charitable contributions and we provide both statements and tax receipts at the end of the year for all individuals for whom we have current information.



The contribution envelope boxes for 2012 are available on the bridge. Please pick yours up and use them to help make the collection process easier. If you do not see a box for you, please contact the financial secretary who will provide you with one. ♥

*Your Mission Interpretation and Stewardship Committee*

"American Biographical institute, Inc. Publishers of Biographical Works since 1967, Host of The World Forum, St. Catherine College, Oxford, England have selected Mrs. Virginia Matosian Apelian Newly-published Author of MUSA DAGH GIRL: Daughter of Armenian Genocide Survivors As

## 2011 WOMAN OF THE YEAR

I formally announce the incredible high honor that speaks to her exceptional accomplishments and positive Influence on others.

A devoted panel with more than forty years of biographical research experience selected Mrs. Apelian for this honorable distinction. She holds will and initiative and intense community, culture and humanitarian foresight were Considered when recognized her as

## 2011 WOMAN OF THE YEAR

We are further impressed by Mrs. Apelian's efforts to improve the status and professional environments in which she has been involved. These impressive qualities have played a huge role in our selection of

Mrs. Apelian for the **ABI** Fellow.

As an **ABI** Fellow, the Institute considers her as a Valued associate who we hold in high regard.

Sincerely,  
J.M. Evans, President  
American Biographical Institute"

## BUDGET 2011:







- Individual contributions are tracking \$13,629 below budget.
- The expenses are tracking on budget.
- The additional contributions to restricted funds total \$24,160.90 for the period.

### JANUARY - DECEMBER 18, 2011

	<u>PLEGDED</u>	<u>NON-PLEGDED</u>	<u>PLATE</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>
2011 Budget	137,307.69	60,807.69	3,923.08	240,054.06
2011 Actual	153,051.95	32,353.82	3,003.55	234,870.52
2010 Actual	143,267.40	64,230.08	3,761.56	

## MISSION CAMPAIGN:

- Mission Income contributions to date \$3,181.00
- We encourage you to use Mission envelopes to support our Mission program.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
<b>HAPPY NEW YEAR! 1</b> 10:00 Worship— Guest Preacher Elder Don Estler 11:15 Coffee Hr  7:00 A.A.	<b>2</b> CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	<b>3</b> 10:00 Needlers (at Sophy's) 7:30 MI and Steward- ship Comm. Mtg.	<b>4</b> 7:30 PW Board Mtg.	<b>5</b> 6:30 Cub Scouts	<b>6</b> 7:00 Cub Scouts 	<b>7</b> Noon Girl Scouts		
<b>8</b> 10:00 Worship—Communion 11:15 Coffee Hr 11:15 Children's Choir  7:00 A.A.	<b>9</b> 4:30 NJ Conservatory	<b>10</b> 3:00 Presbytery Mtg. 7:00 A.A.	<b>11</b> 3:30 NJ Conservatory	<b>12</b> 7:00 Cub Scouts 7:30 Chancel Choir (Choir Room)	<b>13</b> 4:00 Girl Scouts- 57 6:00 Cub Scouts	<b>14</b> 9:00 Girl Scouts Work Day (Kitchen) 9 am – 2 pm <b>New Officers Training</b> 12:00 Girls Scouts 453		
10:00 Worship <b>15</b> <b>Ordination/Installation            of New Officers</b> 11:15 Coffee Hr 11:15 Children's Choir 3:00 ASAP Support Group 7:00 A.A.	<b>16</b> <b>Office Closed            Martin Luther King Day</b> 4:30 NJ Conservatory 7:30 <b>SESSION</b>	<b>17</b> 10:00 Needlers (at Sophy's) 7:00 PW Evening <b>Bible Study</b> <i>Bible Study</i> 7:00 Deacons Meeting	<b>18</b> 3:30 NJ Conservatory	<b>19</b> 7:30 Chancel Choir (Choir Room) 	<b>20</b> 6:30 Cub Scouts Pk 201	<b>21</b> 8:00 am Cub Scouts Pack 201		
10:00 Worship <b>22</b> <b>11:15 Annual            Congregational            Meeting</b>  11:15 Children's Choir 7:00 A.A.	<b>23</b> 4:30 NJ Conservatory 7:00 Christian Ed. Mtg	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 3:30 NJ Conservatory	<b>26</b> 7:30 Chancel Choir (Choir Room)	<b>27</b> 4:00 Girl Scouts- 57	<b>28</b> 9:30 – 2:30 A.A. Reighart Hall		
10:00 Worship <b>29</b> 11:15 Coffee Hour 11:15 Children's Choir <b>5:30 PW Souper Supper &amp;            Chili Cook-Off</b> <b>7:30 Metropolitan            Saxophone Quartet Concert</b> 7:00 A.A.	<b>30</b> 4:30 NJ Conservatory	<b>31</b> FEBRUARY 1 tomorrow	<b>LOOK TO</b> <i>THE</i> <b>FUTURE</b> 				<b>January</b> <b>2012</b>	

# JANUARY 2012



- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 4 Donna Keoppel      | 24 Chelsea Crozier |
| 9 Sarah Thoele       | 25 Bjorn Hordnes   |
| 15 Louise Hasselmann | 27 Vito DeLaro     |
| 17 Olivia Matalon    | 30 Andy Crozier    |
| 21 Pauline Weber     | 30 Donald Nix      |

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

In Memory of:

**ALICE MIDDLETON**

Given By:

Carla H. Bowden  
Harold Johnson



FOR THE MEMORIAL FUND

## DEACON'S DOIN'S



Please continue to use the **GREEN** envelopes provided.

Also pick up extra items for the food pantry when you can.

## Prayer To Go

### NEEDED REMINDERS

*Even on ordinary days  
When challenges are smaller*

*Easy to absorb negativity around  
I so Need my Daily Reminder  
Moments*

*Some are on my bathroom mirror  
ex: "HIO - HAND IT OVER"*

*One is over the tub  
ex: "BE STILL AND KNOW"*

*Some are in my kitchen  
ex: "EVEN THO'... AM THANKFUL FOR ..."*

*Beside my table where I eat  
ex: "NOT TAKING THESE RAPIDS ALONE"*

*One that's in my living room  
ex: "I'M STILL LEARNING"*

ALL ARE NEEDED REMINDERS FOR ME

♥ Author Unknown

*Join us on  
January 15*

**for**

**Ordination/Installation  
of  
NEW OFFICERS**

# AND GOD SHALL GRIEVE WITH ...



**MARGARET THOMAS AND FAMILY** — Margaret's son, Walter, was called home to his Lord on December 17, after battling cancer. Let us hold the Thomas family in prayer.

**THE FAMILY & CHURCH FAMILY OF THE REV. ROBERT HARRIS-PENDELTON** — Pastor of the Mt Zion Baptist Church in Boonton Township. Rev. Harris passed away suddenly on November 24. Please hold in your prayers Rev. Harris' family and church members.

**THE FAMILY OF MARY PRIMROSE** — Aunt of John Crozier. Mary was called to her rest on November 20 after a brief pulmonary illness. It was a great shock to her husband Ken and to the children. Prayers are asked for the Primrose and Crozier families as they try to recover from this difficult loss.



## IN OUR PRAYERS: Concerns

**PAULINE WEBER** — had arthroscopic knee surgery on both knees but is doing well and at home resting. Please pray for full healing.

**DIANE KEARNEY** — had arthroscopic knee surgery. Please pray for swift healing.

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

**CHARLES ZULLI** — friend of Diane and Don Kearney, has pancreatic cancer which is progressing quickly. Prayers are asked for Charles' peace and that he and his family may feel God's presence and comfort.

**WITT GODDEN** — Sarah Frederick's friend, had surgery for removal of the brain tumor and will start radiation treatment soon. Please continue praying.

**MIKE & KATHY VELIKY** — Please keep them in prayers for healing and recovery as both are home recovering from surgery.

**MATT CLARK** — had a very bad head injury and aneurism; he is now recovering at home. Prayers are asked for continued recovery.

**FRANK AGNELLI** — close friend Donna Kurley, was hospitalized for a broken neck and is awaiting surgery, but has since contracted MRSA. Frank is also battling numerous serious health issues. Prayers are asked for hope and healing, and for Donna as his caregiver.

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

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

**JEAN LONGO** — mother of Barbara Lanigan, had a full knee replacement and is now in physical therapy. Please pray for strength, healing, and complete recovery.



## 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. 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. ♥

PLEASE CONTINUE TO  
CONTRIBUTE  
YOUR CHANGE  
TO THE  
"DROP-IN-THE-BUCKET"  
FONT.

# First Presbyterian Church

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Website: [www.fpcboonton.org](http://www.fpcboonton.org)

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



**NEW YEAR'S DAY WORSHIP & CELEBRATION!**

Let us all start the New Year searching the Light that leads us in the path of righteousness, the One who goes before us.

Everyone is invited to a brunch immediately after worship.

**Happy New Year!**

Come celebrate the New Year with good food and good company!

## Save the Date !

Congregational Meeting  
January 22

## NEW OFFICERS

### Training !

January 14 • 9 am - 2 pm

## Save the Date !

ROCK Lock-In - February 3

## SUPER BOWL OF CARING !

February 4

**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](mailto:chh.home@yahoo.com) This would be convenient for you and save us the cost of paper, ink and regular mail.  
*The Spire Committee*

## USHERS

• **NEEDED** • **WANTED** • **APPRECIATED !**

Please sign up for 2012.  
The sign up poster is by the library.

**Flowers for Sunday Worship** ... if you would like to donate flowers to be placed on the chancel... in memory of, or in honor of someone special to you... please sign up on the Flower Chart located on the bridge. Norma will call you for details to be placed in the bulletin after you sign up.

**PW Knitting** is looking for anyone interested in knitting prayer shawls. These are passed on to anyone in the church or community who needs to be wrapped in the love of God while going through a tough time.