

The Light

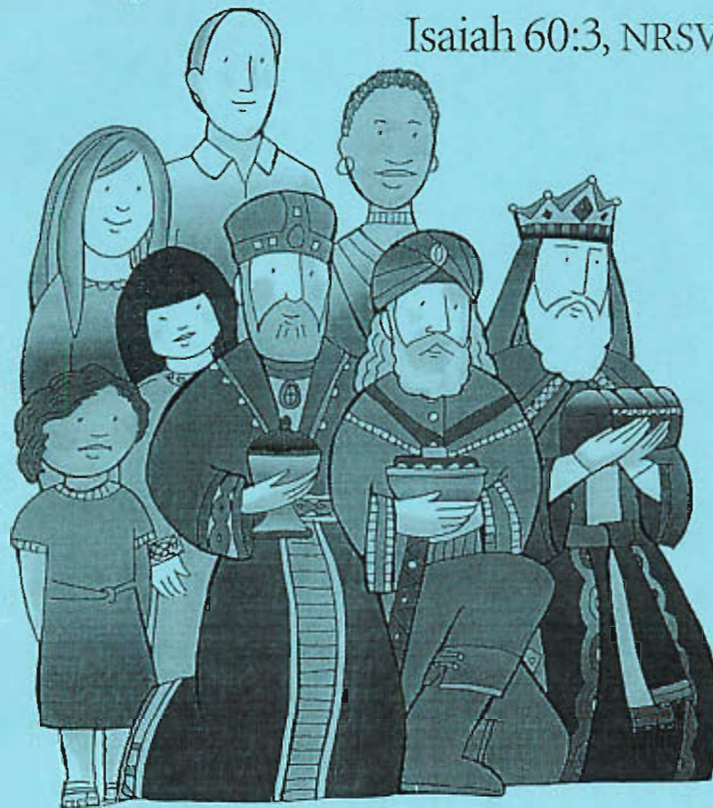


A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2012

*Nations shall come to your
light, and kings to the
brightness of your dawn.*

Isaiah 60:3, NRSV





January 2012

Community Presbyterian Church



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<p>1</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>10:15 AM Communion</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:30 PM Men in Faith</p> <p style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:30 PM Bible Pilgrims</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:30 PM Naranon</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:00 PM TBSJ (Hall) 8:00 PM N.A.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <i>Epiphany</i></p>	<p>7</p>																																																																																				
<p>8</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>10:15 AM Worship 7:00 PM Youth Group</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:00 PM Shep's Table 7:00 PM Deacons 7:30 PM Session 8:00 PM Alanon/teen</p> <p style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Annual Reports Due</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:30 PM PFA Support Group (Hall) 7:30 PM PFA Children's Group (Blue Rm) 7:30 PM Bible Pilgrims</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:30 PM Naranon</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir</p>	<p>13</p> <p>4:00 PM TBSJ (Hall) 8:00 PM N.A.</p>	<p>14</p>																																																																																				
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<p>29</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>10:15 AM Worship</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:00 PM Shep's Table 8:00 PM Alanon/teen</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7:30 PM Bible Pilgrims</p>	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; margin-right: 20px;"> <caption>December 11</caption> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"> <caption>February 12</caption> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>				S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29			
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Dear Friends,

“See, I am making all things new.”

Jesus says that in the Book of Revelation (chapter 21, verse 5).

As I look at New Year’s Day and the whole new year that lies ahead, I am tempted to think that those are among the most foolish of words.

How can anyone possibly say that all things have been made new?!

How is today different from yesterday? Is there more peace on earth? Have the aging joints in my body grown stronger? Is there more healing of disease? Is the witness of Christ and the church more powerful? Is righteousness more abundant? Do the people of the world have more hope? Do those who live in poverty have more food? Do the oppressed of the nations receive more justice? How can anyone say that all things have been made new?!

And yet the words are meaningful. The words are deeply meaningful. Even more importantly, the words are true!

There is a sense in which they are particularly true every New Year’s Day.

Somehow every new beginning carries a piece of the truth of those words. There is indeed new hope. It is as if a world of new possibilities is opening before us. I believe I can be a better person, and—just to prove it—I make new resolutions to help make it happen. It is likely that I won’t keep them (at least not all of them), but at the beginning of the year I believe it is possible. I have hope that something new is about to happen. I believe some of the bad things in my life are behind me. I can look at things that have gone wrong in the past months or decades and say, “I am glad all that is over and done.”

More importantly still, the words are spiritually true.

Because of the birth of Jesus Christ, everything is new. There is a whole new set of rules at work in the world, now that God has come among us. Those who favor the old rules—the rules of worldly living and worldly gain and putting ourselves ahead of others—may think they are getting ahead, but it is those who practice holy living who have the favor of God, and those who pursue spiritual gain who have the blessing of the Holy Spirit, and those who love their neighbors as themselves who have the love of Christ.

Because Jesus came among us, we are all made new.

I often have a picture of this after a series of winter snow storms. When the first storm comes and covers the world we live in it all looks beautiful. But after a little while the snow loses its freshness. It becomes dirty. It starts to look ugly. It makes the world look bad. Then a new storm comes and covers it anew, and everything looks beautiful again.

That’s one of the ways the Lord makes us new. The clean innocence of our babyhood gives way to years of sinfulness that make our souls dirty and make us spiritually ugly. But Jesus washes us clean from our sins and makes us beautiful and new again. What’s more, he makes us clean all the way through. When the second clean snow—the one that hid the old ugliness—melts away, the ugliness underneath is revealed again. It was really there all along. When Jesus makes us clean we are made *completely* clean; clean all the way through.

It is a new year. Once again, Christ has made everything new. Yes, the problems of the world are still with us, but we have been made new. The world has been made new. Everything has been made new.

So Happy New Year! Live it with new hope, living new lives of new closeness to God.

Pastor John



Charlie Church Mouse Says:

Why does it take Christmas so long to come, when it just seems to pass so quickly after it gets here?! Afterward the whole year is suddenly done and behind us! 2011 is all but history, but the special memories are wonderfully real. Let's look back just a bit.

Wasn't it wonderful that Miss Donna got the Deacons award! If anybody in accounting would like a real tally of how many hours she spends in the office just ask us! We see how much she does and how much time she gives. It's a lot more than she's paid for-that's for sure! Talk about an award that's well deserved!

The new advent wreath was beautiful! We love the way it tilts. Miss Helene did a great job on the wreath and we love the deep shade of purple in with the green. It's so nice to see the families up there with the young children, they are all so cute. Now we must admit we think Miss Madison stole the season when she asked her father to wait so she could catch up reading. (You could really hear her too!) The Boy Scouts did a great job on the new candle poles. They will service us very nobly for many years. Wasn't it inspiring to see so many of them in church for the dedication, and their leaders, too.

The Christmas fair was a success, even if it seemed as if traffic was down. It earned some much-needed money for the church. I'm so impressed at how well everyone works together, especially how quickly it is all packed up at the end. I believe the waiters and waitresses this year were some of the best ever! And the food was certainly super! We do want to thank Miss Judie for getting our Christmas tree set up so quickly. It's always fun to see old friends and new additions. The tree and village always seem to keep growing.

We always enjoy seeing the children move the nativity pieces closer to the front of the church week by week. We also enjoying seeing families usher together, especially the young ones. It's good for families to be in church together. We especially love the carol singing before the service. It just seems so perfect.

The choir concert was the very best ever, but I seem to remember saying that last year and maybe the year before and...you know how it goes. It was wonderful to have Mr. Rick and Mr. Bruce sing a duet together. We really liked it and hope it happens again soon. Uncle Herbie especially liked all the sweets at the end; he kept muttering about not having enough time to taste everything. You could tell he was having a great time!

It is so strange not to see Miss Joan in church every Sunday, we really miss her, but we enjoy it so much when she can come. We have special prayers for Miss Sonia, Miss Gluna and Miss Valerie. And we have Happy New Year prayers for everyone!

Night night.
Sleep tight.
Don't let the kitty kats bite!

God bless.



(C.C.M.)



MINUTE FOR MISSION



Our Minute for Mission for January from the Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study is from Haiti.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) and PC(USA) World Mission (WM) are collaborating with partners in Leogane, Haiti, which was very near the epicenter of the devastating earthquake on January 12, 2010. Ecumenical partners of PDA through ACT Alliance and WM's partner, the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti, are working together to improve conditions of St. Croix School, a K-12 school adjacent to the grounds of Hôpital St. Croix. All of the school's buildings were either totally destroyed in the earthquake or were so badly damaged they had to be demolished. The school had been serving 750 children in the Leogane community.

Fourteen months after the earthquake, representatives of PDA and WM visited the school. The director of Ste. Croix School, Peré Kerwin Delicat, pointed to the deteriorating tents filled with students seated on wooden benches. In spite of the

lack of even basic items such as blackboards or the fact that the vast majority of students and teachers are themselves living in tents, students come every day school is in session, neatly dressed in their uniforms and eager to learn. Students who can no longer pay the full minimal tuition come and are taught by teachers who sometimes teach without being paid on time or even the full amount due them.

Not one of the partners involved is able to resolve these dilemmas alone. That's when partners come together to assist. Finn Church Aid, as a co-member of ACT Alliance with PDA/PC(USA), is constructing more weather-resistant, temporary school facilities until permanent buildings are constructed. This is only a step—a giant step among many steps for the welfare of children, their education, and their future.

—Pix Mahler,
PC(USA) partnership facilitator for Haiti

"SALT OF THE EARTH" PEOPLE

"You are the salt of the earth" — Matthew 5:13



Many things in the church just seem to quietly happen. They are likely to go unnoticed. Sometimes no one ever knows about them at all. They are often done anonymously. This column is a place where this work can be recognized. If you know something which has been done which people should know about, let the church office know—give a call or drop a note—and we will give recognition in our "Salt of the Earth" column.

Thank you:

... to the friends of the church who quietly made sure that Christmas wreathes and trees and flowers and other decorations were set up and then taken down.

... to the goodhearted Boy Scouts who made the new candle poles for our Christmas Eve service;

"You are the salt of the earth!"



The Prayer Corner

Carl Barth (1886-1968) was perhaps the definitive theologian of his time, certainly the indispensable theologian of Reformed (Presbyterian) theology. He was born in Switzerland, and served as pastor and later as professor of theology. As a biblical scholar he is best remembered for his ground-breaking commentary on Romans. As a theologian he is best remembered for his monumental (ten volume) *Church Dogmatics*. As a Christian he is remembered for helping shape the "Confessing Church" movement to stand against Nazism. Our prayer for January is from a New Year prayer by Carl Barth.

O Lord, our God!
Our years come and go.
And we ourselves live and die.
Your dominion and your faithfulness,
your righteousness and your mercy,
have no beginning and no end.
And thus you are the origin
and the goal
even of our lives. . . .
We thank you for the privilege
Now, [at the turn] of the year,
of once again proclaiming and hearing
these glad tidings, . . .
that this hour may serve your glory
and bring to us all peace and well-being.
Amen.

A Few Wise Words from Grandma Churchmouse:



- O God:
- ❖ You are the beginning of time and creation, that all might begin and end with you
 - ❖ You are the beginning of my life, that every breath might be full of the Holy Spirit
 - ❖ You are the beginning of every day, that all my days might be filled with your light
 - ❖ You are the beginning of this New Year, that you might be the foundation of it all

CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY

January 1	Amanda Murdock
January 3	Nick Germinario Ruben Jean-Louis Anita Ireland
January 4	Sue Black Mark Dudick
January 6	Francesca DeLuca Joseph Girardin Jr.
January 7	Christopher Cino
January 8	Kristen Aukland JoAnn Pope
January 9	Alexa Christophides Howard Hempson
January 10	Wayne Esposito Lois Gower
January 14	Jeremy Au-Yeung Neil Hansen Yvonne Mirabito
January 15	Gluna Gilpin
January 16	Emma Duguid
January 17	Paul Hempson
January 18	Betty Rector
January 20	Dorothy Mirabito
January 21	Amy Roessler
January 22	Steffan Pfeiffer
January 23	Emerson Colletti Johanna Easley
January 24	Larry Gower
January 25	Diane Armour
January 30	Robert Milgrew
January 31	Margaret Wilcox



PLEASE SAY A PRAYER FOR:

Doris Bischoff
Glady's Bischoff
David Blachly
Ethel Bohnaker
Pat Carry
Gluna Gilpin
Valerie Pisani
Warren & Helen Rodgers
John & Ginny Seib
Margaret Wilcox

FROM THE MIRABITO FAMILY

Thank you all for your kind thoughts and comfort during this difficult time of sorrow. From Dorothy Mirabito and family.



MANY THANKS!

The Shepherd's Table would like to congratulate Chantal Durgana on her Gold Award and also thank her for all she has done for the Shepherd's Table.



Joan Dudick would like to thank all the carolers that came to her home on December 16th. From the very youngest to the oldest, all of you have brightened her Christmas season!

Thank you to all the women who helped wrap jewelry for the ladies at Pilgrim Psychiatric Hospital. Total gifts wrapped were 230! Start saving your boxes and jewelry now for next year!

CONGRATULATIONS!

We extend our congratulations and best wishes to Kyle Mattler on his attainment of Eagle Scout on January 7, 2012.



CARD TABLES

During Christmas Fair set-up, it was discovered that there are 6 card tables missing. If you borrowed them, please return them to the church.

SHEPHERD'S TABLE

The Shepherd's Table Community Dinner will resume on Monday, January 9th at 6:00 p.m.

COTTAGE MEETING

The January Cottage Meeting will be held at the home of Pastor John & Judie on Wednesday, January 19th at 7:30 p.m.

FROM THE OFFICE

Articles for the February *Light* are due in the office by Monday, January 16th.



CELEBRATING AN ANNIVERSARY

January 22		Randy and Pat Broger
January 24		Gordon and Lenore Zahorik

2012 OFFERING ENVELOPES

2012 offering envelopes are available for pick-up. If you do not have your own envelopes and would like them, both adult and children's envelopes are available from the church office.



REMINDER

2012 Per Capita Apportionment is \$30.39 per active member.



TO ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

This is a reminder that all committee annual reports are due in the office by **January 9th.**

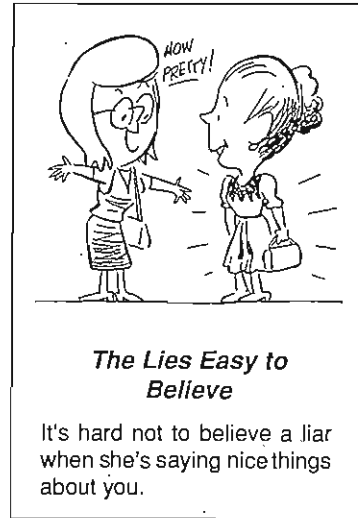
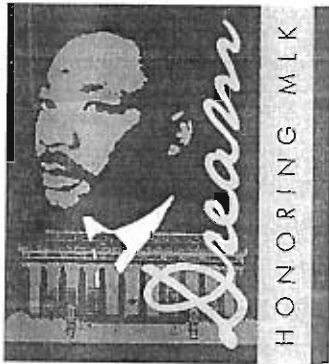


CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL —Many thanks to the Sunday School students and staff for all the hard work that went into this year's Christmas Play! Merry Christmas to all and we will see you back in class on January 8th.

C.U.T.S. —The youth group will meet on January 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the youth room. We have also scheduled a tentative meeting at West Islip on January 22. Details will be confirmed at our first January meeting.

Websites: www.christianyouthgroup.org
www.christianteenactivities.org



COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS

Revising Our Bylaws

The bylaws of the church will be brought to the annual meeting of the congregation on Sunday, January 22 for substantial revision.

In 2011 the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) approved the most sweeping change in the Book of Order in decades. The changes require most congregations to review their bylaws.

The session of Community Presbyterian Church has completed its review and presents these proposed changes for the approval of the congregation. While most of the text of the bylaws is to remain unchanged, some significant revisions are being proposed. Some of the changes are necessary to keep us in conformity with the constitution of the denomination. Some are to eliminate provisions that no longer match the practice of the congregation. Some are changes the session believes it would be wise for the church to approve.

The complete text of the bylaws, showing proposed additions and deletions, is included in this issue of the Light so that the members of the church can be prepared to vote on the proposed revisions on January 22.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Notice of proposed changes to be voted on at the Annual Meeting on January 22

I. THE CHURCH

Section 1. This church, organized by the Presbytery of Brooklyn-Nassau on May 5, 1946, shall be officially known as "The Community Presbyterian Church of Deer Park, L.I., New York" and it shall be governed by the *Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)* and the standing rules of the Presbytery of Long Island.

II. MEETINGS OF THE CONGREGATION

Section 2. The annual meeting of the congregation shall be held after worship on the fourth Sunday of January of each year. The pastor (or a moderator appointed by the presbytery ~~during a vacancy~~) shall preside, and the clerk of session shall be secretary of the meeting. If the clerk is unable to serve, the congregation shall elect a secretary. All members on the active members roll, and only such, shall be eligible to vote. ~~Notice of the meeting shall be prepared by the clerk of session on the session's authority.~~ Public notice of the meeting shall be given on two successive Sundays. (For a meeting of the congregation to call a new pastor, public notice of the time, place, and purpose of the meeting shall be given at least ten days in advance, which shall include two successive Sundays.) The call for the meeting shall include an alternative meeting date one week later in case such circumstances as inclement weather makes it impractical to hold a congregational meeting on the fourth Sunday of January. If circumstances prevent the meeting from being held on either date, the session is instructed to call for a meeting to be held as early as reasonably possible.

Section 3. Special meetings may be called by vote of the session, public notice having been given as indicated above. The meeting may be convened following the notice given on the second Sunday. ~~The notice shall contain the business to be transacted with no other business in order than that indicated.~~ Business to be transacted at special meetings shall be limited to items specifically listed in the call for the meeting. The session shall also call a special meeting when requested in writing by one fourth of the members on the active roll or by the presbytery whenever it determines such a meeting is necessary.

~~Section 4. A special congregational meeting of the church shall be held after worship on the second Sunday in December of each year for the purpose of electing new elders and deacons and conducting other business related to the election of officers. The call for the meeting shall include an alternative meeting date of the third Sunday of December in case inclement weather makes it impractical to hold a congregational meeting on the second Sunday. If circumstances prevent a meeting from being held on either date, the election of elders and deacons shall take place at the annual meeting.~~

Section 4. A quorum at any meeting shall be ~~one tenth of the~~ twenty members on the active roll.

Section 5. Business to be transacted at meetings of the congregation is defined in ~~G-7.0304~~ G-1.0503 of the *Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*. In summary, the business of congregational meetings may include the following:

1. matters related to the electing of ruling elders and deacons;
2. matters related to the calling of a pastor;
3. matters related to the pastoral relationship;
4. matters related to buying, mortgaging, or selling real property;
- ~~5. matters related to the permissive powers of a congregation.~~

Section 6. At the annual meeting all organizations shall present reports of the year's work. ~~The session shall submit a report on the condition of the church.~~ The church treasurer and the treasurers of all organizations shall present a report on the state of funds in their custody. The congregation shall review the adequacy of the compensation of the pastor upon report of the prior review by the session.

Section 7. The congregation shall use the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* Newly Revised as the parliamentary authority for the transaction of its business, except that the *Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)* shall take precedence whenever its provisions differ from those of Robert's Rules of Order.

III. CHURCH BOARDS AND OFFICERS

Section 8. The session, with the pastor, or approved moderator, shall consist of ten ruling elders, the latter being divided as evenly as possible into three classes; one class to be elected each year. The session shall perform those responsibilities and exercise those powers ~~set forth~~ assigned to the session and its members in the *Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)* ~~which relate to elders.~~

NOTE: The intent of establishing a ten member session is to encourage the annual election of a youth member to serve as **ruling elder** for a one-year term ~~under the special provisions of G-14.0201a~~ (see § 13 below).

Section 9. The Board of Deacons shall consist of six deacons, divided into three equal classes; one class to be elected each year. The members of the board shall perform those responsibilities set forth in the *Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)* which relate to deacons.

Section 10. Ruling elders and deacons who have served three consecutive years, as a full term or an aggregate of partial terms, shall be ineligible for re-election to the same board until a period of one year has elapsed.

Section 11. A full financial review of all books and records relating to finances shall be made each year as described in the *Book of Order* ~~G-7.0304~~ **(G-3.0113)**, including the accounts of all church organizations. The findings of the review shall be reported to the annual meeting.

IV. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

~~Section 12. The nominating committee shall consist of seven men and women, and shall include fair representation of all ages and all racial-ethnic constituencies in the congregation. Five members and two alternate members shall be elected at the Annual Meeting to serve for one year to present nominations for the office of elder and deacons at the special meeting of the congregation for the election of officers in December and at any special meeting called to fill vacancies. The members elected from the congregation may not be in active service on the session or deacons. The session shall designate two of its members to serve on the committee, one of whom it shall name to be moderator and the deacons shall designate one of its members to serve on the committee. The pastor shall be a member of the committee ex officio and without vote. The committee shall nominate men and women from among the active members of the congregation, giving fair representation to persons of all ages and of all racial-ethnic members of the congregation. The committee shall seek to nominate at least one person to serve on session each year under the special provisions of G-14.0201a that allow for a one or two year term for an elder under twenty-five years of age.~~

Section 12. The congregation shall elect a nominating committee which shall be responsible for nominating ruling elders, deacons, and members of the nominating committee. The committee shall be drawn from and representative of the congregation's membership. The committee shall consist of four principle members and two alternates. The principle members shall include three active members of the congregation and one ruling elder who is currently serving on session. The alternates shall include one active member of the congregation and one ruling elder who is currently serving on session. The session may propose to the nominating committee the names of ruling elders who would be willing to serve as principle and alternate members if nominated and elected. The committee shall seek to nominate at least one youth to serve on session each year for a one-year term. The pastor shall be a member of the committee, serving ex-officio and without vote. Those elected to the nominating committee shall serve one year terms. Committee members who have served three consecutive years shall be ineligible for re-election to the nominating committee until a period of one year has elapsed.

V. ADVISORY OFFICERS

Section 13. The congregation may elect advisory members to serve on session who would not otherwise be eligible for election. Such advisory members would have voice but no vote on session or on any committee on which they would serve as a member of session. Candidates to serve as advisory members would be presented for election by the nominating committee and would be elected in a separate vote from other nominees for session. No more than one advisory member at a time would be allowed to serve on session.

VI. AMENDMENTS

Section 14. This Constitution and bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any annual or special meeting, provided notice of proposed amendments was incorporated in the call for the meeting.

VII. SUSPENDING THE RULES

Section 15. Any rule or provision in these bylaws that is required by the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) may not be suspended. To the degree that the suspension of rules does not conflict with the Constitution, any rule or provision of these bylaws, **except those concerning the quorum for a meeting**, may be suspended by the affirmative vote of two thirds of the members present and voting.

Materials in Bold and Underlined are proposed as additions:

Materials with strikethroughs are proposed deletions:

Other material is proposed to stand unchanged:

Proposed Additions

~~Proposed Deletions~~

Unchanged

Happy New Year!



New
Year's
Breakfast

*Join us at church on the first
Sunday of 2012
for a light
New Year's breakfast*

Bagels ❖ Juice ❖ Coffee

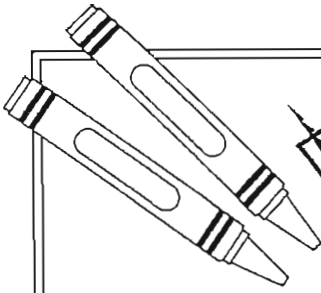
Sunday, January 1, 2012 at 9:30 AM



**Annual
Meeting**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2012

EVERY MEMBER IS URGED TO ATTEND










PUZZLE






A caring disciple

In Acts 9, Peter tells of a woman who lived in Joppa. She performed good works and helped the poor. Solve the puzzle below to reveal this disciple's two names.

Instructions: Cross out the letters that spell each object and write the remaining letter on the blank.

___ adcltne			
___ rohmtae			
___ srgbape			
___ rbieda			
___ pehtshred			
___ rdhaenlca			
___ fadoo			

Her name in Greek

___ pdeesh		
___ dchilnero		
___ drove		
___ acehtr		
___ sarcos		
___ nusoatinm	