



# The Churchmouse

"WELCOMING PEOPLE PROCLAIMING CHRIST"

Newsletter of the Warren Point Presbyterian Church

Located at Broadway and 17th Street in Fair Lawn, New Jersey

## AN EDITORIAL

### Peace on Earth

Once again, we have come to the time of year when we celebrate Christmas, and most likely, the time when we bustle around doing our gift-buying, food shopping, home decorating, party going, and everything else that's involved with any other holiday preparation. And there's the catch, the rub, the problem, the flaw, the big error in most people's thinking. Because Christmas isn't any other holiday. It's a celebration of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth two millennia ago, the entry into this world of the most, loving, uplifting, caring, enlightened and spiritual Person ever to walk on this Earth. And He came to us with a message that was at once so simple and yet so meaningful: love one another. He told us to bless, help, and forgive, to return good for evil, to step out of darkness and into light, to spread His message of brotherhood, love and peace to the whole world.

How often, amid the turmoil of holiday preparation, so we think about Him and His purpose, His mission? Or, caught up in the turmoil, do we focus almost solely on ourselves and our own needs, as we are likely to be doing the rest of the year, and forget – maybe even put out of our minds – the primary reasons for this most wonderfully joyous of all holidays?

Years ago, a cartoonist name Dave Berg used to draw a series for MAD Magazine in which he satirized almost everything *(continued on p.10)*



## News from The Pews

Volume 6  
Issues 1-3

Newsletter Date:  
January—March 2015

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## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT OF OUR CHURCH

Reported below are the annual pledges for 2014 with the anticipated and actual giving through December 31. Thank you for faithfully supporting the ministry and mission of your church through your financial giving!

	<u>Current Expenses</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>Building Fund &amp; Capital Improvements</u>
Annual Pledge	\$ 48,902	\$ 12,440	\$ 9,366
Anticipated Giving	\$ 48,902	\$ 12,440	\$ 9,366
Actual Giving	\$ 64,367	\$ 11,809	\$ 8,118

Please note:

- 2014 Local Ministry Budget is \$160,080
- Current Expenses annual pledge will cover only **31%**
- **\$40,000 from reserves was added during the year** in addition to the \$10,000 from reserves added in December 2013 to meet 2014 current expenses.

Reported below are the annual pledges for 2015 with the anticipated and actual giving through January 31. Thank you for faithfully supporting the ministry and mission of your church through your financial giving!

	<u>Current Expenses</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>Building Fund &amp; Capital Improvements</u>
Annual Pledge	\$ 51,034	\$ 12,146	\$ 8,484
Anticipated Giving	\$ 4,253	\$ 1,012	\$ 707
Actual Giving	\$ 3,956	\$ 649	\$ 407

Please note:

- 2015 Local Ministry Budget is \$ 153,524
- Current Expenses annual pledge will cover only **33%**



## BIBLE TRIVIA

What form did the Spirit take after Jesus was baptized and came out of the water?  
(Answer on p. 10)

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

This combined issue of your favorite newsletter is certainly that – a NEWSletter. Please read this enlarged edition thoroughly!

In his book *Presbyterian Worship It's Meaning and Method* Donald Macleod alerts us to the significance of the church season of Lent:

This season begins with Ash Wednesday and continues for forty days and six Sundays prior to Easter Day. It is a period of discipline but not necessarily of a negative character. As someone has said, "*Lent consists in doing something, not in merely doing without something.*" (italics mine) The genesis of Lent appears to have been associated with a period of discipline, reflections, and abstinence in imitation of Christ's self-denial and in preparation for the holy celebration of Easter.

This year Lent began with a Gathering around the Word worship service with Holy Communion on the First Day of Lent (Ash Wednesday), February 18. In the days and weeks following you have some suggested (and encouraged!) opportunities for "*doing something, not ...merely doing without something.*"

Below is the announcement for a FOOD DRIVE FOR LENT requested by our Benevolence Treasurer, Lascinda Goetschius. It's quite simple. If you are abstaining from purchasing something during Lent, you could use the money you are not spending to purchase items desperately needed by others to maintain a bare existence. Or if you are simply resolved to renew your spiritual life by seeking to be more Christ-like, supporting this drive is one path you could take.

The ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING, detailed on page 12, is a like opportunity. Participation in this special offering provides an opportunity to share in addressing human need around the corner and around the world. Whether you are abstaining from something or simply resolved to renew your spiritual life by seeking to be more Christ-like, this is one way to share God's love with others.

## FOOD DRIVE FOR LENT

The Center for Food Action in Saddle Brook needs these priority food items: peanut butter, cold cereal, jelly, fruit juice, potatoes (can/box), stuffing, macaroni & cheese, soup (can), white rice, tomatoes (can), tomato sauce or paste, tuna, vegetables (can), fruit (can).

AND/OR

hot cereal, pancake mix & syrup, jello, pudding, cake mix, crackers, sugar, condiments, milk (can/powdered), pasta (can/box), broth, dry soup, dry beans, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, pork & beans, baked beans, beans (can), meat (can), gravy, bread, gluten-free products, low-salt products, personal items (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toilet paper), household items (cleaning supplies, paper towels)

Please bring your donations each Sunday in Lent and place them on the designated sanctuary table .



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## COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

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### **SESSION ADOPTS INTERIM COMMITTEE STRUCTURE: LESS COMMITTEES, MORE TIME FOR MISSION, AND FEWER COFFEE HOURS**

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The Session has adopted an interim (read “trial”) committee structure for 2015, reducing the number of its basic operating committees to three: Financial Resources, Program, and Property. (The Personnel Committee and the New Beginnings Planning Team will continue.)

The interim structure of fewer committees is in large measure a response to feedback received during the New Beginnings House Meetings that our congregation has too many committees that take too much time from our members and that freedom from committee responsibilities will allow members more time to devote to mission.

While the Financial Resources and the Property Committees will continue to operate as before, the new Program Committee will be taking on the responsibilities of former committees such as Education, Evangelism, Membership, Mission, and Worship, likely on a rotating basis with fewer members needing to be drawn from the congregation.

One direct result is the reduction in the number of post-Morning Worship coffee hours. In the fall of 2014 the Session had decided to reduce coffee hours to at least one per month beginning February 2015 with the forecast reduction in committees. Now that there is no Membership Committee to oversee the coffee hour schedule and less committees to host coffee hours, the Program Committee will need to devise a new plan. One thought is that perhaps members of the congregation can group themselves into coffee hour host teams.

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### **A REMINDER!**

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The Ladies’ Praise & Prayer Group and the Prayer Shawl Ministry would like to remind you to please save the front of your greeting cards for our St. Jude Ranch for Children Mission Project. Please place them in the box in the narthex.

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### **CONGREGATION TO HOST MARCH 17 STATED PRESBYTERY MEETING: ALL HANDS ON DECK!**

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## HEAVENLY HUMOR

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During “children’s time” in the worship service, the kids came forward and the pastor wanting to teach about prayer asked, “How can we talk with God?” The pastor produced paper and envelope and said, “Maybe we can write God a letter. Does anyone know the address?” The group said no. Then the pastor took out his cell phone and said, “Maybe we can phone God. Does anyone have his phone number?” But no one did. Then the pastor displayed his laptop and said, “Maybe we can send God an e-mail. Does anyone know God’s email address?” A little five year old said, “Yeah, try www-dot-God-dot-com!”

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## Spiritual Reflections

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### Reformation 102

I’m going to approach the subject of the Reformation from a very strange angle in this little essay. I’ve always been one who held science in the greatest respect, due to my father being a chemist. As a result it pains me when I hear well known scientists dismiss religious ideas, such as the existence of a God of creation, as unnecessary or out of touch with the latest scientific notions of how our world came into being. One thing in particular is often singled out for criticism, the idea that belief in a creator supposes that creation is perfect, that every species was created exactly the way we find it from the very beginning. Some scientists point to evolution as proof that this is not true and thus they decide it is not necessary to believe in a creator God to explain our present world. There is no doubt that many a Christian probably feels that God created each species uniquely. And given what Scripture says, it’s not the least bit surprising. The first chapter of genesis certainly sets out a magnificent hymn to the stately order and purpose of creation at the command of a God who rules above our world.

As one who has chosen to live in both the world of science and religion you may wonder how I reconcile these two seemingly contrary views. First I recognize that my decision to embrace religion places me in the sphere of faith. I readily accept that many of the opinions I hold lack the certainty of rigid rules of logic and precise mathematical formulation. I make dozens of assumptions about the world that never tested by the demanding principles of science. And this includes my attitude toward Scripture, which begins in faith. But this does not compel me to reject science or the scientific method when applied to observations about the universe which might not agree with what I find in the Bible. Why, you may ask? It is mainly because I recognize that the Bible is the product a certain time in history, written by people of that period with all the preconceived notions they had of the world. In other words, these people lived thousands of years ago when there *(continued on p. 8)*



# March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1 2nd Sunday In Lent</b> Church School 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM Morning Worship 10:30 AM Holy Communion 11:45 AM Board of Deacons 11:45 AM <i>Lenten Study 11:45 AM</i>	<b>2</b> Lenten Study 7:00 PM	<b>3</b> A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>4</b> Lenten Study 10:00 AM Boy Scout Troop 60 7:30 PM	<b>5</b> Lenten Study 7:00 PM A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>6</b> A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>7</b>
<b>8 3rd Sunday in Lent</b> Church School 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM Morning Worship 10:30 AM Lenten Study 11:45 AM <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i>	<b>9</b> Lenten Study Session 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	<b>10</b> A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>11</b> Lenten Study 10:00 AM Boy Scout Troop 60 7:30 PM	<b>12</b> Lenten Study 7:00 PM A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>13</b> A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>14</b>
<b>15 4th Sunday in Lent</b> Church School 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM Morning Worship 10:30 AM Lenten Study 11:45 AM	<b>16</b> Lenten Study 7:00 PM	<b>17</b> Presbytery Meeting at Fair Lawn, Warren Point 4:00 PM A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>18</b> Lenten Study 10:00 AM Boy Scout Troop 60 7:30 PM	<b>19</b> Lenten Study 7:00 PM A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>20</b> A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>21</b> Fish & Chips Dinner Sponsored by The board of Deacons 6:30 -8:30 PM
<b>22 5th Sunday in Lent</b> Church School 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM Morning Worship 10:30 AM Lenten Study 11:45 AM	<b>23</b> Lenten Study 7:00 PM	<b>24</b> A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>25</b> Lenten study 10:00 AM Boy Scout Troop 60 7:30 PM	<b>26</b> Lenten Study 7:00 PM A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>27</b> A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>28</b>
<b>29 Passion/Palm Sunday</b> Church School 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM Morning Worship 10:30 AM	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> A. A. 7:30 PM				

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## NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

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"Heavenly Father, for this coming year  
Just one request I bring.

I do not pray for happiness or any earthly thing.  
I do not ask to understand the way you lead me;  
But this I ask – teach me to do the thing that pleases You.  
I want to know Your guiding voice,  
To walk with you each day.

Heavenly Father,  
Make me swift to hear and ready to obey;  
And thus the year I now begin  
A happy year will be,

If I am seeking just to do  
The thing that pleases You."

Amen



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## Spiritual Reflections *(continued from p. 5)*

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was no modern science, when humans viewed the world as a place of wonder and mystery, governed by forces they could barely understand. I give the writers of the Bible a great deal latitude when it comes to matters that we place in the hands of modern science. In fact the first chapter of Genesis is a great intellectual step forward when compared with other versions of creation accepted at the time, in which it was imagined that the cosmos was the result of a great battle between gods of earth, air, and water and that the body of a slain primordial monster is the stuff of which we are made. The biblical writers took that story and made alteration. Genesis changes the story to one in which a single all powerful God overcomes the powers of chaos to shape the universe and this new way of looking at the creation actually made it possible for us to separate the universe from the world of divine beings in our thinking. The world and all that's in it belongs to god but it is not made out of God and we do not have to worship the universe of any part of it.

I hope you see that I greatly respect what the Biblical writers accomplished in their time but that I am able to accept what they are saying about the world's relationship to God with the understanding it is conditioned by the perspective of their time. Yet it is our task to tell this story from our perspective and that may be different. That's the compromise I've reached between my faith and my admiration for science. Now what does that have to do with the Reformation? As I said earlier many scientists reject the notion of God because they are put off by the idea the God created the world just as we see it now, perfect and unchanged over the years. From their point of view they see a universe that has changed and evolved over its lifetime. It's not necessary for each species of life to have been created just as we see it today. In fact the evidence is that each species is the result of change (usually depicted as random) in a previous species that allows the new species to survive better. That certainly undermines one understanding of the way god may have created our world. But what if this use of random changes is part of *(continued on p. 9)*

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### THANK YOU!

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A special thank you to all my church family and friends for your prayers and get well wishes, during my recent illness. God has blessed me and I say "God bless all of you for your kind thoughts."



With many thanks,  
Lillian Brown



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## Spiritual Reflections *(continued from p. 8)*

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of larger process of creation? And what if change that seems random may not be so? Could that change not also be a reaction to something in the environment? Could it be that God can use evolution as one of God's tools of creation? The idea is not foreign to the Bible, at least not in the way God deals with humanity. Since the Bible insists that God gave us free will and that humans have used it to both and disobey God there are plenty of examples of God turning disaster to triumph, of incorporating disobedience into the plan of salvation. The Christian immediately thinks of the rejection of Jesus and his ministry resulting in the crucifixion. What was clearly a disaster from the standpoint of human thought was transformed into a powerful statement of God's redemptive love. That is also an integral part of reformation thinking as embodied in the phrase, "reformed and always reforming." There is no need to get caught up in the pursuit of a perfection we can never attain, the perfect obedience to God. Instead we marvel at the way God encourages our obedience and supports our faith but also understands our frailty and is able to overcome it with the power of the Holy Spirit to reform us and our world. To my mind that is not unlike the same process we see in evolution and speaks no less to the wonder of God's creation. There is no need, as I see it, set science against a religious view as long as we acknowledge the limits each perspective brings to the whole view of our experience.

—Jerry Goss

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### **NEW HOPE KOREAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CLOSES**

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While we were looking forward to celebrating a Multicultural Christmas Service with Holy Communion on Sunday, January 4 with the New Hope Korean Presbyterian Church, that service never materialized. Shortly before Christmas Pastor Young Kil Cho's wife had to be hospitalized, and in the aftermath he decided that it was time to retire. The congregation, which had been sharing our facilities since June, 2005, held its final worship service on New Year's Eve.

In parting, Pastor Cho graciously offered that their refrigerator in the church kitchen and the pulpit in their program room were donated for the use of Warren Point Presbyterian Church and/or a future Korean congregation.

While multicultural services were held each Christmas season beginning in 2009, the 2013 service will be fondly remembered as the one in which Pastor Cho preached his first sermon in English, one well-received by our congregation.

We pray for good health and happiness for Pastor Cho and his family in his retirement!

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## AN EDITORIAL *(continued from p. 1)*

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about modern man and modern society. I'll never forget the one panel he drew of a street lined with houses completely over-burdened with lights, Santas, Rudolphs and other reindeer, Miceys, Minnies, Donalds, Daisies, and every other non-related, non-essential thing that gets put out this time of year – except for one house that had only a wreath on the door, candles in the windows, and the words "Peace on Earth" in large letters on the roof; and standing opposite the house were two men facing each other, and one was saying to the other, "I guess they're not very religious!" (Just for something different to do, I suggest you drive around your neighborhoods at night this time of year and see how many homes you can find where the owners are "not very religious.")

Guided by Mr. Berg's insight, I guess I'll stop short right here, eliminating the usual decorative holiday speech and references, and, in the spirit of brotherhood and love and peace, simply say to all of you who read this article, "Peace on earth."

– Rich Faust

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## ANSWER TO BIBLE TRIVIA

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A dove – Mark 1.10

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## THANK YOU FOR PRAYER SHAWLS

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*(This note was received by the pastor and so it is addressed to him. Permission was sought and granted to share this note with the entire congregation.)*

Dear Jeff,

My family and I would like to thank you so very much for the beautiful prayer shawls. They are so comforting to my mother, sister, and I. We are so grateful for your thoughts, kindness, and prayers. We will be using the shawls for a long time to come and will keep them always.

Thanks again and God Bless,

Lara, Heather, & Family



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## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NEWS

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The 2015 Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of our church was held in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, January 25, following Morning Worship. Twenty-three active members and 3 baptized members, including the two Confirmation Class students, were present. As always we were indebted to the Thomases, the Worship Committee and friends for the provision of a delicious luncheon and desserts.

The Annual Report booklet, printed for distribution through the generosity of Ed Easse again this year, was available for the meeting. Copies remain available on the ushers' table.

Before the normal business of the meeting could be conducted, action first had to be taken to allow the meeting to take place. Mary Grace Gualario moved, and Donna Frohnapfel seconded the motion, that our Church Bylaws may be suspended at any meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the eligible voters present, providing that such suspension does not violate the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) or the laws of the State of New Jersey. The motion passed by more than the required two-thirds majority.

Next, Edward Thomas moved, and Janice Czelusta seconded the motion, to suspend Church Bylaw # 4 requiring the call for the meeting to be given on two successive Sundays during worship prior to the day of the Congregational Meeting. The motion passed by more than the required two-thirds majority. (These actions had been made necessary by the cancellation of Morning Worship on Sunday, January 18, due to ice.) Also;

A moment of silence was held for Henry Kirchner, who had joined the Church Triumphant in 2014;

The Auditing Committee reported that they had not completed their work;

The 2015 Auditing Committee was elected, composed of Mark Johnson (chair), Donna Frohnapfel, Christy Murphy, and Janice Czelusta;

Donna Frohnapfel was elected to the Session Class of 2015, while Janice Czelusta, Nancy Leininger, and Jennifer Smits were elected to the Class of 2016;

Mark Johnson and Leigh Mockel were elected to serve on the Board of Deacons Class of 2015, while Lascinda Goetschius, Mary Grace Gualario, Kathy Kimball, and Dori Little were elected to the Class of 2016;

Darel DePompeo, Marel-Lee Sutherland, Al Sutherland, Marilyn Taryla, and Suzanne Aridas were elected as the at-large members of the 2015 Congregational Nominating Committee.

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## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

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Immediately following World War II, Protestant churches in the U.S. made appeals for the relief and reconstruction of areas devastated by the war, primarily Europe and Asia. In 1949, the leaders of several denominations formed a committee to organize an appeal to support their churches' separate campaigns.

A program called One Great Hour was broadcast on March 26, 1949, over major networks and many independent stations. The broadcast closed with a request that listeners attend their local church the following morning and make a sacrificial contribution. No exact measure of receipts was possible, but it was estimated that more than 75,000 churches participated.

The next year, the offering was repeated, using the name "One Great Hour of Sharing" for the first time. At times, this offering was coordinated with both the Roman Catholic Bishops' Fund Appeal for Overseas Aid and the Jewish Pass-over Appeal. Free time and space were donated to this joint appeal through the Advertising Council.

From the beginning, this has been an ecumenical effort. As denominations changed and merged, One Great Hour of Sharing has varied from eight to twenty-nine participating communions. While each denomination allocates its gifts differently, all use their funds for ministries of disaster relief, refugee assistance and development aid. Today, projects supported by this offering are under way in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada.

In our Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) the offering is divided among three programs: Presbyterian Hunger Program (36%) works with Presbyterians and other partners to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes, responding with compassion and justice to poor and hungry people in communities in the United States and across the globe. The 4% greater than the other two causes goes to work on homelessness and affordable housing.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (32%) is the emergency and refugee program that responds in times of disaster, but also partners in long-term recovery.

Self-Development of People (32%) carries out our global commitment to support the self-development of economically poor, oppressed and disadvantaged people and facilitate long-term change in their lives and communities.

Please use the enclosed offering envelope to share in Christ's healing of our world. Might your generous donation to this special offering be part of your spiritual renewal in this season of Lent?

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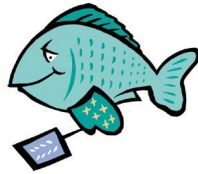
## FISH & CHIPS DINNER

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A FISH AND CHIPS DINNER, sponsored by the Board of Deacons and provided by Tastefully British, will be held on Saturday, March 21, from 6:30-8:30 pm. The cost is \$15.00 per ticket. Dinner will consist of fish or chicken, French fries, and coleslaw. Coffee, tea, cold beverages and an array of delicious desserts will be provided. Tickets can be purchased from any deacon: Mary Grace Gualario, Lascinda Goetchius, Mark Johnson, Kathy Kimball, Dori Little, Judy Logan, or Leigh Mockel.

You may also call the Church Office at 201-796-3662, if you wish to purchase your tickets.

You will be supporting our fundraising and have a tasty meal at the same time. Take-out orders are available, or come and have dinner with your family and friends!





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ADDRESS CORRECTION  
REQUESTED

