



Transforming Lives,  
Communities, and  
the World for  
300 Years

Cold Spring Presbyterian Church  
780 Seashore Rd. Cold Spring, NJ 08204  
Near Historic Cold Spring Village  
www.coldspringchurch.com  
609-884-4065 office  
hello@coldspringchurch.com



# THE BRICKETTE

A community congregation of worship and mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). A National Historic Landmark Site.



## RESCHEDULED! — Anniversary Family & Friends Dinner Celebrates 303 Years

February 10 @ 5:00 pm



303<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary  
February Dinner

Cold Spring Church celebrates  
303 years of community serving  
worship and mission. Celebrate  
with us!



**Ash Wednesday Worship  
Service -February 14, at 12  
noon in Price Hall. Ashes  
will be available. All are  
welcome.**

**Visit our website for  
up-to-date news, events,  
blog, and audio from our  
worship services, including  
children's messages and  
selections from our  
Singing Team.**

## A Message from the Pastor

Why You Should **Expect More** in 2018!



Weather delays kept last month's Brickette online only which is re-published in this February issue in case you missed it! It's not surprising that unexpected obstacles and unforeseen opportunities can influence our direction. How is your new year looking so far? Are you expecting much?

Remember, we are not victims to our past. We are not destined to merely repeat last year, this year. We can take responsibility and choose a different, more hopeful future. Want to find out how 2018 can be different? Read on, and here's a hint: **Expect more.**

*They arrived at Bethsaida. Some people brought a sightless man and begged Jesus to give him a healing touch. Taking him by the hand, he led him out of the village. He put spit in the man's eyes, laid hands on him, and asked, "Do you see anything?" He looked up. "I see men. They look like walking trees." So Jesus laid hands on his eyes again. The man looked hard and realized that he had recovered perfect sight; saw everything in bright, twenty-twenty focus. Jesus sent him straight home, telling him, "Don't enter the village." (Mark 8.22-26)*

Someone shared a brochure they picked up at a church they had recently visited when out of town. (I really appreciate learning how other communities of faith communicate their mission and message, so keep sharing your experiences with me when you return from being away!)

The brochure is entitled, *What to Expect During Your Visit*. It was intended to be read by the first-time visitor and previewed what a normal, regular order of worship looked like, how the service would be conducted, the pastor's theology, and a brief description of church groups. It sounded so complete. (Incidentally, it was not a Presbyterian church.)

I wondered though, how many people only experienced what that brochure described should be expected? As if that brochure was the bar to be met. Nothing more or less. We have produced our own Welcome to Cold Spring Church brochure and I am reviewing it with different eyes now.

We do want everyone, especially our first-time guests, to feel safe and not be caught off guard or made to feel uncomfortable. That is why I try to help acclimate guests during my **Welcome** each week as worship begins. But I wonder if our worship is too regimented, regular, and maybe a bit too predictable. It might be better if more surprises were experienced! That is, if worshippers expected MORE from God, and we experienced MORE in worship, wouldn't we more likely be more energized as God's creativity and wonder were released?!

The story above from the Gospel of Mark about the man who could not see tells what on the surface looks like a failed miracle of Jesus. But it actually tells the story of expectations being exceeded.



The man's friends expected that Jesus would heal the condition of blindness. Imagine like in a post office you line up to see Jesus. Next. Next. And so on. Jesus will heal you. Next, please.

As if that was the man's only need, the man's vision circumstance, could Jesus possibly care about. But surprisingly, what we learn is that Jesus cared about the man's entire life experience not just his vision challenges. Jesus took the man out of town, where otherwise-abled people gathered (those we thoughtlessly refer to as the disabled). Jesus wanted the man to experience something other than same old shame and rejection. Using his own saliva as a healing balm, Jesus placed his hands on the man's eyes, asking him if he could see.

Yes! the man exclaimed. The now-sighted man reported that he saw people upside down! Seeing upside down was better than not seeing at all, right? Maybe they should leave well enough alone. They expected that he would see after being with Jesus. Good enough, then! Maybe they should just go back to town with the little they got.

But thankfully, they waited, they managed to expect more. They recognized in that moment of increasing clarity that Jesus not only could, but would do much more than they at first imagined. At the Master's Second Touch, all was well, and Jesus reminded him, there is no need to go back to that village begging! Jesus exceeded the expectations, and I believe, he wants to exceed ours, and our community's expectations, as well.

What do we expect in our congregation's worship and ministry? I suggest, not nearly enough! God's transforming Spirit is urging us to go beyond incremental and incomplete blessings to receive the empowering Second Touch to be that real, new, community of Christ's disciples. Come on! We have already found we can dream again. We have increased our energy. We have increased our financial giving. We have experienced healing and hope and I don't think God is out of blessings. Do you?

Our 303 year old mission, should we fully embrace it, is to deliver spiritual and other resources through our community of faith to our community at large that transforms our neighbor's lives in the name of Jesus Christ. What do you expect?!

In 2018, our leadership and caring teams, groups, teams, staff, and individuals just like you all have an opportunity to expect more of Christ and of each other. Imagine how our greater Cold Spring area neighbors could experience God in new ways, more relevant and effective ways? How could seniors be

energized by hope? How can younger people grow and connect to serve and learn so that more and more people experience the abundant life like that man did, like Jesus continues to offer to us today?

During the past year you may be in a better place, but look carefully. You may see, but are “people walking upside down.”? Well, pay attention, because the Master’s Second Touch is on the way for a new, healthy, and abundant year. Get involved a bit more. Give a bit more. Engage a bit more. Serve a bit more.

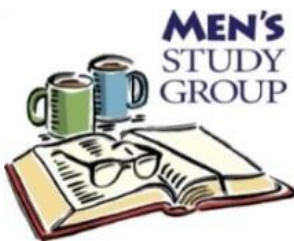
### **Cold Spring Church: Energizing Spirits. Transforming Lives. Expecting More.**

Let’s not settle for just a “new” year, but an “expect more” year. I can’t wait to see what emerges...

Pastor Kevin



## **ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**



### **Men's Group Ministry:**

This month a special set of DVD presentations will challenge men to consider "discipleship as a contact sport!" This was the theme of the 12th National Gathering of United Methodist Men held in Indianapolis in 2017. The first message, delivered by Bishop James Swanson, is entitled "The Genius of God is that He created us to become more than when we were first created"; the scripture referenced is Genesis chapter 4. The second message, given by Bishop

Jonathon Holston, is entitled "Failure is not an Option!" the scripture referenced is Matthew 14:13-21. Join us for the viewing and discussion of these two inspirational presentations on the first and third Wednesdays of this month. All men are welcome!



### **Christian Living:**

The world tells us annoyances and afflictions cause discouragement and doubt --and that we are right to demand our way. Given what Christ has done for us, our lives should overflow with gratitude. Sadly, too often they don't. Nancy Leigh DeMoss's book **Choosing Gratitude** speaks powerfully to one of our most important issues as individuals, families, and churches. Journey closer to the Heart of God --choose gratitude! Join us for the reading and discussion of this inspirational book. Together we will learn the key to a peaceful, joy-filled heart in every circumstance of life. (Note: the book is not required to participate as we will provide an audio CD for the learning experience.) We meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Everyone is welcome!

All classes meet in the Taylor Room of Price Hall.

## **JOIN OUR CARING TEAM!**



The mission of the Deacons is to show love, care, and compassion in the name of Jesus Christ. That's why we refer to it as our Caring Team! We are looking for a few more loving humanitarians to serve as deacons at Cold Spring Church. We are exhorted in God's word to have Faith, Hope, and Love. Of these three, love is the greatest. All of us can demonstrate a love of God and love for others. This is an amazing opportunity to serve and to help others in

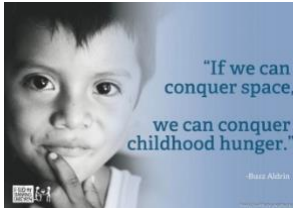
our community. If you are interested becoming a Deacon, please let the pastor or one of the deacons know. *Thank you! Neil Oberlin, Moderator of the Deacons*



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

The Mary Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 20th at 7 p.m. in Price Hall. Nancy Reed will lead the Bible Study, "A Cloud of Witnesses", Barbara Cain will read the Mission Book and Roseann will be the hostess.

## FOOD CUPBOARD NEWS FOR FEBRUARY 2018



Winter is upon us and with the cold weather, it is a time to help those less fortunate. Our food collected and distributed to the local food banks demonstrates the caring nature of the Cold Spring Presbyterian Church family. ***Last month we collected over 370 items for our two food banks (St. Barnabas and The Church of the Nazarene).*** The deacons also made a monetary donation to each of the Food Banks for Christmas which was made possible by the generosity of those who donated to our weekly Sunday collection earmarked for the Deacons. The list below are items the food banks have given to us as a guideline of need. In addition we take almost any non-perishable food and personal items. We ask that you be aware of the sell-by dates. As always if you would rather make a monetary donation to the food banks it is most welcome and we will pass it on to them. *II Corinthians 9:7 NLT "For the Lord loves a person who gives cheerfully" Acts 20:35 Remember the Words of Jesus "It is more blessed to give than to receive."*

### Our collection for February will be:

- Feb. 4 Instant rice, canned soups, Ramen Noodles, crackers**
- Feb. 11 Toothpaste & brushes, soap (bars), toilet paper, pasta and sauce**
- Feb. 18 Peanut butter and grape jelly, fruit cups, canned vegetables**
- Feb. 25 Hot and cold tea, hot & cold cereals, powdered milk, canned meat**

Your donations can be dropped off at Price Hall, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sunday in the sanctuary narthex. ~ *Neil Oberlin, Coordinator*



## SINGING TEAM NOW SINGING!

Music is an integral part of our worship experience every week at Cold Spring Church. We enjoy a range of music from traditional to contemporary and we want to do more. If you'd like to join please let music director Jayne McDonough know of your interest, or call the church office.



Interested in performing a "hand-on" active ministry on behalf of our church within our local community? Deliver meals to home-bound persons in the North Cape May and Villas area on a weekday morning. You can set your own schedule --even if only one day a month! Volunteers for **Mobile Meals** are needed for this worthy cause. Fulfill the message of "feeding the hungry and giving drink to the thirsty"! (Matt. 25:35) Contact Rob Riehl (609-889-3538; [robriehl@verizon.net](mailto:robriehl@verizon.net))

for additional information.



## **Session Notes**

These are the summary notes --or highlights-- of our most recent session meeting. For further details of these notes and additional session discussion matters, please refer to the next set of complete Session Minutes (upon session approval and publication).

Our Session approved the following agenda items on January 3, 2017:

1. Minutes of Session Meeting of December 6, 2017;
2. Mission Pledge of \$1500 to West Jersey Presbytery for 2018;
3. Report of Moderator for December 2017;
4. New flag set to replace tattered flags at veterans' section of cemetery;
5. Salary adjustment of 2% increase for staff (retroactive to 01-01-18);
6. Annual financial report for 2017.

Our pastor, the Rev. Dr. Kevin Yoho, presented his monthly session briefing on sermon and worship themes, communion observed with shut-ins, funerals, staff development, and updates on our transformational journey.

The Session also discussed the following agenda items in progress:

1. Exploring improvement of management fee structure of our cemetery loan;
2. Status of Wetlands Magnolia Project: clarification of proposal needed;
3. Repair of plumbing for ladies room in worship center;
4. Remediating large pothole at northern entrance to cemetery.

Complimentary copies of our approved Session Minutes are located on our information table in the church narthex; additional copies are available in the designated rack by the church office bulletin board in Price Hall. If you have any questions or concerns about any of the current meeting agenda items, kindly contact the pastor, a session member, or myself for clarification.

-- Rob Riehl, Clerk to Session

## **From the Clerk's Corner**

### *"A Lenten Coin"*

Have you ever heard of a Lenten coin? It is a two-sided ordinary American-style coin with a "heads" side with the flip side being "tails" --nothing unusual about that! However, for the purpose of encouraging you to do something of a self-disciplinary nature for the season of Lent, this image of a coin will hopefully challenge and inspire you to act!

The head-side of this coin encourages you to do something positive, something a bit challenging, and something that would improve your quality of life; the tail-side of this coin encourages you to dispose of something negative, something difficult to release, and something self-sacrificial! You may choose to do either the "heads" side (positive) or the "tails" side (negative) of this coin. If you are indecisive, you could simply "flip the coin" relying on fate to determine your choice. A more interesting and beneficial choice would be to act upon both sides of this coin for the season of Lent (about 40 days). Here is the daunting challenge: could you be determined enough to sustain whatever choice you make for forty days?

Before Jesus Christ began His mission of Redemption, He spent forty days and nights in the desert wilderness preparing for His mission and ministry. He was alone, without food, water, and shelter; He emptied Himself to be filled with the Father --praying and fasting. Jesus allowed Himself to be tempted by Satan, who offered "the best" of his world -- if Jesus would only give up His mission and worship

him. Jesus is calling us, His followers, to do likewise: to spend forty days of prayer and fasting, of self-denial and sacrifice, allowing the Holy Spirit to fill us with strength and courage to denounce Satan, reject sin, overcome temptation, and share in the glory of rising with Christ!

As the season of Lent calls us to prepare for the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus at Easter, what are some ways we can participate in this spiritual journey? For one, we could all improve our relationships with others (be they spouse, relative, friend, neighbor, co-worker). Instead of speaking negatively of their shortcomings, we could replace that destructive habit by speaking well of their attributes; our goal is to "build them up" instead of "tearing them down"! Think about the reward for them (and for you) over the forty days of Lent; these relationships would improve significantly with a "win-win" payoff for everyone! For another, do random acts of kindness every day, wherever you go, and to anyone who provides you with the opportunity to act. Imagine your new habit of such "connecting" with others taking hold over the forty days of Lent. Become more generous: carry "extra change" to give away to anyone in need. Even a dollar a day (over forty days) would create in you a more generous attitude! How about giving up an addictive habit, such as "no social media on Sundays!" (Just *wondering*... Is there anyone who could do this over forty days? ). Consider sacrificing some television or computer time each day for interacting with *real people* in meaningful conversations --thus building relationships. Replace negative talk and behaviors with a Christ-like manner and Spirit-led attitude. Displace routine "trivial pursuits" with Bible study, meditation and journaling, reading spiritual books and commentaries. Be the voice, hands, and feet of Christ: become a liturgist, a communion server, an usher; join a church small group, fellowship or ministry; call or visit our church homebound members; participate in a community activity; volunteer your time and talent to enlarge the development and growth of your church congregation; pray for and encourage others to support Christian values --and to pray against opposing constructs! Over forty days, you could become a "prayer warrior"!

To encourage any readers who find the "40-day challenge" too stressful, consider this option: consider weekly stretches (with weekends "off"). Perhaps designating "no dessert week", "no Facebook week", or pre-determine "no lunch days (pray and fast instead!)", "no coffee or cocktail days (drink juice or water instead!)". Think about selecting one good habit to add (and one bad habit to eliminate) for a week, such as adopting an attitude of gracious gratitude and eliminate the self-serving attitude of entitlement; serve others before serving self, and the like. Be sure to keep in contact with God to help you overcome the difficult times; if you fall, forgive yourself and continue with God's grace to achieve your goal.

Post "reminder" notes in places you utilize every day: on your bathroom mirror, your computer screen, your automobile steering wheel, and other such places you are inclined to "look at" frequently each day to keep you focused on your commitment to the Lord Jesus and yourself. You are in this work together!

Whatever challenge you decide to pursue, remember WHY and for WHOM you are undertaking this effort during the season of Lent. You are called to give honor and glory to God, to become more Christ-like, to become more Spirit-led. Along the way of this spiritual experiential journey, you may stumble and fall, suffer a bit, be tempted to "give up", understand self-sacrifice, lean on God for strength to endure to the end. Looking back after Easter Sunday, the blessing is the reward of a "new you" --a new creation--to have followed the way of Christ for forty days! As for the Lenten Coin, I never heard of it either; it is simply a metaphor that arose from my imagination!

-- Rob Riehl