



Transforming Lives,
Communities, and
the World for
300 Years

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THE BRICKETTE

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



A Message from the Pastor

We're Celebrating New Members on January 6th.

On January 6th following worship in the red brick church, everyone is invited to re-gather in **Price Hall** where our bountiful **hospitality table** awaits! We will enjoy a special time for conversation and expressing gratitude to God for the new spiritual energy represented by 2018's seven new members!

"And the Lord added to their number..." (Acts 2:47).

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on January 27th.

Please submit your committee report as soon as possible, via e-mail to Judy at ~
hello@coldspringchurch.com

Worship service will be held in Price Hall on that Sunday and immediately following a luncheon will be served.

Open Your Deck Chair!



This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone (Titus 3:8, NIV).

Then Jesus made a circuit of all the towns and villages. He taught in their meeting places, reported kingdom news, and healed their diseased bodies, healed their bruised and hurt lives. When he looked out over the crowds, his heart broke. So confused and aimless they were, like sheep with no shepherd. "What a huge harvest!" he said to his disciples. "How few workers! On your knees and pray for harvest hands!" (Matthew 9:37-38, MSG).

Hello friend,

Happy New Year! Thank you for being connected to Cold Spring Presbyterian Church, and reading this issue of the *Brickette*. The first week of each month, the *Brickette* will highlight upcoming events and tell the story of our community of faith as it enters its 305th year of ministry, witness, and mission. Also, remember to sign-up to receive the weekly *Connections* news brief. While the *Brickette* is a monthly review and pre-view, receiving our *Connections* in your inbox (usually sent Thursday each week) will give you a timely, quick read of the weekend-ahead events including worship, activities, and lots of photos that help tell the amazing way people like you are making a difference in greater Cape May. And, you can catch-up on past issues of both the *Brickette* and the *Connections* online, too!

SS Cold Spring Church- One of my favorite **Peanuts** cartoons shows Lucy, once again, lecturing Charlie Brown on the meaning of life: “Charlie Brown, life is like a deck chair on a cruise ship. Passengers open up these canvas deck chairs so they can sit in the sun. Some people place their chairs facing the rear of the ship so they can see where they’ve been. Other people face their chairs forward – they want to see where they’re going. On the cruise ship of life, *which way is your deck chair facing?*” Charlie replies, feeling frustrated: “I’ve never been able to get one unfolded.”

Sometimes we can feel a lot like Charlie Brown. Getting stuck at getting started! It can consume our valuable time, energy, and attention to the point that we end up accomplishing very little, and even more importantly, could end up distressed, or depressed, figuring out the next step! For Charlie, which way his deck chair was facing, finding his place on the ship was secondary to getting the deck chair opened in the first place!

Opening our own life’s *deck chairs* represent how we invest three gifts that God has given all of us to share. And I mean *all* of us; no matter our age or experience, whatever our talents or interests, or particular cycle of life, or our mobility. The three gifts are our Time, Energy, and Attention. (Think of it as our TEA, for short: Time, Energy, and Attention.) As the New Year begins, take a moment to review how your TEA is tasting! If you have lots of Energy and Attention, but no Time, you probably feel *overwhelmed*. If you have Time and Attention, but no Energy, you are likely *exhausted*. Or, maybe you have lots of Time and Energy, but no Attention. If that describes you, then you are probably *distracted*. But when our TEA is in balance, we can “open our deck chairs” to feeling more energized and engaged. And, we will feel more satisfied in doing good in the community in the name of Jesus Christ! We will find our own unique place on the ship called, Cold Spring Presbyterian Church. God commissioned us three hundred years ago to chart a course for blessing our community in the name of Jesus Christ. Do you need help with your deck chair?

Consider the scripture verses above for insight from God’s word about how we can find our place on board. The Apostle Paul wrote the letter to Titus, the New Testament book bearing his name, as a kind of instruction manual for the young pastor. Titus was concerned about what activities the new community of faith should focus on. The believers who met at Titus’ house church on the Island of Crete didn’t just to be busy. They wanted their Time, Energy, and Attention focused on the right priorities. Loving and glorifying God. Serving others. So Paul stressed— devote yourselves to doing good! That’s Titus’ bottom line as he followed Christ, and how Paul wanted every ministry and activity to be evaluated. Was it good for others? Did it accomplish good, or not? If so, do more of that. And if not, then stop doing *that*!

Jesus’ words inspire us to get involved in this New Year. He said, “What a huge harvest! How few workers!” When we look at the greater Cape May community of neighbors, friends, and family, do we see opportunities? Well, God does. And God has invited Cold Spring Presbyterian Church to “open our deck chairs” and do good! There’s work to accomplish. Love to demonstrate. Service to offer. Like it was said of Jesus who *reported kingdom news, and healed their diseased bodies, healed their bruised and hurt lives*. Proclaiming the Good News about Jesus requires us to do good. To bless others. To respect others. To welcome everyone.

Once we figure out where we put our “opened deck chair” we will know how we fit in, join in, or serve by investing our Time, Energy, and Attention better. Some of us want to celebrate where we’ve been. We have lots of experience. That’s great. You would be a great encourager, prayer warrior, or contributor, and your source of wisdom can help us move forward. Or, perhaps you are called to face forward and help to set the course, grow, and help the ship bring its gifts to the community.

Our communities and neighborhoods deserve hope and wellness of mind, body and spirit. Cold Spring Presbyterian Church has the spiritual resources to do even more good in 2019. Will you consider your TEA this week and ask God how to best invest your Time, Energy, and Attention. Get those deck chairs opened and get ready, “striving what lies ahead” (Philippians 3:13). I think 2019 is going to be an amazing adventure in our 305th year of doing good in Jesus’ name. All aboard!

Sincerely,



sbyterian Church | The Brickette January 2019



Food Pantry Donations Needed

FOOD CUPBOARD NEWS FOR JANUARY 2019

As the winter season is upon us more people are experiencing real hardship. We hear every day about the homeless among us. The food banks are begging for supplies to fill their shelves. We have been blessed here at Cold Spring Presbyterian Church with many generous people who donate to our weekly food drive. Unfortunately many in our community head south for the winter, which makes a big difference in the donations to our food cupboard. ***Last***

month we collected over 320 items for our two food banks (St. Barnabas and the Church of the Nazarene). Through prayer and giving hearts we are responding to the need. I pray that we continue to meet the need and increase our sharing each month. With God's help, may we finish out the year by opening our hearts to others in need. The list below is 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.

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."

Deacon Collection for January

Jan 6	Instant rice, canned soups, Ramen Noodles, crackers
Jan 13	Toothpaste & brushes, soap (bars), toilet paper, pasta and sauce
Jan 20	Peanut butter and grape jelly, fruit cups, canned vegetables
Jan 27	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

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 December 4, 2018:

1. Minutes of Session Meeting of November 6, 2018;
2. West Jersey Presbytery Mission Pledge for 2019;
3. Clerk's Questionnaire to PCUSA for 2018;
4. Upgrade health care plan for cemetery superintendent;
5. Proposed budget for 2019 to be presented to congregation.

The Session also discussed the following agenda items in progress:

1. Paving and re-lining of Price Hall parking area;
2. Cemetery finances: examine and explore new marketing strategies;
3. Additional proposals for 2019 calendar of events;
4. Address and explore church security measures.

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 of Session



Wreaths across America has become a traditional ceremony here at Cold Spring Cemetery. Over the past twelve years, our veterans cemetery has been an approved host site for this nation-wide tribute to our military personnel both presently serving and those who have fallen. This annual event now takes place at over 1,000 locations

across our country simultaneously at 12-noon in concert with the principal event (and original site) at Arlington National Cemetery. Locally, our ceremonial tribute event is sponsored and supported by the contributions and participation of several civic associations and veterans organizations, and by the many individuals who deem it important for us as a nation to continue to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice of their lives to protect our liberties and freedoms.

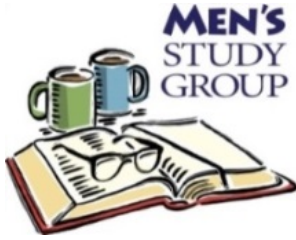


Standing upon such hallowed ground in the veterans' section of this historic cemetery moves one to reflect upon the thoughts of our revered President Abraham Lincoln who noted that such military men gave their utmost devotion to duty, hoped that they not have died in vain, and that the government of, by, and for the people not perish from the earth. In more recent times, President Ronald Reagan called upon us to teach the younger generations the value of remembering and honoring those who have fought to preserve our freedoms and way of life --that

we are never more than one generation away from losing the liberties that we now have. On Saturday, December 15, 2018, here at Cold Spring, our church and community reaffirmed their commitment by their presence and participation to remember the fallen, to honor those who presently serve, and --by their word and example-- to teach our children and grandchildren the value of freedom.



ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Men's Group Ministry:

"If your dream doesn't scare you, it's too small." *New York Times* best-selling author Mark Batterson delivers a bold message to everyone with a big dream. His new book **Chase the Lion** proposes a radically different approach to life. Our dreams should scare us! They should be so big that without God they would be impossible to achieve. It's only when we stop fearing failure that we can fully seize the opportunity for God to show up and show His power! Join us for the reading and discussion of this life-changing book on the first and third Wednesdays of each

month. All men are welcome!

Christian Living:

An unfulfilled life is no way to exist. In his new book and DVD series "***A Life Beyond Amazing***", Dr. David Jeremiah uncovers God's strategy for change and challenges you to make nine important decisions that will transform your heart, your life, and your world. Each of us has just one life to live. Our lives should matter and have purpose. Dr. Jeremiah urges us to reach out and grasp a life beyond our dreams. "A life beyond amazing can be lived right here on earth!" Join us for the viewing and discussion of this life-changing DVD series on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. Everyone is welcome!

Affirmation of Faith:

Our "Fifth Wednesday Special" (January 30) presents the new DVD "***The Biblical Case for Cultural Engagement***". Christians have a unique calling to be salt and light in the world. But should this be limited only to the proclamation of the Gospel? With experience as a pastor, attorney, and public policy analyst, Abraham Hamilton brings a unique perspective to the intersection of Christianity and culture. In this presentation, he walks us through the Scriptures to examine the ways God has called every believer to be a cultivating force in the beliefs, pursuits, and practices of society. What does it mean to disciple the nations? What does Jesus mean by being "salt" and "light"? How and why does God's glory become the goal of cultural engagement? Learn how these biblical truths, in turn, affirm our faith! Everyone is welcome! We will gather at 10:15 a.m. for coffee and fellowship, with our presentation beginning at 10:30 a.m. All classes meet in the Taylor Room of Price Hall.



God Is On The Move! Volunteers With A Car Needed! Are you looking for a way serve others in a very practical way, have room in your car and enjoy company? Consider volunteering to be on our ***God Is on the Move!*** Riding team. "Holiness is best demonstrated by generosity" (Lk 11:41, LB). **Need a Ride?!** If you know of someone who would appreciate a ride to worship, or to our other events, please let us know. We want to put them in touch with volunteers who can assist with that! Cold Spring Presbyterian Church, where God Is On the Move!



The January meeting of the Mary Circle will be at 7 p.m. on January 15. Elaine Jordan and Dianne Riehl will be co-hostesses. Roseann Paulits will do the Bible reading and Barbara Cain will read from the Mission Book. We will be meeting as usual in Price Hall.

"Just One Thing"

What is the "one thing" that you can *easily do* to improve the quality of your life? How can you make this year better than last year? How does one change the humdrum routine of the "same old-same old" way of living? Sometimes we fail at our new year's resolutions because inadvertently we set ourselves up for failure. We imagine accomplishing great things to dramatically change the course of our lives; we set a goal with high expectations. We assume that we are now "ready to go"! But then "things fall apart" and we ask "what happened?" We may have a difficult time getting started; we may feel discouraged after a setback, and then we find excuses to rationalize giving up the pursuit of our dream. Why couldn't we "stay the course"? We can do a better job at fulfilling our new year's resolutions; the goal needs an action plan! We need to *prepare* for success by pre-planning what we want to accomplish. Choose something that you *really* want to do, something that you can *easily* do, and something that you can do *with regularity* be it daily, weekly, or as the opportunities arise. If appropriate, schedule the "one thing" on your calendar and/or post reminders on your computer; consider asking your spouse to remind you! Make the "one thing" as concrete and specific as possible. See it as an *enjoyable and uplifting* thing to do rather than a duty or burden; your success will encourage you to continue with your desired goal. View it as your personal *mission to improve* the quality of your life and enhance the lives of those with whom you encounter. Improving our mental and physical well-being, our social life, and our skill set is important to live a healthy, productive, and perhaps a prosperous life what the secular world would call "the *good life*"!

Have you considered applying these "good life" suggestions to creating "*the better life*"? Everyone acknowledges the limitations and temporal nature of the human body, and we Christians know by our faith beliefs that the human soul is without such limitations and is an immortal spirit. Because we know this truth, which realm therefore has *everlasting* value? By which realm do we give glory to God? Let us then invest some time into improving our *spiritual life*. The apostle Paul tells us "Therefore, *if anyone is in Christ*, the new creation has come: the old is gone, the new is here!" (2 Cor 5:17) We can learn to know Jesus Christ not just *about* Him as a historical figure, but forming an intimate personal relationship with Him. As we do with our human relationships, we create opportunities to spend time with Jesus He becomes our best friend! Consider how you might spend time with Jesus beyond the weekly worship service: set aside some private quiet time conversing with Him several times throughout your day; read a book about Christian values; meditate on a biblical passage followed by a scripture commentary for a deeper understanding; participate in a bible study discussion group.

We can also learn to become Christ-like we can do the work of Jesus Christ, being His hands and feet to serve others in His name. Consider how you might actively serve in your church missions and ministries beyond the weekly worship service. Consider how you might interact within your sphere of influence outside of church life: Can you become "salt" and "light" to those in your world? Can you become the peace-maker in your extended family? Can you lead others to Christ by your example in word and deed? What is it that you sense God is calling you to do? This "one thing" that you freely accept to do will increase your own spiritual growth in His wisdom and empower you to extend His grace and mercy to others! As the apostle Paul encouraged himself, he also encourages us, "*I press on* toward the goal to win the prize for which *God has called me* heavenward in Christ Jesus." (Phil.3:14)... *I press on* to take hold of that for which Christ *Jesus took hold of me*!" (Phil.3:12) God has a personal plan for you to accomplish in His name. Let this New Year be the start of just this "one thing" to *energize your spirit* and *transform your life*! And if you are already on this path, consider adding just another "one thing" this year. Picture yourself after adding just "one *new* thing" every year --imagine what your old life would become: a "new creation" as Paul would say. Embrace and "press on" with your new "heavenward vision"! "And whatever you do, whether in word or

deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."(Col.3:17)
Ponder these thoughts, pray for discernment, and follow the pulse of the Holy Spirit who dwells within your heart. You will come to see in retrospect that this "one thing" you choose to do this year will begin to change your life.
---- Rob Riehl

ARE YOU READY TO GROW IN 2019?



Explore the possibilities at Cold Spring Church!

Our **Explorer New Member Orientation** begins February 3rd. (Time and location will be announced soon.) Whatever your previous church experience, or none at all, you're warmly invited to grow from a Tourist (attending and looking in) to that of an Explorer (engaging and connecting) by attending our Explorer Group on Sundays in February. Our four, 40-minute, informal sessions will be guided by our pastor, Rev.

Kevin Yoho. You can ask questions, explore spirituality and faith, and learn more about resources and connections at Cold Spring Church. While there is no obligation, you may choose to become a member after completing the energizing orientation. Let Pastor Kevin know you want to be an Explorer, today. 2019 can be the year of new possibilities for you!

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

Looking for an Outreach Ministry?



Stephen Ministers are members of local church congregations who receive special training to provide one-on-one Christian care to people in our congregation experiencing challenges in life - grief, loneliness, divorce, hospitalization, disability, job loss, and many other life difficulties. Add a "higher-calling" purpose to your life: provide confidential Christian care to someone in need of your help! To learn how to become a Stephen Minister or to receive care from one, contact Rob Riehl (609-889-3538; robriehl@verizon.net) for a confidential conversation.