

THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

HOLIDAY 2016

Christ Presbyterian Church

“Faith, Family, Friends and Fun!”

515 E. Main Street Marlton, NJ 08053 • 856-983-2171 • cpc-marlton.org

A BEAUTIFUL BEGINNING...

The following is the speech that was given at the dedication ceremony of the stain glass in the Sanctuary. It was read by the artist who created the stained glass.

*Dedication of the
Louis J Althen Window
Christ Presbyterian Church,
Marlton, NJ*

December 20, 1987

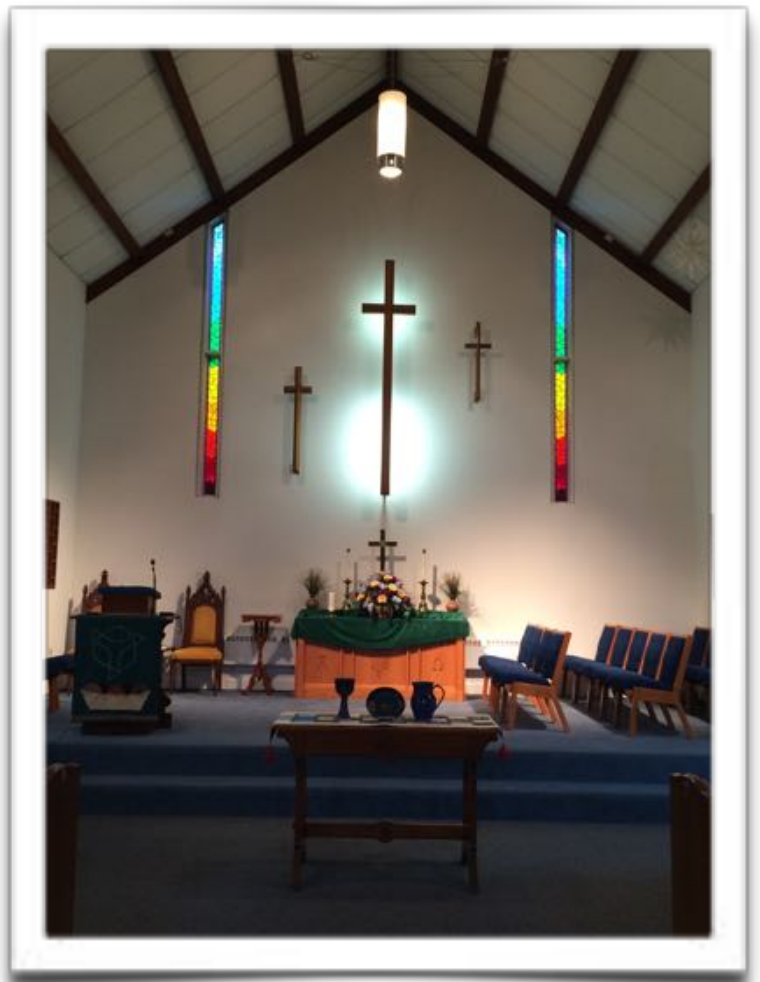
*Artist: George Kelly
Presentation given by George Kelly*

Genesis, Chapter 9, v. 14-16:

May the Lord add his blessing and understanding to the reading of His holy word.

Let us pray:

Father, we just want to thank you for your gift of life, that we might come to know you and your multitude of blessings; and for those people that we have time on earth to know and care for. We pray that more and more people, Lord, have eyes to see and ears to hear your blessings. We pray, Heavenly Father, that you will bless these stained glass windows that are a new edition to your house, that they might somehow consecrate and cheer the gathering of ourselves together here. We thank you, Father, for your precious gift of your son, Jesus, in whose season we now celebrate, because His coming to Earth as a man is truly the good news of the gospel. Amen.





I have always thought of prayers answered as miracles performed by the Lord. Being commissioned to do stained glass windows for a church was the answer to my prayers. I am reminded of the hymns who wrote:
"To God be the Glory, to God be the Glory, to God be the Glory, for the things He has done."

I never knew Louis Althen, but from everything I have heard about him, I have surmised that he was blessed with some very loving and kind children and a devoted, loving wife. I have heard that he was an avid admirer of stained glass, and that he was a fine Christian gentleman. I was therefore honored and uplifted when I was chosen to craft these memorial windows in memory of Mr. Althen and for the glory of our Lord and Savior.

At first I was uncertain, long, narrow spaces, only 7.5 inches wide - what should I put there? Then the Lord began to help me. As we observe the world of nature, we must come to the conclusion that God must love a profusion of colors. Indeed, the Lord loves to share His joy with us as well as His living kindness and tender mercies. he gave us the rainbow as a reminder of these very traits.

And so I decided on the rainbow as the motif for my work. How nicely it fits, the use of color in religious symbolism and tradition. Depending, of course, on which end of the spectrum you begin with. Red is symbolic for fire and blood, orange of endurance, yellow stands for loyalty, and then comes green.

Green is one of my favorites because it is a symbol of nature, and it signifies the hope of eternal life. It is the color of Spring and rebirth - the one thing that without which - honor, loyalty, strength, endurance, charity, all of these good aspects mean nothing. Green is the crucial color. It is our Lord's coming here with us, Emanuel. It is the first step towards mankind's salvation, his rebirth.

I quote from John, Chapter 3, verse 3.

"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." And after green comes violet and purple, the next step in our salvation. Purple, the color of sorrow and suffering, and of royalty. What could possibly be a more appropriate color for our Prince of Peace, our King of Kings, who was crucified, who suffered and sorrowed and shed His precious blood so that we might be forgiven. Jesus' blood covered our sins and washed them whiter than snow, just as the border of these windows surrounds all the colors of the rainbow. I took the violet out of the ascending order of the colors in the window because it was the most significant. It symbolized the great love our Lord had for His children, demonstrated by the ultimate sacrifice of His Son. It surrounds and covers the windows just as the crucifixion surrounds and covers us.

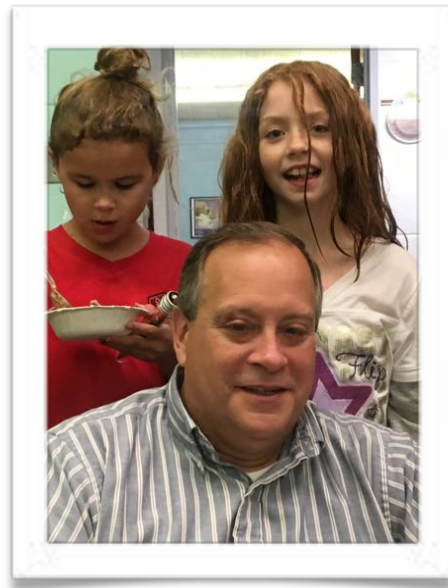
Well then, after we are reborn in the Spirit and we realize the significance of the sacrifice of our Lord, we are on our way into the color blue, the color which symbolizes heaven and signifies truth.

Jesus said, "... I am the Light of the world." And that is why there is such a light, blue-white piece of glass at the top of these windows. There, is where God is; where Purity, Joy and Glory are. Where Louis Althen is - in the presence of God. A faithful servant, with his master, eternally.

Praise God!

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING!

Everyone who came out to this years Annual Fall Fest had a wonderful time! There was lots of great food - as always - pumpkin painting, s'mores, bobbing for apples (as seen by wet heads) and just a fun of fellowship with friends! It is something we always look forward to and hope that you do too!



Also...

Thank you to everyone who came out to help on Fall Cleanup Day on November 12th! No pictures were taken, we were so busy working!! Many hands made for a productive day, and it was very appreciated.

Finally...

In November our very own Pastor Ryan participated in two community services. The first was the Ecumenical service, held at St. Mary of the Lakes church in Medford. The other was the Marlton Community Thanksgiving Eve Service, held at Wiley Church here in

Marlton. We are so proud to have our Pastor participate and represent our church. Thank you to all that were able to get out to these services and support our church as a presence in the community!



Merry Christmas



Christmas Tree Facts

Merry Christmas

The first Xmas Tree was put up in Riga, Latvia in 1510.

Top Christmas Tree Producing States

1. Oregon.
2. North Carolina.
3. Pennsylvania.
4. Michigan.
5. Washington.
6. Wisconsin.

Christmas Tree Varieties / Types

1. Scotch pine.
2. Douglas fir.
3. Noble fir.
4. Fraser fir.
5. Virginia pine.
6. Balsam fir.
7. White pine.

History

Mark Carr in 1851 began selling Christmas tree for the first time

Real VS Artificial

More than 85% of the artificial trees are sourced from China

In 2003 Global sales of Artificial trees numbered in 10 million almost

In 2011, 66% of US citizens used artificial Christmas trees

In the White House

Cats' Top Ten Favorite Christmas Songs

10. Up on the Mousetop
9. Have Yourself a Furry Little Christmas
8. Joy to the Curled
7. I Saw Mommy Hiss at Santa Claus
6. The First Meow
5. Oh, Come All Ye Fishful
4. Silent Mice
3. Fluffy, the Snowman
2. Jingle Balls
1. Wreck the Halls!



CHRISTMAS FUN FACTS

from around the world

IN IRELAND, CHILDREN LEAVE MINCE PIES AND GUINNESS OUT FOR SANTA.



SWEDEN'S TRADITIONAL DESSERT IS PEPPARKAKOR, A GINGERBREAD COOKIE SHAPED IN A HEART, STAR OR GOAT



THE SYMBOLIC CHRISTMAS TREE ORIGINATED FROM GERMANY



IN VENEZUELA, TRAFFIC IS CLOSED OFF FOR EARLY MORNING MASS SO EVERYONE CAN SKATE THERE!



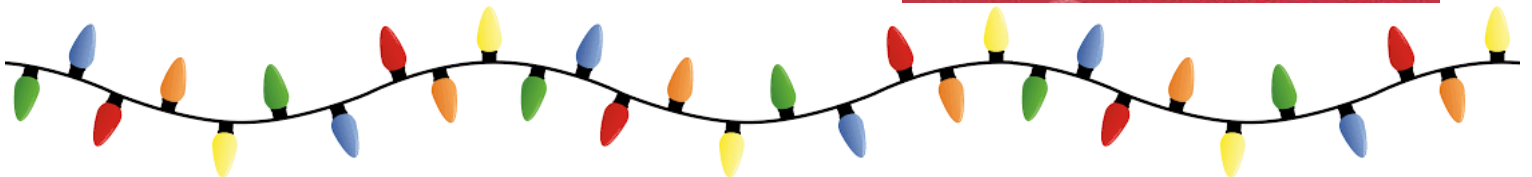
OVER 1.7 BILLION CANDY CANES ARE MADE EVERY YEAR AROUND THE WORLD



THE FIRST SNOWMAN EVER DOCUMENTED WAS IN AN ILLUSTRATION FROM 1380!



IN ITALY, CHILDREN WAIT FOR LA BEFANA, A FRIENDLY WITCH WHO BRINGS SWEETS & TOYS ON JANUARY 5TH.



'Tis the Season...

Christmas Wassail

3 cups sugar
1 qt. water
12 whole cloves
4 allspice berries
4 sticks cinnamon
2 T. chopped candied ginger
(or a small amount ground ginger)
3 c. orange juice
3 c. lemonade
2 qts. apple juice or cider
2 pts. cranapple juice

Boil sugar and water together for 10 minutes.
Add spices and allow to sit, covered, for 1 hour.
Remove spices. Add juices, bring to a
boil and serve hot. Makes 6 qts.



 **Ginger Snaps**

Ingredients
Baking powder - 1 tsp
all purpose flour - 3 cups
baking soda - 1/2 tsp
ground ginger - 1 tsp
ground cinnamon - 1/2 tsp
salt - 1/2 tsp
cayenne pepper - just a pinch
hard margarine softened - 1/2 cup
granulated sugar - 1/2 cup
luscious molasses - 1/2 cup
cold prepared tea - 2 cup

Mix first 7 ingredients *etc. well*
together in medium bowl.

Cream margarine *Mix*
& sugar together in large bowl
Add molasses & prepared tea
Add flour mixture *Mix Well*

Cover & refrigerate overnight
Roll out on
lightly floured table about 1/8 inch thick
Cut into 2 1/2 inch circles
place on greased cookie sheet

Bake
at 375° even - 10 to 12 minutes

Makes 4 1/2 dozen cookies



Have you seen the new website???

Check it out!

cpc-marlton.org

DID YOU KNOW...?

FYI On Church Finances...

Required Minimum Distributions (RMD)

For those senior citizens who have IRAs or 401-Ks and are looking at taking their RMDs this year, you might consider having a portion sent directly to Christ Presbyterian Church. Such distributions are charitable contributions and are not taxable. It is a way of giving to the mission of the church with before-tax dollars. For more information contact a member of the CPC Finance Committee or your tax accountant.

Also...

If you haven't turned in your pledge card for 2017, there's still time! Please complete the pledge card, located at the table in back of the sanctuary, and place it in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office. Thank you for your support!

Finally...

We also are in the last month of 2016! So if you have not paid your Per Capita, there is still time to do that as well. Also, if you are behind in your pledge, this is the last month to catch up. The church office will be closed 12/26-12/30. You may check with the Administrative Assistant if you are unsure of your pledge standing. Thank you!



“LIKE” us on Facebook

Parson to Person

Advent is here, and almost gone already! We've journeyed together through these weeks, reflecting upon our preparation for Christ's birth. Our Advent wreath reminds us that the light of our Savior shines in the darkness, and in the words of the apostle John "the darkness did not overcome it." While we prepare our souls for this gift of God, the Christmas season also brings with it great memories of the past Christmas times spent with family and friends. We



often remember those no longer with us in the stories we tell around times of sharing meals and exchanging gifts. Somehow at those gatherings, the stories never seem to get old; new ears in our families hear them for the first time, while for others the memories shared and stories told have been repeated over and over again. Christmas is a special season as it holds the past, present and future together all at once in a single season. I've not found another season of the church that has quite this combination that Advent holds too. As Christians we know and celebrate the past birth of Jesus, recall his ministry, teachings, death and resurrection as we live in the kingdom of God in the present, and look for Christ's coming again in the future.

The Christmas story repeats itself every year, but for me and perhaps you, it holds new truths each year. Over this past year, our relationship with God and our church deepens and changes. Perhaps in our lives we've had blessings and struggles, and in those moments have been able to deepen our faith, and experience and see God more clearly. Our church has reached out more to the community around our church this year than last at this time, and there's energy and excitement to continue reaching to those who are spiritually hungry in 2017. Similar to hearing the old stories and memories as our families gather, so too we find strength in hearing about God's ultimate gift of love that first Christmas night in Bethlehem. How God took two ordinary, common people in Mary and Joseph to usher in the birth of our Savior. The city had no room in its inns for Mary and Joseph, but an innkeeper made room for them in a stable with animals. God works often in the ordinary places with ordinary people. Jesus was born in a stable with animals, shepherds visited and spread the message of the child in a manger. We too in Advent and all year long are given ministry opportunities from God as ordinary people to show love and care for others, that take us to ordinary places we might never have imagined we travel.

Yet as God leads us to Christ this Christmas, perhaps this year we've experienced God in a new way. Take some quiet moments from the busy times this Christmas to hear God's still small voice. Share quality time with friends and family. Make that phone call to someone you've lost contact with so long ago you can't remember why. Send a Christmas card to someone you dropped from your list years ago just to let them know you care. Bring a neighbor or friend to church to experience this Christmas with a loving and caring church family. For it is in giving of ourselves to others that we remember and receive the greatest gift—that of love. Have a safe and wonderful Christmas, and prayers for traveling mercies. Embrace this special gift of the newborn baby, God's greatest gift of love for us all.

In Christ's Service, *Lory*

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW



EVENTS CALENDAR

- Saturday December 17.....Prayer Shawl, 10:30am, CPC
 - Sunday, December 18.....Alternative Christmas Shopping, 12pm after service
 - Sunday December 18Christmas Caroling, 5pm at CPC
 - Saturday, December 24Christmas Eve Service, 7pm, CPC
 - Sunday, December 25.....Christmas Day Service, 10am, CPC
 - *Monday December 26 - Friday, December 30Church Office Closed
 - *Monday, January 16Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
 - Wednesday January 18Presbyterian Women, 10:00am, CPC
 - Saturday January 21.....Prayer Shawl, 10:30am, CPC
 - Sunday January 29.....Annual Congregational Meeting, after service
 - Wednesday February 15.....Presbyterian Women, 10:00am
 - Saturday February 18Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10:30am
 - *Monday, February 20President's Day
- * Days the Church Office will be closed

For a complete Calendar or changes, visit the Calendar on our website at cpc-marlton.org



MUSIC MINISTRY

Do you have a love of singing or music?
Join us every week on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm for fun and fellowship with other members of Christ Presbyterian Church!
We'd love to see you there!

Prayer Shawl Ministry is

Teaching...

Praying...

Laughing...

Working...



Join us monthly, every 3rd Saturday at 10:30am for fellowship amongst the women of Christ Presbyterian Church!
We'd love to see you there!

*If you have something you would like to see in the Spring edition of the Kindred Spirit, please email your content and photos to andrearottkamp@gmail.com All information must be submitted no later than February 20th, and is greatly appreciated!
Thank you!*

Pastor The Rev. Lory D. Ryan
Minister of Music Toni Burdey
Admin Assistant Andrea Rottkamp
Nursery Attendant Elaine Grippio
Treasurer Alice Wooden-Kelly

<u>Session</u>	<u>Deacons</u>
Gerry Ehala,	Elizabeth Krchnavek,
Clerk of Session	Moderator
Criss Houck	Lynn Gallant-Blume
Tanya Iannuzzi	Elaine Grippio
Bonnie Jewart	James Murphy
Robert Krchnavek	Rebecca Ojeda
Rose Van Keuren	Andrea Rottkamp
William Van Keuren	Kimberly Smolley
Alice Wooden-Kelly	Chris Welch
Dylan Jewart, Youth Advisory Delegate to Session	

If anyone needs to contact Rev. Ryan, he may be reached at 609-413-6030, or at revldavis@gmail.com.

The church office is closed on Fridays, but Pastor may be reached by cell phone in case of an emergency.

DECEMBER/JANUARY/FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

December Birthdays

4 Tanya Iannuzzi
 8 Robert Conolly
 13 Ryan & Savannah Pietarinen
 20 Colleen Conolly
 23 Cindy Conolly
 30 James Ojeda
 31 Betty Meserall

January Birthdays

10 Haley Farrow
 16 Dolores Haynor
 22 Don Henriksen
 23 Donielle Panchamsingh
 24 Bonnie Jewart

February Birthdays

1 Kim Smolley
 2 Chris Welch
 4 Gerry Ehala
 10 Abbie Murphy & Ray Whener
 15 Christan Iannuzzi
 18 Andrea Rottkamp
 20 Debi Murphy

February Anniversaries

14 John & Toni Burdey
 14 Mike & Donna O'Brien