



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BORDENTOWN

CHURCH ADDRESS: 420 FARNSWORTH AVENUE

OFFICE ADDRESS: 435 FARNSWORTH AVENUE

BORDENTOWN, NJ 08505

OFFICE PHONE: 609-298-1243

WWW.BORDENTOWNPRESBYTERIAN.ORG

BORDENTOWNPRESBYTERIAN@GMAIL.COM

SEPTEMBER 2017

What's Heaven Like?

Last week, as I was strolling down Farnsworth Avenue, I passed a 4 or 5-year-old boy with his mom in front of the Veterans memorial. The boy pointed to that small commemorative space and asked, "Is that a heaven?" I was walking past them right as he asked, and I didn't get to hear his mom's answer. If I was her, I'm not sure what I would've told him.

The previous week, I was cleaning the Sunday School classrooms above Play & Learn with some youth group members, and we stumbled upon a sheet of paper, maybe two years old, that had "*What We Think Heaven Is Like*" written in pencil at the top. On the page were recorded various answers from Sunday Schoolers (who will remain nameless—tempting though it is to tell). Some of their answers were run-of-the-mill: clouds, angels, flying, beautiful music, perfect bliss. Other answers would've probably surprised you, as they surprised me: your body can be any color you want it to be—"like purple."

Are the Sunday Schoolers right? Is every Renaissance era painting of Heaven you've seen pretty much accurate (maybe with a little purple thrown in)? Or is it much simpler than that: a spiritual place of rest? Or maybe that little boy was more right than he realized: maybe the memories of the dead—whether preserved in a monument or just floating in the minds of the living—are as close to a heaven as there is.

I'm a pastor, and I've read a whole lot of theology about what happens to us after we die, so you might expect me have some substantial insight here. Honestly, though, I think that the wisest answer to questions like these is a shrug of the shoulders. Sure, the Bible gives us plenty of words and images about the afterlife, and we can learn a lot from them, but not all of these words and images are compatible. They are a hodgepodge of second-long glimpses, all from different perspectives, different contexts, and different eras.

Really, at the end of the day—at the end of every day of our lives—none of us knows exactly what happens to us after we die. At the end of our lives, we'll know. And for me, that's enough. But only because I trust that God loves me, that God loves the world, and that God won't love us any worse in death than God has loved us in life.

Personally, one of my favorite verses about the afterlife is 1 John 3:2. "Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when Christ is revealed, we will be like Christ." May this verse and any others to which you are drawn give you glimpses of peace as you move through life and towards death.

In Hope,
William

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- Sept 2—Matt VanPelt
- Sept 3—Bobbi Maiuro
- Sept 4—Nick Venezia
- Sept 7—Pat Andrus
- Sept 8—Rich Marchetti
- Sept 10—Kerri Pell
- Sept 11—Wendy Huber
- Sept 14—Linda Applegate
Josh Pell
- Sept 17—Nancy Rodman
- Sept 18—Cole Marchetti
- Sept 19—Linda Hamilton
- Sept 20—Ethan Murray
- Sept 23—Edith Van Arsdale
- Sept 24—James Murray
- Sept 25—Gordon Potts
- Sept 27—Ted Miller
- Sept 30—Ryan Patterson



September 17
Blake & Christine Bolinger

September 19
Ted & Linda Miller

September 21
Mark & Elke McAteer

September 23
Duane & Megan Arnold

September 30
Robert & Nina Horton

Reminder

The Congregational Life and Mission Commissioners have agreed that our church, as we did last year, will host a Community Action group from Princeton University the first week of September (Monday the 4th through Friday the 8th).



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Marie Katona; Vincene Palmonari; Mae Hamilton; Evelyn Seyebe; Edith Van Arsdale; Paul Sootkoos; Jean Allegretti; Ann McFate; Shawna (Kochie) Catarinicchia.

Please contact the office or the Deacon on call if you wish to add someone to this long-term prayer list.

DEACONS' CORNER

**Deacons' Meeting September 10, 2017
(following Worship)**

FOOD PANTRY: Ongoing donations of non-perishable food are collected in baskets at the rear of the sanctuary. A deacon delivers these to St. Mary's Food Pantry. **Current needs of the Food Pantry include:** tomato sauce; baked beans; canned chicken; Chef Boyardee; Beefaroni.

MEDICAL SUPPLY CLOSET: Please contact the Deacon on Call if you are in need of medical supplies (i.e. walkers, canes, portable toilets). We are not collecting additional supplies at this time.

CARE NOTES: There is a new collection of Care Notes in the display rack on the wall at the back of the sanctuary for your use. Feel free to share them with someone you know.

Take one - Take Heart
Give One - Give Hope

FALL SENIOR LUNCHEON: The date is **Saturday, October 21, 2017 at 12:00 noon** in Fellowship Hall. More details coming soon...

Deacon on call: Pat Andrus (609) 499-1028

Your Deacons,
Pat Andrus, Megan Arnold, Karen Chamberlin,
Amy Dallas, Jane Erickson, Marlene Lyszczak,
Bobbi Maiuro, Lisa Van Pelt

Youth Deacon: Celia Bolinger

WHO'S IN CHARGE FOR SEPTEMBER

Pastoral Care—Pastor William Stell

PastorWiliam@bordentownpresbyterian.org

Church Office: (609) 298-1243

Cell: (609) 316-7165

Deacon-on-Call or the Deacon moderator
(Pat Andrus, 499-1038)

Director of Music — Gwendolyn Huber

Accompanist — Dr. Bob Lowden

Office Manager — Donna Valeri, 298-1243

Office Hours: Wed, Thurs, Fri 10-2

bordentownpresbyterian@gmail.com

Sunday Mornings

To volunteer:

- ◆ *to be a Worship Reader, please contact
Donna Potts.*
- ◆ *for Fellowship Hour, please contact
Kathie Ackerman.*

Readers Needed: Please sign up to be an occasional Reader for Sunday Worship. It's easy and all you have to do is read 2 things: *the Prayer for Illumination and First Reading.* You will get an email with your script the Friday before Worship and a hard copy at church, so there is nothing to do but show up and read. **Thank you!**

Worship Readers (Please volunteer!)

9/03—

9/10—

9/17—

9/24—

Fellowship Hour (Please volunteer!)

9/03—

9/10—

9/17—

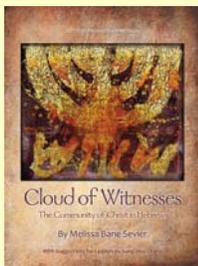
9/24—

Communion Servers — September 10th

Deb Branson, Lisa Van Pelt

Robert Joe Lee, John Burke

Women's Bible Study



Starting this year, we will discuss *Cloud of Witnesses*.

The Letter to the Hebrews is a significant book of the Bible, and is also much different from every other book in the Bible. It consists of thirteen chapters, all of which are packed with theology, metaphor, comparisons, and spirituality. We will explore nine major themes, relate those themes to other parts of our faith tradition, and tie them together with the overarching motif of community. The community for which the letter was written interacts, in a sense, with all the communities of which you are a part, because you bring those groups with you wherever you go—they have helped to form you into the person you are. The community in which you study and worship, your family and friends, social and therapy groups - all are part of you. Our prayer is that the study of community in Hebrews will help us strengthen our own communities.

All women are welcome!! Conversation is lively and covers many of our daily questions. These studies do not require a great knowledge of the Bible, only a desire to look at our personal spirituality. We meet the second and fourth Monday of each month. This year classes start **October 2 at 7 pm** in Julien House. **The book cost is \$8.00. Please contact Kathie Ackerman if you would like a book.**

YOGA CHURCH *

Sundays, 5:00-6:00PM
Starting Sept. 10th



Basement of First Presbyterian
(420 Farnsworth Ave.)

Donation-based
Vinyasa (flow) style
Bring your own mat or towel
Beginner's level in Sept. and Oct.
Mixed level in Nov. and thereafter
Certified yoga instructor Laura Di Panfilo
When the weather's nice, we'll be outside!

*** No religion. Just yoga. We promise.**

Sunday School and Youth

Rally Day September 10th

Sunday School ages preschool - grade 8 are invited to join us in the sanctuary at 9:15 am. **PARENTS** please join us! (For paperwork and new class info this year).



Youth Group will also start back up on the 10th. Youth Groupers keep an eye out for more details on times, etc.



September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:30 Worship	4 Labor Day 7:30 pm Women's AA	5	6	7 7:30 pm AA	8	9
10 RALLY DAY! 10:30 Worship Communion Deacons' Mtg 5-6 Yoga 6 pm YG	11 7:30 pm Women's AA	12 7 pm Session	13	14 7 pm Choir 7:30 pm AA	15	16
17 9:15 Church School 10:30 Worship 5-6 Yoga 6 pm YG	18 7:30 pm Women's AA	19	20 7 pm B&G	21 8 am Men's Breakfast 7 pm Choir 7:30 pm AA	22	23
24 10:30 Worship Mission Meal 5-6 Yoga 6 pm YG	25 7:30 pm Women's AA	26	27	28 7 pm Choir 7:30 pm AA 8:15 Bells	29	30

OFFICE HOURS: Wed, Thurs, Fri 10am-2pm

SUNDAY MORNINGS: Children's Chime Choir 8:55am ~ Church School, All Ages 9:15 am ~ Worship 10:30 am

Dates for your calendar

Choir: Thursday, September 14 at 7 in Play & Learn (The first Sunday is likely to be the 24th).

Handbells aka "Desperate Measures" - Thursday, September 28 -1st rehearsal at **8:15** (Sundays to be October 15, November 19, December 5 - check your calendars to see if those dates will work for you.)

Christmas Choir—rehearsals begin on October 19 at 7 pm.

If you're interested in joining the choir, speak to Wendy in church or contact her via email: giduly@juno.com or phone 215-582-5679 (texts are ok).



The Wanderers will be heading to **The Smithville Mansion** in

Eastampton on **September 14th.**

Time and lunch details TBA .

Sign up sheets are on the church counter.

Outing Group

Saturday, September 9th - Veterans Park in Hamilton at 10:30 am - take the Kuser Road entrance into the park. Keep driving back and follow the driveway/road to the trailhead.



Sunday, September 17th - Delaware Raritan Canal State Park foot path at **3:00 pm.** Meet at the Thomas Paine statue at the end of Prince Street near the river.

Please email Amy Dallas to get specifics for each trip: aedallas@verizon.net

Volunteers Needed!

Readers Needed: Please sign up to be an occasional **Reader** for Sunday Worship. It's easy and all you have to do is read 2 things: *the Prayer for Illumination and the First Reading*. You will get an email with your script the Friday before Worship and a hard copy at church, so there is nothing to do but show up and read. **Thank you!**

We are also in need of volunteers for Fellowship and Communion Servers!

"We endeavor in all things to nurture the fruit of the Spirit within the family of God."

From FPCB Mission Statement

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS!

*Bring canned/package meals for Bordentown Motel Ministry
On the THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH (September 17)
EVERY WEEK — Bring non-perishables for the Food Pantry*

September 3 - Labor Day Weekend

September 10 - 10:30 am Worship, **Communion** ; **Rally Day**; **Yoga Church**, **Youth Group**

September 17 - *First Day* of **Church School**; **Hike**; **Yoga**, **Youth Group**

September 24 - Mission Meal, **Yoga**, **Youth Group**



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