

Keeping In Touch

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF STAFFORD
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A Message from Our Pastor

Dear members and friends of Second Congregational Church,

Since the onset of Fall, there has been a lot happening at our church! In addition to regular weekly worship, we have been pleased to welcome some new members into our congregation and have also been blessed with the number of people coming to visit us at worship. In addition, we have had some active participation in our ongoing educational forums as well. In my view, as I have noted before, there is much positive vitality present in our congregation for sure! I look forward to even more involvement in these educational opportunities as we head into the months ahead.

At the time I am writing this, my own schedule is going to be somewhat different as this week I will be getting hip replacement surgery. While I look forward to coming back to Sunday worship soon, I will also have to be following doctor's orders so I cannot determine with absolute certainty exactly when I will be available.

However (and this is important), during this time when I am going through this procedure and following doctor's order for recovery, I want you to know that if you need to be in touch with me, please do not hesitate to do so. For those of you who access the Internet, feel free to email me at rpbksl@cox.net. If you wish, you may also contact me by phone at 860 670 6461.

While I will be taking time both to have the surgery and then to follow doctor's orders and while I cannot guarantee right now exactly when I will be able to be back, please know that during this time, I will continue to do all that I can to respond to the questions and the needs of members and friends of our wonderful congregation.

I also want to express my gratitude to Sarah Roman Greaves for her support in leading worship when I am going through some recovery. My personal hope is that I will get back soon, but I also have to be sure to be wise and follow the orders of the medical personnel who are helping me out.

Please also know that during the time I will not be available in person, in addition to being available to you via telephone and your emails or Facebook messages, I will continue to post information on a regular basis on my Facebook page which goes by the name Robert LaRochelle. If the technology works effectively, I am hoping to provide some video reflections from time to time during the period in which I am away from being in person.

As I write this, I wish to express my gratitude both for your kindness toward me and for the wonderful spirit that is so present at our church!

With best wishes and with thanks,

Pastor Bob
 Rev. Dr. Robert R. LaRochelle, Pastor

TREASURER'S REPORT

Category	Year-To-Date	Budget-To-Date	Percentage
R21—Freewill	\$ 3,292.00	\$ 1,125.00	293%
R22—Pledges	\$ 14,106.00	\$ 14,250.00	99%
R23—Contributions	\$ 5,029.00	\$ 3,937.50	128%
R24—Fund Raising	\$ 7,806.56	\$ 7,800.00	100%
Capital Campaign	\$ 1,860.00	\$ 2,860.00	83%

Through September 30, 2024

CHURCH COUNCIL

- **Pastor Report** Pastor Bob extended his thanks for the work put in for his Service of Installation and for everyone's kindness and understanding during the final days of Tricia's sister Rosemary. Bob also held the second Blessing of the Animals in October. Data shows an increase in church attendance.
- **Treasurer Report.** All bills are paid and current but he also pointed out that quarterly payments will be coming due and the heating season will start soon but as of now things look good.
- **Clerks Report** No report
- **Diaconate Report** The Deacons Fund has proven to be a valuable resource for our members and has been used twice in the past year so every donation counts, thank you for your continued support. As the Holidays approach we will once again be reaching out to those on our "check in list" who can't get around too well.
- **Trustee Report** No report
- **Financial Secretary** We are doing better than last year as far as money coming in but as noted in treasurer report we are going into the heating season.
- **Christian Education** We continue to have a great time in classes this year. Our nursery is being used and we have 2 volunteers to man it but we are looking for another volunteer as well as a Sunday School teacher if you are interested in either position see Andrew. We will have a Christmas Pageant the Sunday before Christmas sometime during service that morning.
- **Stewardship** The Stewardship committee will be distributing the appeal letter by the first week of November with Stewardship Sundry being the end of November - November 24th

Also discussed: Membership, baptisms, fund raisers (rest stop) and Christmas Eve plans. We will be asking for input on whether or not to have a service on Christmas Eve and if we do what time should we have it.

These are some of the items discussed and worked on at our October Council meeting.

Bruce Ladr
Moderator

DEACONS

Thank you to all who continue to contribute to our Deacon's Fund. For anyone who may not know, the Deacon's Fund is a confidential service provided to people in our church community who are in need of financial assistance. It has been used a few times in the past month. If you are in need of it, the Head Deacon (right now, it is me, Sarah R.G.) and the Pastor are the two people to talk to. They are the ones who approve its use on a case by case basis.

On Sunday November 3rd, we will celebrate All Saint's Day during worship. You can bring in a picture of a loved one who has passed on, to remember them. Pictures can stay with you in the pews or go up front. We will be lighting candles during the service in remembrance of those people, during our prayer time.

Deacons assisted in Pastor Bob's installation back in September. This is one of a few duties for deacons outside of Sunday worship - assisting in special services. Deacons also reach out to people on a Check-in list who may not be able to make it to worship. If anyone is interested in becoming a Deacon when we change roles in February, please let Sarah know.

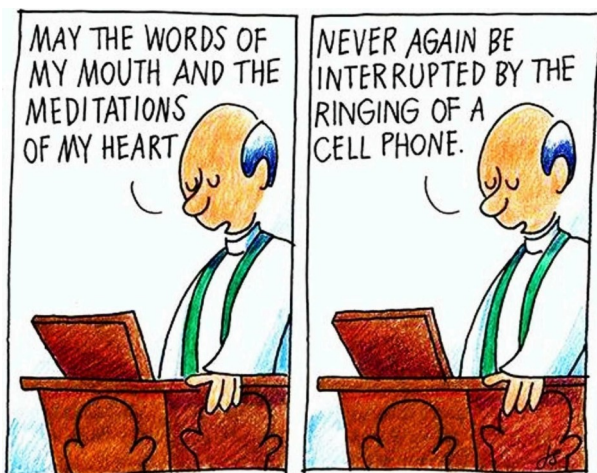
Sincerely submitted in the peace of Christ,
Sarah R.G.

IN AND AROUND CHURCH ...

Our Hearts and Prayers reach out to our Brothers and Sisters who have various needs and struggles: continued prayers for Carey Prayers for Ann Hepner and Ann Pirollo ... prayers for Dennis Burnell ... prayers for Kay's surgery ... prayers for Florida as another hurricane approaches ... prayers for world peace ... prayers for all who struggle with addictions and mental illness and their families ... prayers for health and happiness for my family ... prayers for Amelie, Louise and Bill ... prayers for the victims of Hurrican Helene ... prayers of joy that my grandson Ethan is ending his deployment in Poland and returning to the U.S. ... prayers for my boss who had surgery ... prayers for the Gowdy and Griffin families as Janice's sister passed away suddenly ... prayers for peace among families ... prayers for the Dignazio, Kron and Raynock families ... prayers of healing for Michael Milikowski ... prayers for Florence ... prayers for those who experienced natural disasters ... God bless our disaster relief workers ... prayers for peace and for our leaders to receive wisdom ... prayers for the family of Bertrand and Claire ... prayers for guidance as we proceed in addressing a family dispute ... prayers for health and happiness for my family ... prayers for the people in the southeast that they recover from the storm damage ... prayers for my grandson; he is lost, has no path. Thanks for this church and the people in it ... prayers for the family of Jerry Bundy and Mr. Dutton ... prayers for Florence Demars as she prepares to move to Maine ... prayers of healing for Polly ... prayers for the family of Lloyd Howisonwho passed away ... continued prayers for the Sedors and Carey Crawford ... prayers of safe travel for Michael and RuthAnne ... prayers of success for Pastor Bob and his hip ... prayers for a safe Halloween and that all the jids brush their teeth ... prayers of healing for Charlei Fay who has a virus ... prayers for Lucena and family as she prepares for labor ... prayers for the blessing of family, church family and friends.

Celebrations: Zoey celebrated her eleventh birthday ... Florida friends escaped major hurricane damage ... Mi-asy's first first birthday ... happy birthday to Al.

A LIGHTER MOMENT



while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. - II CORINTHIANS 4:18 NKJV

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

November Birthdays

- 6 Sue Briggs
- 7 Mary England
- 9 Judy DelBene
- 17 Andy DelBene
- 19 Nancy Richens

November Anniversaries

- 4 Stephen and Amy Lingley

MISSIONS

Thank you all for your generous support of our ongoing missions. On September 29, \$45 dollars were collected for our local SafeNet Ministries which will be used to help persons in our town. Thanksgiving is just around the corner and again this year we will offer the foods to make a Thanksgiving dinner feast a reality for half a dozen families served by the Crystal Lake Food Pantry. Last year, for the first time in years, we tried collecting money from the congregation for the grocery items needed and then the committee members did the shopping. That system seemed to work very well so we will do it again now. There are eleven food items on the list given to us by the pantry not including the turkey. Please place your contributions in the Thanksgiving envelopes found in the pews on November 3rd and 10th and then put your envelope in the collection box during the offering. Thank you all so much. Just a heads up for you - Here are the missions we will be conducting in December. Gently used winter outer wear, all sizes. Family Christmas dinners and children's gifts for less fortunate families. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask one of us.

Respectfully, Judy, Michele and Linda

HOLLY BAZAAR

The Holly Bazaar is near!

Saturday, November 16, 2024 9 am - 2 pm

Vendor spots are full! Lots of raffle baskets in the works! Thank you to everyone who has signed up to help with the Autumn Soup lunch, vendor support, Bake Sale, White Elephant table, Raffle Baskets and moral support! What do we still need?

- Cookies - bake your favorite, bag two cookies to a bag and include a copy of the ingredients/recipe so people can spot potential allergies;
- Share facebook posts to get the word out;
- If you have good quality merchandise to donate to the White Elephant table please bring it in or call me to arrange pick up by 11/10/2024;
- On November 10th immediately after service we need volunteers to help bring White Elephant table merchandise stored in the parish house over to fellowship hall;
- If you are making a raffle basket please have them at the church by 11/10.

Many thanks for all your support.

Kim Dickson, Event Coordinator 413-374-3247 text or leave a message.

STEWARDSHIP

The 2025 Stewardship campaign is underway!

Our pledge goal for the fiscal year of January—December 2025 is \$32,000. This is to cover church operating expenses and pastoral staff. Pledging is extremely important to the life of this congregation and the community we serve. Please prayerfully consider your pledge amount and return your pledge slip to us in the church offering or by mail by: November 24, 2024 (Stewardship Sunday).

If you have any questions about pledging, please call Lisa Ostrowski 860-684-5332.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Ostrowski

NOMINATING

We have a sign-up sheet in the kitchen if anyone wants to try a new role next year. We always look for Deacons but have a few other positions open as well. There is a display in Fellowship Hall that describes the duties associated with each position. If anyone can't do their second year and are signed up for it, let me know! We have had good success getting a lot of new people trained on different roles in case of emergency and we will continue that over the next several years. Thank you!

Andrew



November 2024

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1	2 Little Shop - 10 - 2
3 Worship Service 9:30 AM	4	5	6	7	8	9 Little Shop - 10 - 2	
10 Worship Service 9:30 AM	11	12	13	14	15	16 Little Shop - 10 - 2	
							HOLLY BAZAAR 9 - 2
17 Worship Service 9:30 AM Food Bank Sunday	18	19 Council 6:30 PM	20	21	22	23 Little Shop - 10 - 2	
24 Worship Service 9:30 AM Stewardship Sunday	25	26	27	28 THANKSGIVING	29	30 Little Shop - 10 - 2	