

March/April  
May  
2015

# The Tower

Harmony  
Presbyterian  
Church



## Mark your Calendar

### MARCH 2015

- 3-1 Communion
- 3-9 Girl Scout Sunday  
Deacon Meeting – 11:30 a.m.  
Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 3-25 Session Meeting - 7 p.m.
- 3-29 Palm Sunday

### APRIL 2015

- 4-2 Meal in the Upper Room–5 pm/ Maundy Thursday–7 pm
- 4-3 Good Friday – 7 p.m.
- 4-5 Easter – 7 a.m. Worship followed by Continental breakfast & 10 a.m. Worship
- 4-12 Deacon Meeting – 11:30 a.m.
- 4-22 Session Meeting – 7 p.m.

### MAY 2015

- 5-3 Communion
- 5-10 Mother's Day  
Deacon Meeting – 11:30 a.m.
- 5-17 Children's Program/Graduate Recognition Sunday
- 5-24 Day of Pentecost
- 5-25 Memorial Day
- 5-27 Session Meeting – 7 p.m.

## Message from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

People sometimes ask me, “*What’s happening to our church?*” And while it’s a good question, it lacks perspective. Better to step back a little and ask, “*What’s happening to God’s Church?*” A compelling answer comes from Phyllis Tickle, an Episcopal lay person who is a *Senior Fellow* at the *National Cathedral* in Washington. Her book, *The Great Emergence*, takes the long view, starting with the early church, in order to examine what’s happening today.

Tickle observes that approximately every 500 years (*more or less*) the church “cleans out its attic, and holds a rummage sale,” selling off old ideas and unneeded concepts in order to make room for more necessary and important things. At the time of the fall of the Roman Empire, in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> centuries, the *Council of Chalcedon* established the boundaries of Christian belief. Pope Gregory I (often called *Gregory the Great*) consolidated the council’s work, and gave legitimacy to monastic orders that kept knowledge and learning alive during the dark ages. In the 11<sup>th</sup> century, the Roman Church in the west, and the Orthodox Church in the east, formalized their division in what we now call *the Great Schism*. And in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the *Great Reformation* led to the rise of Protestantism, the *Counter-reformation* and the birth of the modern nation-state.

Each of these *great times* led to a new understanding of the Church’s role in the world. Ideas and concepts that seemed essential were suddenly moved to the periphery as the Church either adapted to, or helped create, a new world order. Christians in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries couldn’t always perceive these changes, which could only be understood from the vantage point of history.

Tickle suggests we, as 21<sup>st</sup> century Christians, are in the midst of a similar historical moment. Christianity’s demographic shift from Europe and North America to Africa, Asia and South America; the near schism in North American Protestantism; the reality of older buildings and shrinking resources; and the emergence of a generation that embraces Jesus while rejecting tradition, all point to a future in which God seems, as always, to be doing a “*new thing*.”

Our future ultimately belongs to God, but our place in that future depends on our response to the *new thing* that God is doing. It depends, as well, on our ability to move beyond the limits of asking, “*What’s happening to our church?*” and asking, “*What’s happening to God’s Church, and what is our part in it?*”

Peace,

*Peter*

## REMINDER

Bible study meets every Sunday at 8:45 a.m.  
Come join us!

**Address:** 2727 Belvidere Road, Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

**Phone:** 908-859-0355

**Fax:** 908-850-0455

**Website:** [www.tpcnh.org](http://www.tpcnh.org)

**Email:** [harmonychurch@verizon.net](mailto:harmonychurch@verizon.net)

**UPDATES**

**Session Update**

**Regular March Session Meeting**

Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

**Regular April Session Meeting**

Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

**Regular May Session Meeting**

Wednesday, May 27, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

**Deacon Update**

**Regular March Meeting**

Sunday, March 8, 2015 at 11:30 a.m.

**Regular April Meeting**

Sunday, April 12, 2015 at 11:30 a.m.

**Regular May Meeting**

Sunday, May 10, 2015 at 11:30 a.m.

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**MARCH**

**MARCH 1, 2015 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent/Communion**

Assisting Elder    *Becky Brandt*                      Greeters                      *Indyk Family*  
 Assisting Deacon    *Sue Gentle*  
 Servers                      *Richard Fehr, Ray Lalley, Vicki Stevens, Dianne Marchie*

**MARCH 8, 2015 - Girl Scout Sunday/3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent**

Assisting Elder    *Lynn Ehrhardt*                      Assisting Deacon    *Dianne Marchie*  
 Greeters                      *Shirley Beers*

**MARCH 15, 2015 – Fellowship/4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

Assisting Elder    *John Ehasz*                      Assisting Deacon                      *Tina Evans*  
 Greeters                      *Barber Family*

**MARCH 22, 2015 – Fellowship/5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

Assisting Elder    *Scott Aydelotte*                      Assisting Deacon                      *Tom Wismer*  
 Greeters                      *Frankenfield Family*

**MARCH 29, 2015 – Palm Sunday**

Assisting Elder    *Joe Marchie*                      Assisting Deacon                      *Richard Fehr*  
 Greeters                      *Louise Harris, Olivia Swanson, Ben Rose, Ray Bragin*

**APRIL**

**APRIL 2, 2015 - Maundy Thursday**

Assisting Elder    *Natalie Dutt*

**APRIL 3, 2015 - Good Friday**

Assisting Elder    *Ruth Skirbst*

**APRIL 5, 2015 - Easter Sunrise - 7 a.m.**

Assisting Elder    *Bert Kuhn*                      Assisting Deacon                      *Jan Kuhn*

**APRIL 5, 2015 - Easter – 10 a.m.**

Assisting Elder    *Lance Evans*                      Assisting Deacon                      *Suzanne Swanson*  
 Greeters                      *Jeff & Melissa Fehr*  
 Servers                      *Charlie Cummins, Nicole Carr, Lori Frankenfield, John Counterman*

**APRIL 12, 2015 –**

Assisting Elder    *Barb Cosimano*                      Assisting Deacon                      *Ray Lalley*  
 Greeters                      *Don & Lois Myles*

**APRIL 19, 2015 -**

Assisting Elder    *Nancy Farley*                      Assisting Deacon                      *Vicki Stevens*  
 Greeters                      *Winters Family*

**APRIL 26, 2015**

Assisting Elder    *Karen Rose*                      Assisting Deacon                      *Brittany Marchie*  
 Greeters                      *Dave and Nicole Ehasz*

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE (cont)

### MAY

**MAY 3, 2015 – Communion**

Assisting Elder    *Lori Frankenfield*  
 Greeters            *Sandi Skibenes*  
 Assisting Deacon   *Emily Swanson*  
 Servers             *Sherri Aydelotte, Deb McKenna, Rex LaBarre, Charlie Cummins*

**MAY 10, 2015 –Mother’s Day**

Assisting Elder    *Kate Harris*  
 Assisting Deacon   *Jan Kuhn*  
 Greeters            *Richard and Joann Fehr*

**MAY 17, 2015 - Children’s Program/Graduate Recognition**

Assisting Elder    *Karen Rose*  
 Assisting Deacon   *Dianne Marchie*  
 Greeters            *Billich Family*

**MAY 24, 2015 – Pentecost/Memorial Day Weekend**

Assisting Elder    *Henry Skirbst*  
 Assisting Deacon   *Sue Gentle*  
 Greeters            *Rich and Betty Salter*

**MAY 31, 2015 – Trinity Sunday**

Assisting Elder    *Nikki Carr*  
 Assisting Deacon   *Tom Wismer*  
 Greeters            *Wismer Family*

## Usher Schedule

March 1            Communion Servers will be the Ushers

March 8            Joyce & Charlie Cummins, Tina & Lance Evans

March 16           Rich & Betty Salter, Natalie Dutt, Ruth Skirbst

March 22           Susan Gubitosi and children

March 29           Sheri & Scott Aydelotte, Lois and Don Myles

April 5             Communion Servers will be the Ushers

April 12            Joyce & Charlie Cummins, Tina & Lance Evans

April 19            Becky Brandt, Vicki Stevens, Joe & Dianne Marchie

April 26            Deb McKenna, Richard and JoAnn Fehr, Nancy Farley

May 4              Communion Servers will be the Ushers

May 11             Charlie & Joyce Cummins, Lance & Tina Evans

May 17             Dick and Loyce Johnson, Mark Marason, Jeri Lynn Flynn

May 24             Tom Wismer, Cindy Winters, Lori Frankenfield, Ruth Skibrst

May 31             Dave and Suzanne Swanson, Jan & Bert Kuhn

### **HEARTS AND HANDS FELLOWSHIP**

The Hearts and Hands Fellowship has been busy during 2014. As part of our local "mission project" for Harmony Presbyterian we sponsored our first Community Bazaar. In addition to the Bazaar, which enabled us to donate monies to the Rolling Thunder organization, which does an exceptional amount of good things for our local veterans, but also to our Church treasury. They were also a part of the Veterans Day program which organized the special bulletin honoring past and future veterans. This special event saw this congregation raise \$350 also for the Rolling Thunder. Quilted lap robes and crocheted lap robes were also given to this group. We look forward to getting together in the very near future to begin doing what we do for 2015. There is always lots of conversation, laughter, and hand work going on. As well as a few Bible stories or just plain "words of wisdom". Watch the bulletin for the start-up date. All are welcome!

### **RING THOSE BELLS!**

It's time to make 2015 a joyful year with the bells ringing more often. It's fun, we make it as easy as we can. We play for God's ears and yours. Don't be bashful, our Church was the recipient following a call from the Chester Church who were purchasing new bells, and wanting their old set to find a new home. Two of our members stepped up and made a donation to Chester Church and now the bells are ours - three octaves of beautiful hand bells. We must not let them sit in their cases. Please let Ruth Skirbst or Sandy Vliet hear a yes and we will set the dates for our rehearsals as Easter will soon be here. No, you do not have to read music, just be able to count and know your colors. Hope to hear from you – would love to have a Youth Choir as well as an Adult Choir.

### **HOME VISITATION**

If you would like Rev. Magnan or a member of the Board of Deacons to visit you at home, please contact the church office to set up a date. The Deacons are interested in visiting, providing meals, etc. However, they can not "read minds" so please let the church know of any needs.

### **CHOIR NEWS**

If anyone is interested in joining the Children's Choir or the Adult Choir please see Sandy Vliet. We are always glad to have new faces and voices. Choir rehearsal is from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Thursday evenings. Children's Choir meets on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. sharp.

### **FOOD FOR THE NEEDY SUNDAY**

Remember the FOOD FOR THE NEEDY SUNDAY is the first Sunday of every month. As you come to worship, please place your nonperishable food items in the baskets located in the downstairs hallway. Poverty and hunger, like God, do not take a vacation.

### **REMEMBER THESE FOLKS IN PRAYER**

Jim Barr, Joan Barry, Diane Bigilow and family, Jill Broscious, Jared Bucey, Dick Collins, Mary Collins, Glenn David, Jean Dutt, Nancy Ehasz, Tina Evens, Denise Frankenfield, Josephine A. Frankenfield, Paula Freese, Gail Gangaware, Sue Gentle, Anne Ginley-Yerkes, Judy Grace, Larry Hengst, Susan Homa Smith, Merle Karp, Winnie Kiley, Sam Marino, Tracey Matlock's dad, Lori McVey, Connie Mueller, Nathan and his family, Jace Nikoden, Rhonda Olswski, Emma Raywood, Vicki Santini, Kurt Schubert, Carol Scott, Sandy Scott, Amy Shandor, Diane Shipe Armstrong, Sgt. Ryan Skibenes, Henry Skirbst, Ron Smith, Earl Steel, Sr., George Stevens, Sue Timke, baby Trent, Joanna Vegh, Marge Walsh, Kate Weirsky, Debbie Wittschiebe.

**BAPTISMS**

We are always pleased to welcome God's children into our church family. Baptized on February 22, 2015 was ***Evelyn Brenda DeWitt***, born on August 12, 2014, daughter of Brandon and Erin DeWitt.



**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

It is a cause for joy when visitors become friends, and friends become members of our church family. Publicly received as new members during worship service on January 18 were ***Andrew Carr, Jeffrey Losco, Lisa Losco and Jarod Rhinehart***.

**CAMP SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE**

If anyone is interested in attending summer camp, please contact the office for information about camps and possible scholarships.

**CALLING ALL 2015 GRADUATES**

If you or a member of your family will be graduating soon from junior high, high school, or college, or will have earned an advanced degree, please notify the church office at 908-859-0355 by ***May 3, 2015***, so we can include them in the bulletin for Graduate Recognition Sunday on May 17, 2015.

**BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**



If you would like to add a birthday or anniversary please contact the church office at 908-859-0355 or send e-mail to [tomcat507@verizon.net](mailto:tomcat507@verizon.net). Please note that the birthday and anniversary lists will be no longer appear in the Tower but will be available on our website [tpcnh.org](http://tpcnh.org).

**ANNUAL MEETING**

The Annual Congregational and Corporation Meeting was held on Sunday, February 9. Reports from the various committees and program areas of the church were received. During the meeting the following were elected to serve the congregation during 2015:

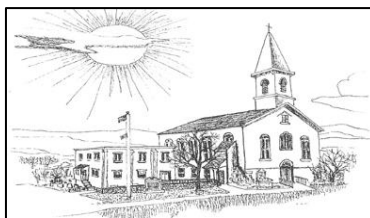
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Church Financial Secretary/Church Treasurer: | Sandi Skibenes   |
| Personnel and Nominating Committee:          | Becky Brandt, chair, Lori Frankenfield, Natalie Dutt, David Ehasz, Dianne Marchie, Janine Austin |
| Auditing Committee:                          | Lance Evans, chair, Lynn Ehrhardt, David Swanson   |

We commend all those who submitted reports and we thank all our committee chairs, program heads, and officers for the time they so willingly devote to Harmony Presbyterian Church.

**HOLY WEEK IN HARMONY**

- PALM SUNDAY, March 29** Procession and Dedication of One Great Hour of Sharing Offering during 10:00 a.m. Worship
- MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 2** 5:00 p.m. "Meal in the Upper Room"  
7:00 p.m. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated
- GOOD FRIDAY, April 3** 7:00 p.m. A worship of devotion and reflection
- EASTER, April 5** Will celebrate with Holy Communion the Resurrection of our Lord.  
7:00 a.m. Sunrise Worship, **followed by a fellowship Continental Breakfast.** Worship Celebration at 10:00 a.m.

**COME AND CELEBRATE CHRIST'S LIFE!**



*In an attempt to save postage costs, the newsletter will be on the church website. **If you would be interested in not receiving a copy in the mail – please notify the church office.** Thank you.*

**HARMONY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
2727 Belvidere Road  
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865