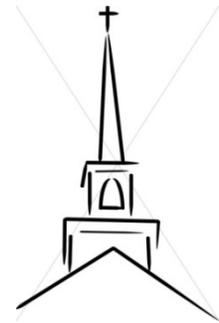


# *The Weekly Chimera*

*1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church of Franklin*  
*November 30, 2014*



## *A Note from the Pastor*

That though the character, qualifications, and authority of Church officers are laid down in the Holy Scriptures, as well as the proper method of their investiture and institution, yet the election of the persons to the exercise of this authority, in any particular society, is in that society. (*Book of Order, F-3.0106*)

Here is one of the comments about this Historic Principle found in a study guide:

“Holy Scripture defines the general character, qualities, authority and purpose of church officers, but the church must interpret Scripture and establish the general rules by which it operates. Within each denomination, there must be clarity about the function of officers and the method of their selection....

The right of a particular society (denomination) is expressed at every level of the church. The particular church also elects its own officers, including the pastor. Yet, each of these bodies does not function autonomously. The whole church determines the rules and the qualifications. Each governing body must abide by these determinations.

The balance between the freedom to elect and the duty to abide by required procedures is very important. ...”

One of our sister congregations in the presbytery, Panther Valley, is an intentionally ecumenical parish made up of four denominations: The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the United Methodist Church, the United Church of Christ, and the Episcopal Church in the USA. Their current Presbyterian pastor, David Wright is moving on to a new call. The next pastor will be a Methodist, and will be appointed by the district superintendent. If there is strong enough feeling that the appointed pastor is not a good match, the superintendent may – or may not – make another appointment. There is no candidate process for the congregation because they do not elect their pastors. I have great respect and admiration for this congregation made up of four very different polities as they discern their next steps for pastoral leadership.

I mention this because we have the right – and the responsibility- to elect all our leaders as we are guided by the Holy Spirit. This includes not only a called pastor (as a transition pastor with a contract with the session, I was elected by the session, not the congregation), but our ruling elders and our deacons. Each board then elects its own officers. For we Presbyterians, our process works only if we each take that privilege and responsibility seriously.

God bless,

*Pastor Nancy*

## *Deacons' Offering Today*

On the first Sunday of each month, a special offering is taken to support the ministry of our Board of Deacons. Please be thoughtful and generous in your giving.

## *Christmas Open House*

The congregation is invited to an open house at David and Nancy Young's home on Sunday, December 21, 2:00 – 5:00 pm. The congregation of 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian in Newton is also invited, so come enjoy some refreshments and fellowship. The address is 15 Wantage Ave., Branchville.

*Session Committees meet*

*Wednesday, Dec. 10.*

*Please let your chair know if you will not be attending.*

*Choir Rehearsal,  
Thursday, Dec. 11 7:00 pm*

## *Cookie Walk*

The annual Christmas Cookie Walk will be held on Saturday, Dec. 13 beginning at 9:00 am. If you are contributing cookies, please bring them to the church beginning on Wednesday, Dec. 10.

## *Children's Christmas Activity*

*(and Parents' Day Out!)*

The Christian Education Committee of the session is sponsoring a "parents' shopping day out" on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 12. Children are welcome in the Great Hall from 2:00 – 5:00 pm, where they will participate in crafts, activities, etc. while parents are free to go Christmas shopping. There is no charge for this activity.

## *Christmas Eve Services*

*4:00 pm The Impromptu Christmas Pageant.*

Bring your children to participate in the Nativity story. They may come in costumes for the Nativity (angels, sheep, wise persons, shepherds, stable animals, etc.). Come be a part of the Christmas story!

*7:00 pm Traditional Christmas Eve*

The chancel choir and other musicians will be assisting in leading this service.

*11:00 pm Late Christmas Eve Worship*

The late service will feature Adam and Micah Young on piano and guitar, and special music with Madison Washer.



