

# Chestnut Hill Views



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

### "Inner and Outer"

*But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." – I Samuel 16:7*

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From The Pastor's Desk	1-2
Church News	2-6
Animals in distress List	7
Birthday Calendar	8
Friendship Circle Form	9
Church Calendar	10

Rabbi Erica Brown recently wrote (but edited by me):

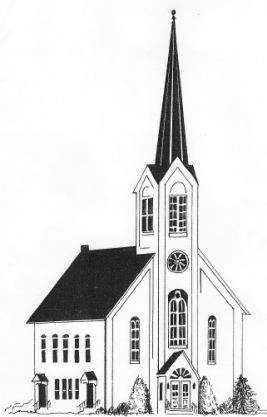
It is not hard to mistake the outside for the inside. We do it all the time. Shine and sparkle often distract us from inner shallowness. A sleek head of hair sometimes covers for the fact that there's not much underneath. The Bible communicates this very message in the book of Samuel. The people agitated for a king, but Samuel warned them that the king would tax them and make their lives difficult. No matter. They insisted. God gave them a weak but good-looking king: Saul. He had the advantage of height, creating the image of a towering personality. In actual fact, Saul was not a person of great courage. He was riddled with insecurities and melancholy.

Saul's successor came in the guise of an unlikely fellow. He was the "runt" and the youngest of his family's litter. When Samuel traveled to David's father's house, God said to him: "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature." God knew that even a prophet could fall for external appearances. That is when God interjected the quote above. At the end of the day, human beings can only see that which is visible. That which is concealed, however, can be far more potent.

When David went out to his brothers at war to deliver food, he heard Goliath, a man of superhuman proportions, challenge the Israelite army. Only little David had the courage of conviction to fight him. Saul dressed David in his war gear, but it was far too big so David marched into an encounter with an enemy multiple times his size in civilian clothing, armed only with a few rocks.

David commanded respect because he was an unlikely candidate for leadership who earned the high regard of others. No one expected greatness. He delivered beyond any expectations. Saul, on the other hand, betrayed God's expectations even though he looked the part. When Saul rose to a position of power, he lorded it over others only to lose any shred of respect that he otherwise might have merited.

*(continued page 2)*



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK *(CONTINUED)*

I add: the distinction between one's inner virtue and one's outer persona usually differs from each other dramatically – consider our politicians! However as Christians, God wants our inner lives not only to be in line with our outer lives, but it is actually more important – albeit more difficult. Someone has written, “I wish I were the person my dog thinks I am.” If we could only be more conscious of God's approval rather than merely human approval we would all have greater integrity, humility, and effectiveness in our parenting, work, and social lives.

However the really good news is that despite our frequent failures, poor choices, and knee-jerk reactions to hide our “less attractive” selves, God loves and forgives us anyway. This grand fact does not give us any excuses for deception – either others or ourselves – but it gives us hope, with God's love and help, we can gradually grow and become more integrated and whole between our inner reality and outer lives.

Pastor John

*Thank You!*

Margaret Pearson would like to thank “Anonymous” for the special gift left in her church mailbox.

Peggy Pearson would like to thank the “Anonymous” Spirit of Christmas who left a special gift. You make me feel special and appreciated!

Love in Christ,  
Peggy

The Giberson Family would like to thank the congregation for the generous gift of Target Gift cards which they received after their house fire. The gift was greatly appreciated!

A BIG thank you to the congregation for your generous Christmas gift to me this year. Not only am I deeply grateful, but I feel it is a concrete demonstration of your support of my ministry and the direction we are moving at Chestnut Hill Church.

Pastor John

### Worship Service Schedule

<b>Communion Service</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>
<b>Adult Bible Study</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>
<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>10:00 am (communion 1st Sunday of each month)</b>
<b>Children's Sunday School</b>	<b>10:15-11:15 am</b>
<b>Meet &amp; Greet Hour</b>	<b>11:15 am</b>

**ASH WEDNESDAY—FEBRUARY 22, 2012****7:00 PM**

Ash Wednesday begins the period in the church calendar we call Lent. It has traditionally been characterized as a time of confession of sin. However important this is, if this is the primary focus of the service it leaves us feeling unloved and rejected by an “angry, judgmental God.” The stereotype of this notion is “The terrible fear that someone, somewhere, might be enjoying himself—and that has to stop!”

Knowing that we all have damaged our relationships, both with God and with others, this is a time to take stock of our lives, ask forgiveness where appropriate, wash away our sins, receive God’s forgiveness, and plan to make changes. The literal meaning of the word “repentance” is: to turn, or return. That means actions happen after taking responsibility for our actions. Then, we rejoice and celebrate the awesome love of God who cares so much about each of us to send His Son, the Lamb God, who takes away the sins of the world, bringing reconciliation and healing for all that is damaged both within us and among us.

Psalm 30:11 says: “You have turned my mourning into dancing.” We will again conclude with singing, “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!” I encourage all to come to experience the cleansing and healing love of God anew.

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**SPECIAL EVENTS****February 5th - Souper Bowl Sunday and Boy Scout Sunday 11:30 am**

Please join us next week to celebrate Boy Scout Sunday and Souper Bowl Sunday. There will be a lunch of soup, chili, bread, & desserts served after the 10 am worship service. This is a great time get to know one another and have a great meal.

Please bring a can of soup, low sodium soup, stew, or chili to church. Your donations will be given to Betty Lou’s Pantry.

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**February 12th - Valentine’s Day Brunch 11:30 am**

Bill Lippincott is organizing the men of the congregation to cook and serve for the annual Valentine’s Day Brunch. The Brunch will be served after the 10:00 worship service. The men have done such a fantastic job in the past that this has become an event we look forward to with great anticipation. Ladies, this is your chance to relax and be served!!

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**February 26 Annual Congregational Meeting 11:30 am**  
**Election of new Council members**  
**Update Financial Report**  
**Update on New addition & handicapped bathroom**

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## CRUISE FOR APRIL 2013

### Join us on our next adventure - sign up in February 2012

7 day western caribbean - Cozumel Mexico, Belize, Mahogany Bay Isle Routan and Grand Cayman Cayman Islands

### Saturday April 6, 2013 - Saturday April 13, 2013

Interior cabin - 4B - 479.00 + 97.00 g-taxes = \$576.00

Ocean view Cabin - 6B - 569.00 + 97.00 g-taxes = \$ 666.00

Balcony cabin - 8B - 719.00 + 97.00 g-taxes = \$ 816.00

go to [www.carnival.com](http://www.carnival.com) and you can check out more about each island and the cabins

Easter is Sunday March 31, 2013

deposit is \$250.00 pp

for more information contact Debbie Koder 610-967-1975

## CASH FOR CAUSES

**Weis gift cards and Giant Gift Cards can be ordered!** Chestnut Hill Church will receive 5% of our total order. You can place your order with Terry Miller at church or call him at 610-967-1392 or you can also place your order with Sherri Miller at church or call 610-797-8231 or email Sherri at:

[dcba25@mailstation.com](mailto:dcba25@mailstation.com)

## FINANCIAL REPORT— BALANCES AS OF 12/31/11

Checking Account	
First Niagara	\$ 11,825.08
QNB	\$ 1,379.77
Building Fund	\$ 3,388.08
Special Savings	\$ 19,856.82
Total Investment Portfolio	\$ 215,196.64

**The result of the budget vote taken on**

**December 18, 2011 was:**

**55—yes**

**4—no**

**This will be a very challenging year. We ask for your continued support of Chestnut Hill Church**

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## MISSIONS IN FEBRUARY

### Betty Lou's Pantry

We are asking for donations of 1 can per member of stew, soup, low sodium soup, or chili to be brought to the church on February 5th in celebration of Souper Bowl Sunday. Also needed is toilet paper.

**The Children's Mission for February** is to help our "furry friends" at Animals in Distress.

Please see the list of needed items in this newsletter. Bring your items to church and leave them in the lower narthex (foyer). We will be collecting the pet items during the entire month of February. The Children would like to thank you for your help in completing their mission work.

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## HOSPITALITY TEAM

A Hospitality Team has been formed. The members include: Joan Eck, Darlene Harman, Sherry Meck, Lori Nekich, Betsey Schmeltzle, Pat Snyder, and Debbie Weighknecht. They will be involved in the welcoming process of visitors, new members, and keeping the congregation connected through events and activities such as coffee time, dinners, etc.. We would like to update the birthday calendars.

One of their new ideas is the Friendship Circle. Please see the flyer which is included in this newsletter. This information will help the Hospitality Team with their mission.

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## MOVIE NIGHT FOR THE CHILDREN

All Sunday School Children are invited to bring a friend to Movie Night, **Friday, February 10, 2012**. Drop-off is at 6:30 pm and pick-up is at 9:00 pm

Snacks will be provided

The children are asked to bring a donation for the dogs and cats at "Animals in Distress"

Please contact Heather Lippincott at [lippy520@juno.com](mailto:lippy520@juno.com) or Helene Endy at: 610 282-3725 if you have any questions.

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## **Recycle, Recycle, Recycle....**

To recycle large items like cast iron and scrap metal, take it to Prospect Metal ( locate on Rt 309 south of Wood's Pools and north of Bubb's restaurant) and mention Chestnut Hill Church. Their phone number is 215-536-6859. For more information, contact Debbie Koder.

**Can Recycling**—bring your cans to church and leave them by the rear side door. Glenn Snyder will take them to the recycling center.

**Ink Cartridge Recycling**—Bring your ink cartridges to church. Debbie Koder will take them to be recycled. The money from this recycling project helps to pay for office supplies.

**Paper Recycling**—there is a paper recycling bin across the street from the church. Please no cardboard or phone books.

Help us keep the environment clean!

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## **DID YOU KNOW?**

To sponsor bulletins for Sunday, you can put your name on the sign up sheet in the lower narthex (foyer). The cost is \$10.00 per Sunday.

To sponsor a flower arrangement for the altar, please contact Pat Snyder by calling 610-965-6320 or emailing [patlglen@ptd.net](mailto:patlglen@ptd.net) to make arrangements. Pat will order the flower arrangement. The cost is between \$30-\$50. Please tell Pat if there is a special kind of flower/a certain color. Please remember the season in which you are ordering the flowers. Also, are the flowers in honor of a special occasion. The flower arrangement is yours to take home after the service.

All children (ages 3-13) are welcome to attend Sunday School. Sunday School is located on the first floor. The children go to Sunday School during the worship service after they have children's time with Pastor John.

Do you like to sing? The adult choir is always looking for new voices. The choir rehearses on a Wednesday evening from 7:30 – 9:00 pm. Please contact Pastor John if you are interested in sharing your vocal talents.

Are you a Ding-a-Ling? The hand bell choir is also looking for new bell ringers. Please contact Heather Lippincott if you would ring some bells. The bell choir meets on Wednesday evening from 6:30-7:30 pm. You can also stop by during bell rehearsal to see what we do if you think you are interested.

Do you have a musical instrument talent to share? Please inform Pastor John of your special talent.