



New Monmouth News

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Deadline:
Articles, news, thanks,
announcements,
Warm Fuzzies, etc.
are due on the 20th of the
month prior to the date
of publication. Thanks

Pastoral Perspective

I have enjoyed the teaching ministry of Charles Swindoll for many years, through books, tapes, CDs, and on-line. This Marine-turned-preacher is a prolific writer and I have enjoyed many of his books. He is a very serious student of the Word, but he also enjoys a good laugh as much as anyone. Humor has definitely helped me get through some very difficult times. When I discovered Chuck's teaching on the book of Philippians, entitled *Laugh Again - Experiencing Outrageous Joy*, I ordered the entire series. Jane and I then took the series with us on our vacation and began the study together. We both agreed this should be shared with the entire church. We also ordered a set of the CDs and a workbook for each of our children for Christmas. In searching for this study, I also found the 3-CD set called *Laughter*, a collection of humor from Chuck's life and ministry.

It has always been my conviction that a church is a composite of all the ministers and congregants who have served in it through the years. Each minister that is called as pastor has a particular gift to give to that congregation. Some have a gift of organization, some are gifted to teach, some are preachers who exhort the members to live a more Christ-like life, etc. I have always hoped that I might give the churches I serve insight into the **JOY** of being part of the family of God. That's why I am excited about this upcoming study of Philippians on Monday evenings at 6:30. A nursery will be provided.

The following is part of an email I received from *Insight for Living*, Chuck's ministry organization:

From our earliest days, much of life makes up its mind around the dinner table. Good food and fun moments go together. Is it the same at your house? Many of our favorite family memories include sitting around the table after the meal has been enjoyed with the kids—now with their kids—full of questions and begging for humorous stories. "Tell us about the time . . . that Aunt Luci taught you to smoke dry cedar bark rolled up in notebook paper . . . or you drove the motorcycle through your high school English literature class . . . or when you and your buddies put the football coach's miniature Crosley on the roof of an equipment shed on your high school campus . . ."

Your family may already know your stories by heart, but they still want to hear them, and truth be told, it does us good to remember them ourselves. Perhaps in the telling of those crazy things that happen in life, we learn how not to take ourselves too seriously. We lighten up!

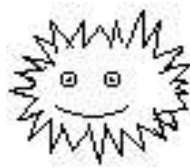
Yes, yes, I know—life is serious . . . but that doesn't mean your family time must always be.

*I've said for years that I want my children to remember not a preacher who yelled and pounded the pulpit as much as a dad who laughed and had fun—to remember the man who threw their mother in the pool and lived to tell the story. (Throwing their mother in the pool was no big deal. **Living to tell the story . . . now that was!**)*

(Continued on page 3)

Thanks and Warm Fuzzies to:

Laura Hotinger & Megan Dunlap for providing the bell duet for worship.
Lauren Welsh & Elizabeth Welsh for hosting the reception following our Christmas Cantata.



Patrick Welsh & Ruthann Hodges for keeping the nursery on Christmas Sunday. - *Karen*

Dianne Swink & all the members of the Chancel Choir for the outstanding cantata, *Journey of Hope*.

The families of Tim & Janeen Welsh, Fred & Nettie Conner, John & Lauren Welsh, Tim & Vicki Hodges, & the Young at Heart Class for their lighting of the Advent wreath candles.

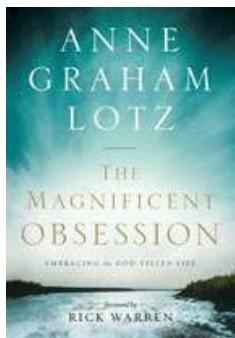
Everyone who served as a Lay Leader this past year. Thank you so much. - *Martin*

Youth News

The Teens for Truth will resume their Sunday afternoon meetings on Sunday, January 8th. All middle, high school or college age students are welcome to attend. We will meet every Sunday at the home of Tim and Janeen Welsh immediately following the worship service unless otherwise announced. Lunch will be provided. Activities for January will include making Valentine cards for shut-ins, a lock in, planning for Relay for Life, and other activities as discussed at the meeting on the 8th. Please plan to join us. For more information you may email janeen@welshconstruction.com or call 784-0246.



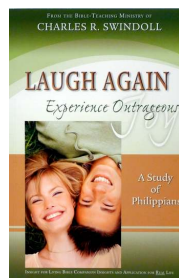
Faithful Friends



The evening circle, Faithful Friends, will not meet during the month of January. They will resume their meetings on February 2 at 7:00 p.m. This year's study is entitled "*The Magnificent Obsession, Embracing the God-Filled Life*" by Ann Graham Lotz. All women are invited. Bring

a friend & join us.

New Bible Study



We will resume our regular Monday evening Bible studies on January 9 at 6:30 p.m. We will study the letter of Paul to the church at Philippi. It will be based on the study *Laugh Again - Experiencing Outrageous Joy* by Charles Swindoll. Workbooks are available, but not required. The cost per book is \$10. A nursery keeper will be available, thanks to Ruthann Hodges.

Session Summary

- The Session examined the two new elders to be ordained (Lauren Welsh & Cheri Knick) on their personal faith journey and sustained their exams.
- Ordination/installation service was set for January 8 during morning worship.
- The regular meeting time for stated session meeting was changed to the third Sunday of each month following morning worship.
- The Commitment Committee reported on the recent audit of our books. They also discussed the tithe of the recent gift from the McNeil estate.
- Two people have expressed an interest in the job of grounds keeper. The Property Committee hopes to hire someone in January. Roof repairs have been made.
- Witness/Service Committee reported that the next Habitat house will be built in Lexington.
- The Fellowship Committee reported on a successful Widows & Widowers Luncheon at the Redwood Restaurant on December 10.
- The new job description for Bell Choir director, Vicki Hodges, was presented and approved.
- Martin reminded the session of the importance of having an elder represent our church on the Maury River Mission Community planning team. Tim Welsh said he would attend the next meeting on January 8 at 2:30 at New Monmouth.
- The meeting was temporarily adjourned until 12:15 when a new member was to be received.
- New member, Elmer Kave, (father of Brian Kave) was received by transfer of membership.





From Our Cemetery

Committee -Michael Wilson

The following public notice has been printed in the local

newspapers: PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice to family or friends of individuals interred in the New Monmouth Presbyterian Church Cemetery. The Session of New Monmouth Presbyterian Church has adopted the following rules pertaining to decorations placed on graves in New Monmouth Cemetery:

1. Cut (natural) flowers may be placed on graves, stones, or grave markers for 10 days, after which they must be (or will be) removed.

2. Artificial flowers will be allowed between October 15 and April 15, after which they will be removed in preparation for the mowing season.

3. Floral arrangements or wreaths (natural or artificial) may be placed on graves for the Thanksgiving/ Christmas/New Year holiday season, November 1 - January 31. All such arrangements must be removed by January 31st.

4. No ornaments, statues, or lights of any kind will be permitted on and/or around graves, grave markers, or monuments.

5. Trees, shrubs, or plantings of any kind shall not be planted on any gravesite.

The above rules are effective immediately and any decoration not in compliance with these rules must be removed. Any item not removed by January 31, 2012 will be removed by cemetery personnel.

THANKS to Jim Moore of *Moore Real Estate* for providing the real estate yard box to be used in the cemetery. It will contain copies of the Cemetery Rules pertaining to decorations for use by families of the deceased.

Zacchaeus' Kitchen 2011 Report

Because of you . . .

24 people will have a warm head, because of the hats, toboggans, and one hood you gave.

45 people will have warm hands, because of the gloves & mittens you gave.

11 people will have warm feet, because of socks you gave.

3 people will have warm winter coats, because **you** gave this Christmas. Thank you one & all.

Pastoral Perspective (Continued from page 1)

We live in a world that robs the fun out of life. The world emphasizes our sense of responsibility, of duty and propriety, but seldom does anybody emphasize the need for a sense of humor. Yet it is a sense of humor that keeps us sane. People often write me and say, "You can stop preaching, but don't stop laughing." Sometimes they add, "Yours is the only laughter that comes into our home." Now that is tragic.

I know of no greater need today than for joy! In spite of the serious circumstances around us, we need to remember Solomon's counsel: "A joyful heart makes a cheerful face, but when the heart is sad, the spirit is broken. . . . All the days of the afflicted are bad, but a cheerful heart has a continual feast" (Proverbs 15:13, 15).

A good, loud time of laughter is overdue.

I agree. That's why I have chosen to share this year's study on Philippians based on Chuck's series. We will also enjoy some humorous stories, video clips and hopefully some good stories from you. I look forward to seeing you on January 8th at 6:30, in Duff Hall. If you want a workbook, please give me a call. If you ordered one already, you make pick them up any time.

*Shalom,
Martin*

Comedy Corner



New Monmouth Schedule & Birthday Calendar

January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:45 Fellowship Cl 10:00 SS 10:45 Prayer/Praise 11:00 Worship	2	3 <i>Cat Lancey</i>	4 6:30 Men's Ch 7:30 Choir	5	6 <i>Michael McCown</i> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	7
8 <i>Blane Reid</i> <i>Laura Hotinger</i> 9:00 Breakfast 9:30 Praise Team 9:45 Fellowship Cl 10:00 SS 10:45 Prayer/Praise 11:00 Worship 12:15 Teens 12:15 Bells Practice	9 6:30 Bible Study	10	11 <i>Gene Duff</i> 10:00 Circle 6:30 Men's Ch 7:30 Choir	12	13 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	14
15 9:30 Praise Team 9:45 Fellowship Cl 10:00 SS 10:45 Prayer/Praise 11:00 Worship 12:15 Session 12:15 Teens 12:15 Bells Practice	16 6:30 Bible Study	17 7:00 Ruritan	18 <i>Amy Swink</i> 6:30 Men's Ch 7:30 Choir	19	20 Newsletter Articles Due <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	21 <i>Harry Moore</i> <i>Rhunelle Hotinger</i> Duff Hall Reserved
22 9:30 Praise Team 9:45 Fellowship Cl 10:00 SS 12:15 Teens 12:15 Bells Practice	23 <i>Alanna Conner</i> 6:30 Bible Study	24 <i>Kurt Swenson</i>	25 <i>Cheri Knick</i> 6:30 Men's Ch 7:30 Choir	26	27 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	28 <i>Janet Drake</i>
29 9:45 Fellowship Cl 10:00 SS 10:45 Prayer/Praise 11:00 MUSIC SUNDAY 12:15 Teens 12:15 Bells Practice	30 6:30 Bible Study	27	28 6:30 Men's Ch 7:30 Choir	29	30 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	31

For corrections or changes, contact Martin at 570-1921 or email martinstokes@comcast.net

Happy New Year