

# THE NEXUS

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## October 2018

### From Nicole Vogel

The earth and everything in it, the world and its inhabitants, belong to the Lord. Psalm 24:1

Friends and family in Christ, you likely have heard me remind us that all we have belongs to God. It is the month of October, the time when stewardship campaign begins. When I reflect on stewardship I recall my 6<sup>th</sup> grade experience with Mr. Brewer teaching us what Christian stewardship meant. First and foremost, he reminded us that stewardship is an all life-long commitment to God. Because everything belongs to God, we are given the responsibility to manage all these gifts well.

Mr. Brewer was not just talking about financial gifts; after all, we were only 6<sup>th</sup> graders. What he was talking about was whole life stewardship. He encouraged us to be good stewards of our lives, our world around us and with all that exists. As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, we are in a time of transition. Transitions tend to cause fear and anxiety which often means less faithful stewardship. We may pull back from committing to missions, give a little less, become leery of challenging ourselves to be faithful in stewardship.

Yet, this is the exact time when there are major opportunities from faithful whole life stewardship. In this season of stewardship, consider how God is calling you to be a faithful steward with all that he has entrusted you.

~Nicole

### Nexus Deadline

The Nexus deadline for the November issue is Monday, **October 29<sup>th</sup>**.



**PASTOR**  
NOMINATING COMMITTEE

### PNC Update

Your PNC Committee has been working diligently since being called last spring. We have completed the initial phase of our work regarding the writing of our Ministerial Information Form (MIF). This form describes the mission and vision of our church. It was presented to our Session and Presbytery who unanimously approved of the document. This document is being used to attract interested pastoral candidates through an Internet-based matching and referral system of the Presbyterian Church. The system merges Personal Information Forms (PIFs) and MIFs to create possible matches of pastors and churches. We have received numerous PIFs and the committee is busy reviewing these documents.

In the weeks ahead, we will identify the best candidates for our church. Checking references, listening to sermons, and contacting these candidates will take time. Please be patient with the process, and keep your PNC Committee in your prayers. With full confidence in the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are certain that our search will be productive.

PNC Chairman Tim Swanson

## Fall Stewardship Pledge Campaign

"*Stewardship in a Time of Transition*" is the theme for this fall's Stewardship Pledge Campaign. Beginning October 21 and in the following weeks, we will explore how we can use our time, talents and financial resources to fulfill our stated mission at East Stroudsburg Presbyterian Church. The tasks are even more challenging because we are in a time of transition. Pastor Freeborn retired in July after nearly 10 years of spiritual leadership and guidance for our church. The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) was formed to seek a new leader for our church.

In mid-October, you will receive a letter and a pledge form. Please give your pledge of financial support for next year prayerful consideration. If you can increase it over this year's pledge, please consider it. For the first year in many past, we are working on a balanced budget with only slight variance due to unexpected expenses. We intend to present a balanced budget for next year so that we can concentrate on our mission in the community and the world.

East Stroudsburg Presbyterian Church has a history of mission and outreach projects. We support local organizations such as PATH, The Salvation Army, Women's Resources, and Family Promise, to name a few. We support each other. We apply our time and talents to volunteer work at church and in the community. This is the example we witness to others in living the faith in Jesus Christ.

As we experience God's power through faith in Christ, our hearts respond. Our response begins with the realization that God owns everything. All that we have comes from God. God is our Source. God is the Creator and Sustainer of life. God is the Provider of all that we have, whether it be life itself, the air we breathe, water that sustains us, or financial resources through which we obtain the necessities of life. On a daily basis, God demonstrates again and again His abundant power as He "richly provides us with everything." (1 Tim. 6:17).

**Pledge Sunday is November 11.** Please turn in your pledge form on or before that date. We thank you for your generosity and support in the past and look forward to a blessed year in 2019.

## CCC

The **Caring Cancer Community** support group will be meeting every other week on Mondays from 10:00-11:30, **October 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>**. This is open to everyone, even friends and family, or strangers. I would encourage you to share this group's information if you know someone who has been diagnosed, or affected by cancer. Whether someone has just begun the journey or are adjusting to what comes next, this support group can be helpful.

~Nicole

## Operation Christmas Child

During the month of October, the Church's youth will be collecting shoe boxes filled with gifts for children all over the world for **Operation Christmas Child**. Please join us in bringing the good news of Christmas to a child in need of hope through shoe boxes filled with surprises! Here are some of the ways you can be a part of OCC:

1. Pack a shoe box of gifts at home and bring it to the Church by October 28<sup>th</sup>. Please note the cost of shipping and processing each box is \$9.00).
2. Add gift items to our collection box in the Narthex. We will have an information table set up each Sunday with lists of needed items and their quantities.
3. Provide a donation to help with shipping costs. If you choose to write a check, please make it payable to **ESPC** only and note **O.C.C.** in the memo line.
4. Pray for the children who will be receiving our gifts.

## Family Promise Fundraiser

Family Promise is hosting a Blue Jean Ball on **October 6th** as a fundraiser. Come to hear Karen Olson, founder of Family Promise. The invitation is posted on the Mission bulletin board. Individual tickets are \$40. To purchase tickets, or for more information, contact Ellie Buff at 570-424-0820.

## Treasurer and Stewardship Report Through July 31, 2018

Income	\$161,531.00
Expenses	\$157,948.00
Net	\$ 3,583.00
Year-to-Date Giving:	
Pledge Giving:	\$ 93,414.00
Non-Pledge:	\$ 4,070.00



### Wedding Anniversaries this month:

**Ed and Debbie Freeborn**  
**Rick and Rebecca Sanker**  
**Felix and Margie Staffaroni**  
**Mike and Norene Rosso**  
**Jim and Carol Hall**  
**Horace and Sonya Cole**  
**Bob and Lisa Elliott**  
**Kyle and Daisha Kintz**



### Birthdays this month:

**Rich Laverdure, Charlotte Currie, Horace Cole,  
Janice Delaney, Debbie Freeborn, Rylee and  
Sienna Mehringer and Phillip Lawrence**

## Adult Sunday School

God gave the Hebrew people a mission: to be a kingdom of priests who would extend God's reign by obeying his commands and putting him on display so that all people will be drawn to him. Our mission remains the same to this day. Join the adult class at 9:00 am as we investigate *Israel's Mission*. The course, written by Ray Vander Laan, will examine this topic by presenting the information in historical context. A DVD and study guide will be used. Tim Swanson will lead this class.

## Fundraiser for the Flood Victims of The Carolinas

Let's all go out to eat! The Mission Committee is having a fundraiser at Panera Bread on Friday, October 19th. The proceeds from this event will be sent to either Helping Hands of Presbytery or Presbyterian Disaster Relief, to help flood victims in the Carolinas. Eat at Panera Bread in Stroudsburg between 4:00 and 8:00 p.m. on October 19<sup>th</sup> and Panera will give us 20% of our total sales. Flyers will be available during church on Sundays or you can pick them up in the office between 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. You must present the flyer when you order your food so the church will get credit. Please give the flyers to your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers.

## Mission Work Trip

Please see the flyer on the bulletin boards regarding a Mission Work Trip to Fayetteville, North Carolina. *Helping Hands* is sponsoring this trip and are looking for volunteers to participate. It will run from **October 20<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>**.

## Resource Day for Congregations

Lehigh Presbytery presents a morning of workshops to enhance the ministries of our congregations. **ALL Pastors, congregational leaders and church members are encouraged to attend.** This will be held at our Church from 9:00 to noon on Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>.

There are three exciting workshops to choose from. Don't delay . . . register today! More information and registration forms are on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

## Nexus Staff

Pastor:  
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Contributing Editors:  
Ellie Buff, Allan Erbe, Margie Staffaroni,  
Lisa Swanson, Tim Swanson, Nicole Vogel

# October 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Family Promise Blue Jean Ball, 6:00 p.m.
7 <b>World Communion Sunday</b> Worship, 10:00 Deacon's Meeting, 11:15 Property & Finance Committee Mtg., 11:15	8 CCC, 10:00-11:30	9 Women's Circle, noon	10 Men's Lunch, noon	11	12	13 Presbytery Resource Day! 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
14 Worship, 10:00 am Coffee Hour, following worship	15	16	17	18	19 Panera Fundraiser for Mission Committee, 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm	20
21 Worship, 10:00 am Worship Committee Mtg., 9:40 a.m.	22 CCC, 10:00-11:30	23	24	25	26	27
28 Worship, 10:00 am Session Meeting, 11:15 Deacon's Coffee Hour, 11:15	29 Nexus Deadline	30	31 Happy Halloween!			