

## **First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen, 300 Years in the Making**

### **300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Calendar**

*Since 1717, the people of this historic, central New Jersey community have gathered in the name of Christ our Lord to serve and worship God. The 300-Year Anniversary Committee has planned several activities throughout the year to celebrate our church, its history and our future. Over the past 300 years, our church has had the opportunity, as described in Ecclesiastes, to have a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance (Ecclesiastes 3:4). We want to celebrate our history, while cherishing our future as a community of Christians, therefore our celebration will encompass the entire year with anchor events almost every month.*

In January, we kicked-off with a brunch sponsored by the Presbyterian Women and the Rev. Cheryl D. Galan was the first in a series of Distinguished Guest Preachers.

On **February 12<sup>th</sup>** the Distinguished Guest Preacher series continues with the Rev. Dr. Beth Hessel, Executive Director of the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia. She will also lead a Second-Hour Forum after worship (see page 8 for more details).

On **March 11<sup>th</sup>** we will welcome our church friends and our community to an Open House where we will showcase our history and our future. We plan to have multiple information tables featuring the work that our commissions do, and all of the opportunities to be involved, while continuing to make our church fun and vibrant.

On **April 30<sup>th</sup>** we will have the official 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Day Celebration, honoring the ordination of our first minister in 1717, with several activities including the burying of a 25-year time capsule followed by a coffee hour in the Social Center.

On **May 21<sup>st</sup>** we will be delighted to have the service completely dedicated to music and scripture, with the participation of our First Presbyterian Church Vocal and Handbell Choirs. We are also planning a mission activity close to home where the entire church can participate. Stay tuned for the dates.

On **June 4<sup>th</sup>** we will have a First Presbyterian Church Community Picnic like no other, featuring carnival games and inviting the entire community to join us.

On **July 23<sup>rd</sup>** we will prepare a special send off to our youth going on the Habit for Humanity Mission Trip by providing a big breakfast before their journey to Roanoke, Virginia. July will also include another of our Distinguished Guest Preachers.

On **September 16<sup>th</sup>** we will have a Candlelight Service in the old Revolutionary Cemetery, where our church building was originally located, to be followed by a procession back to the Social Center for some refreshments.

On **October 14<sup>th</sup>** the celebration continues with our own 300-Year Fashion Show, featuring dresses and costumes from the last three centuries.

On **November 26<sup>th</sup>** we plan to participate in full force during the Metuchen Winter Parade, representing our church and our 300-year involvement in the community.

Finally, on **December 9<sup>th</sup>** we will celebrate our Multi-Cultural Community with a Christmas dinner for the children of the Indonesian Fellowship and all of those young at heart.

*As you can see, we want to celebrate our history and cherish our future to the full extent, so please mark your calendars, invite friends and family and let us enjoy our time to laugh and our time to dance.*