

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MANASQUAN'S

MONTHLY BLESSINGS

A TESTIMONIAL OF CHRIST'S WORK IN OUR COMMUNITY

Greetings to the Congregation,

I'm sure by now you are all aware that tomorrow is New Consecration Sunday. The Stewardship Team would like to thank Sharon Binder, Deb MacEachern, and the entire church staff for their tireless work behind the scenes. They have proven themselves to be professional, hardworking, and extremely efficient in carrying out any task that has been asked of them as we work toward a successful campaign. Tomorrow is an important day in the life of our church, however, The Stewardship Commission is committed to working year round, in support of all the commissions. The wonderful programs that serve our congregation as well as the community as a whole would not be possible but for our financial generosity, as well as the giving of our time and talents.

It is truly a blessing to play a small part in the work our church does to bring God's love to the people who need it most. The sick, poor, and as we saw about this time a year ago, those who have lost everything due to circumstances beyond their control. Our church has always been there to help anyone in need. The following is just one story.

On June 13, 2006 while walking near a park near her home, Wendy Pilesky saw something she could not believe. Right there before her very eyes, in the sky above her head, the clouds formed what appeared to be the wings of an Angel. Reaching for her camera, which she never left home without, Wendy snapped an amazing photo of the largest pair of angel's wings she had ever seen.

Wendy, who had been struggling, as we all do from time to time, viewed this as a blessing and a sign from God that her life was about to change.

One year later, while jogging in the early morning hours in Spring Lake, Wendy Pilesky was accidentally run down by a young man driving an SUV. According to police reports he had fallen asleep at the wheel and drove up on the sidewalk where Wendy was jogging. Ironically, the accident took place directly below the trees you see in the picture. She suffered two broken hips and severe brain trauma. She



was in a coma.

In the weeks that followed, Wendy's condition did not improve much. Although on the outside her body began to heal, she remained in a coma, and the doctors were not sure if she would ever return to us. In fact, we were led to believe that her chances were slim, and even if she regained consciousness, there was not much hope that Wendy would ever again be able to lead a self sufficient life.

After more than three months, Wendy finally regained consciousness, but the road to recovery would be extremely tough. Six years later she is still recovering. Traumatic brain injuries rarely fully heal, but Wendy has done the best she can with the cards that she has been dealt. Her son Michael has joined the U.S. Marines, so he can serve our country and Wendy has a man in her life that loves her and helps her when she needs it. After all she has been through, she still believes in her Guardian Angel.

I am telling this story because Wendy is my sister in law. From the day of the accident, this church played an integral role in getting our family through this tragedy. Every week the Intercessory Prayer group would remember Wendy in their prayers. Steve Davis would call us regularly to comfort us. Even though we hadn't been members of this church for very long, and we really didn't know many people, the Congregation, led by Bill Fury, of course, gave us so much love and support that we really felt blessed.

I firmly believe that Wendy's recovery was a miracle. God heard the prayers of this congregation, and answered them in His own time and His own way. Seeing the way our new church family helped us in our time of need brought me closer to God and made me want to be part of it. Being born and raised in the Catholic Church, I did not know much about the Presbyterian Church so I was not real sure what, if anything, I could do. When the nominating committee called to ask me if I would become an elder and join the Stewardship Commission, I didn't hesitate to say yes, even though I had no idea what an elder was, much less the Stewardship Commission. Over the past two years I have learned much about Stewardship from Cherie Matthews, Jack Eisenaugle, Dick Stern, Dick Haskins, and many other members of our congregation that have freely given of their time, talents, and treasures, and I have discovered that Stewardship is not just raising money for the Church to pay it's bills. Stewardship is about building a more personal relationship with Jesus through the understanding that we give back to God a portion of what He has blessed us with, whether it be our finances, our talent, or our time, for the purpose of furthering Christ's mission in our church, community, and around the world.

I am sure that I am not the only Elder, Deacon, committee member, or member of the Congregation who has been brought closer to God through this amazing church. I am sure many of you have a story of your own that you would like to share. It is the goal of the Stewardship commission to help share your story. When we share our personal stories we can truly get to know each other. This can only serve to make us stronger as a team and as a family. God's family.

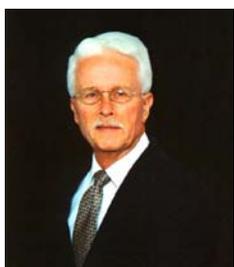
This is the first of what we hope will be many stories or testimonials of God's love. We would like to share a story every month as a way of showing that our church's mission is successfully bringing God's love to those who need it.

If you are interested in sharing your story please [email](mailto:rpetillo27@aol.com) me (rpetillo27@aol.com) or call me at 732-850-2047. It doesn't matter how short or long your story is. If it is about becoming closer to God as a result of one or more of our programs or missions, or something that has happened to you, a family member or friend, we would love to hear from you.

Blessings,
Rob Petillo
Elder/Stewardship

THE BRADY - WENDELL SOCIETY

by Dick Stern



The Brady-Wendell Society is a planned giving society established by the Session. Members of the Congregation are invited to join this Society by making a charitable bequest by Will to our FPCOM, or naming the Church as a beneficiary in their retirement plan, life insurance policy, trust, estate, charitable fund, or other similar vehicle. Those who have recently made a commitment to leave a lasting legacy include: Peg Bates, Charlotte Neary, Anne Post, Steve Salkeld, Dick and Debby Stern, and Sue Van Schoick.

The Stewardship Commission would be pleased to provide you with additional information and assistance. Please call Dick Stern at 732-528-6919, or [email](mailto:ddstern2@verizon.net) (ddstern2@verizon.net).

THE STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION

Cherie Matthews
Jack Eisenaugle
Dick Stern
Elder Bob Cardin
Elder Rob Petillo

Anyone interested in sharing a testimonial about how FPCOM has helped bring Christ's love into your life please contact Rob Petillo at 732-850-2047 or [email](mailto:rpetillo27@aol.com).

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