

# STREAM LINES

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A Monthly Publication of the First Presbyterian  
Church of Avenel, New Jersey



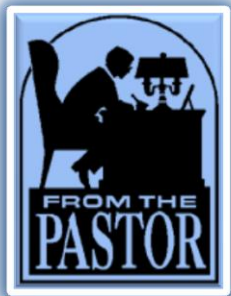
FEBRUARY 2010

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**February 2010**

***"Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ."*** (Ephesians 4:14-15)

It's truly amazing how God's Word can speak to us differently in different seasons of our lives. I suppose that's one of the reasons that Scripture is frequently called the *living* Word. It *moves* and *breathes* and *speaks* to us anew every time we read it. For me, this passage from Ephesians didn't really sink in until Karin and I started having kids. Since my earliest days as a Christian, I've always gravitated toward this passage; however, after having babies in the house, I feel that I'm just beginning to understand its depth.

"*Then we will no longer be infants...*" An infant is completely dependent upon his/her parents for *everything*. Taking care of an infant is like 24 hours of stirring the spaghetti sauce so it doesn't burn. Okay, bad analogy. But you get the point. Infants need constant attention, and can't really be left alone for very long. Let me rephrase: they *shouldn't* be left alone for very long.

Paul, of course, isn't talking about *literal* infancy, but *spiritual* infancy. When we are new in our faith, we depend (primarily) on others for everything. We're like sponges, soaking up the wisdom and teaching of our Christian family. We depend on worship services and ministers and sermons to nurse us

along in our spiritual journey. This is a beautiful and necessary step in our own faith growth.

But, as Paul points out, if we never *mature* in our faith, we are in danger of becoming like a rudderless ship in a stormy sea. An infant is incredibly vulnerable. If we only depend on *others* to feed us, and never learn to feed *ourselves*, then our faith may not survive. What would happen if we never taught babies to eat for themselves? They would continue to depend on their caretaker *forever*, guzzling the same milk for the rest of their lives. If we want to push the analogy a little further, let's say that *all the healthy food* we eat represents God and *all the junk food* represents sin. What if a new caretaker comes along and takes away the milk? What if they replace the milk with peanut-butter cups—all the while telling the infant that God *isn't* like milk, but instead is like peanut-butter cups? The spiritual infant would be "*tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.*"

So what's the answer? The answer is that we must: "***in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.***" We need to learn how to do some things for *ourselves*, to dig deeper in our understanding, to begin sitting up, rolling, crawling, and eventually walking our faith in the world. We need to experience God as a full-course meal, to wean from the bottle. You get the picture.

During the next 40 days (or so) of Lent, I'd like to encourage *all* of us to grab a knife and fork and *dig in*. Lent is one of the oldest seasons in the Christian calendar. Its purpose has always been: to promote self-examination and penitence in preparation for Easter. What a perfect time to broaden our spiritual palate!

It is in this spirit that I'd like to invite you on a journey this Lenten season. It's a two-pronged approach to growing in your faith *no matter where you are* in your spiritual walk. The first is through a series of worship opportunities:

**February 17: Ash Wednesday Service** at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary - Start Lent off right

**February 24-March 24: Lenten Vespers** at 5:45-7:55 p.m. - Join us for a soup supper, vesper service in the chapel, and a discussion group: "5 Things God Uses to Grow our Faith"

The second approach is through an integrated sermon/discussion series entitled: "5 Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith." After the weekly Vesper service, there will be a discussion group from 7:10-7:55pm in Ken Hunt Lounge based on this topic, and my sermons throughout Lent will correspond with each weekly theme. It's a low pressure, extremely casual program where we'll talk about faith in everyday life.

Let's grow and learn together. Let's dig into the feast of God's Word, and learn what it means to truly be satisfied. And may you and your family experience God more and more this Lenten season.

In Christ's service,

Rev. Jason Tucker

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## STREAM LINES INFORMATION

**The deadline for the March 2010 issue of Stream Lines will be Wednesday, February 17, 2010 at 12:00 noon.**

Remember to email your articles to:

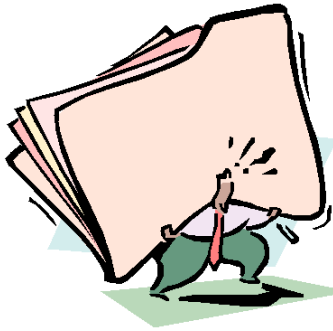
Susan Smolsky at [streamlines@comcast.net](mailto:streamlines@comcast.net) and  
Carol Palmer at [avenelpres@verizon.net](mailto:avenelpres@verizon.net)

**From the  
Editor**



The March issue will be available for online reading and printing on or about Wednesday, February 24, 2010 and will be available to those who have no internet service and pick up their copies in the Sanctuary on Sunday, February 28, 2010.

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**MINUTES of the  
CONGREGATIONAL/CORPORATION MEETING  
First Presbyterian Church of Avenel  
October 25, 2009**

The semi-annual meeting of the Congregation was called to order at 11:50 AM in the church sanctuary with prayer by the Moderator, Rev. Jason P. Tucker.

After finding the Call of the meeting to be in order, and establishing that a quorum of the membership was present, Rev. Tucker proceeded with the meeting.

Rev. Tucker reminded the attendees that only active members were permitted to participate in any vote, and that candidates for offices required a majority of active members present and voting to be elected.

Rev. Tucker asked for the report of the Nominating Committee from Chairperson Elder Kathy Sturtz.

**Ed Benkert** was nominated for a one year term as Treasurer.

**Carol Palmer** was nominated for a one year term as Assistant Treasurer.

**Mike Sturtz** was nominated for a three year term (Class of 2012) on the Auditing Committee.

Nominations for Elder/Trustee were as follows:

2 YEAR TERM (Class of 2011)

**Kathy Sturtz**

3 YEAR TERM (Class of 2012)

**Carolyn Stevenson**

**Carolyn Stockl**

**Elaine Ferrie-Kaczmarek**

**Ryan Miller**

**Lorine Price**

Nominations for Deacon were as follows:

1 YEAR TERM (Class of 2010)

**Mary Ann Lombardi**

3 YEAR TERM (Class of 2012)

**Millie Knotts**

**Arlene Farley**

**Jan Gagnon**

**Joan Collins**

**Vilma Ambis**

Nominees for a one-year term as members of the Nominating Committee were:

**Elizabeth Hulsizer** (Deacon Representative)

**Nick Altieri**

**Edward Benkert**

**Wilmer Allebach**

**Delia Culton**

There being no nominations from the floor for any offices, on motion and second nominations were closed. Since the number of positions equaled the number of nominees, it was regularly moved and seconded that no written ballot was required for the vote. The Moderator assured the congregation that written ballots had been prepared, if needed. **The motion to dispense with the written ballot was approved, and the slate of officers was elected unanimously**

**On motion and second, the business of the Congregational meeting was suspended for the purpose of opening a meeting of the Corporation.**

Elder Dubin, Finance Committee Chairperson and Corporation President, moderated the meeting. He explained that the 2010 Budget had been approved by Session at its October 20 meeting, but that it could not be acted upon at this meeting because there was insufficient time for the required 7 day review by the congregation. A separate meeting of the Corporation will be scheduled in the near future to present the budget.

**Old Business –**

The Moderator called on Elder Charles Kurowsky to present the report of the 2008 Auditing Committee. He indicated that the written report had been submitted, but was not available for this meeting. He assured the members that it would be included in the printed version of the minutes. The audit revealed no major errors or problems and **on motion and second, the report was received.**

***WRITTEN REPORT AS FOLLOWS:***

**Audit Committee Report**

**Date: February 16, 2009**

**Time: 1pm**

**Attendees: Ed Benkert, Charlie Kurowsky, Ryan Miller, John Guarracino**

The audit committee met on February 16 to review the church's financial records for 2008. The following areas were reviewed for accuracy and compliance:

- Accounts Payable
- Voucher System
- Record(s) of Income
- Payroll
- Checking Account Reconciliations

All areas were found to be in order. During a random review of the payment vouchers, a check was attached to a voucher, but the corresponding invoice was not attached. The Treasurer will review this payment with the Assistant Treasurer. All other sampled vouchers were properly documented. Income statements matched deposit records, and all payroll taxes were paid in a timely manner.

The Deacons' and MIC accounts were incorporated into the general checking account in early 2008, and all receipts and disbursements have been recorded in an orderly fashion. Having a central point of record keeping has resulted in an efficient operation.

Ed Benkert and Carol Palmer are to be commended on a fine job.

The meeting was closed at 2:15 pm.

**Submitted by,**

**Charlie Kurowsky  
Audit Chairperson**

***END OF WRITTEN REPORT***

There being no further business to come before the Corporation, **on motion and second, the meeting of the Corporation was adjourned and business resumed on the Congregational meeting.**

**New Business –**

Rev. Tucker opened discussion regarding changes in the style and order of worship over the past several months. A lively discussion was held, during which Rev. Tucker assured the congregation that any changes in worship were made only after consultation and approval among the Worship Committee, himself and the Session. Comments, both in favor of the status quo and in favor of a more

contemporary worship style, were voiced. Rev. Tucker asked for the patience of all members during this time of transition, and members urged each other to seek compromise and focus on God rather than a particular aspect of worship.

There being no further business to properly come before the meeting, it was closed with prayer by the Moderator at 12:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles P. Kurowsky  
Clerk of Session

**MINUTES of the SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL/CORPORATION MEETING  
First Presbyterian Church of Avenel  
December 13, 2009**

A special meeting of the Congregation and Corporation was called to order at 12:10 PM in the church sanctuary with prayer by the Moderator, Rev. Jason P. Tucker.

After finding the Call of the meeting to be in order, and establishing that a quorum of the membership was present, Rev. Tucker proceeded with the meeting.

On motion and second, the Congregational Meeting was suspended, and the meeting of the Corporation was convened. Elder Wayne Dubin, chairman of the Finance Committee, moderated.

Elder Dubin and Ed Benkert, Church Treasurer, presented a review of the status of the manse renovation project. The project is currently funded for \$72,000. Due to unexpected cost overruns and additions, an additional \$5,000 – 10,000 may be needed to complete the renovation. This additional amount does not include the \$9,000 borrowed from the Property Care Fund, which was hoped to be paid back.

Loan repayments to individuals have begun. The delay in completing the renovation will also result in continued rent to be paid for the Tuckers housing in 2010. **On motion and second, the report was received.**

There being no further business to come before the Corporation, on motion and second, the meeting of the Corporation was adjourned, and the Congregational meeting was resumed.

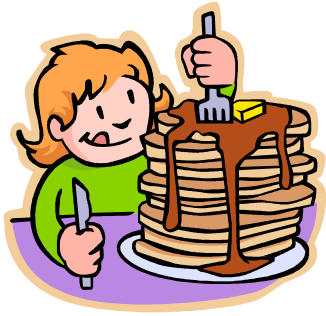
The Moderator asked Elder Dubin to present the 2010 budget for review. Copies of the budget were distributed. Budgeted expenses totaled \$212,630.00. The amounts budgeted for the Pastor's salary and related expenses were submitted pending the receipt of Presbytery guidelines for 2010.

The members were afforded the opportunity to ask questions about the budget, and all questions were answered satisfactorily. **On motion and second, the budget was approved and received.**

There being no further business to properly come before the meeting, it was closed with prayer by the Moderator at 12:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles P. Kurowsky  
Clerk of Session



## Annual Pancake Supper

**Tuesday, February 16, 2010 – 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. – Jacob Morgan Hall**

### RE M I N D E R

The Christian Education Committee invites you to come join us on Tuesday, February 16, 2010 for our Annual Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper. It is open to everyone, so bring your friends!

Donations will be accepted at the door. The suggested donation is \$4.00 per adult and \$2.00 for each child. Seating is available from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Jacob Morgan Hall.

**Hope to see you there!**

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### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has set Sunday, February 21, 2010 as the date for our semi-annual congregational meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to review and discuss the annual report and to conduct any other business that may be properly brought to the attention of the congregation.



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### Come to the Game!

**February 7, 2010 – R E M I N D E R**

It's another Super Bowl Sunday, this year February 7, 2010. That's when our next David's Challenge will be held right here in our very own gym. Everyone is invited to come watch as our Sunday School Department is divided into two teams that will battle for victory. The red team is "Christ's Crusaders" and the blue team is "God's Warriors." The team that answers the most bible-based questions correctly will get to advance toward their goal depending on the yardage value of their question. The team scoring the most points by the end of the game wins. We will start promptly at 9:00 a.m. and will end at 10:00 a.m.



### Ash Wednesday Service

**Wednesday, February 17, 2010 – Sanctuary – 7:00 p.m.**

Jesus retreated into the wilderness and fasted for 40 days to prepare his ministry. For Him, it was a time of contemplation, reflection and preparation. By observing Lent, most Christians join Jesus on His retreat.

Take the time now to map out your journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Begin your journey by joining us for our Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 17, 2010 in the Sanctuary.

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## LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS • VESPER SERVICES • DISCUSSION GROUP

Lent is a season of preparation and reflection, soul-searching and repentance, and a time for taking stock.

Our annual Lenten Soup Suppers and Vesper Services held on Wednesday evenings are a perfect way to remember the sacrifice of our Lord during this special time of the year.

Our first date is Wednesday, February 24, followed by March 3, 10, 17 and 24. Join us for the Soup Supper, with delicious homemade soups, fresh baked breads and desserts, from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. in Jacob Morgan Hall, followed by the Vesper Service from 6:45 to 7:05 p.m. in the Chapel.

**New this year** is a discussion group after the Vesper Service. From 7:10 to 7:55 p.m., please join us in Ken Hunt Lounge for a discussion on the "5 Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith." Childcare will be available by request. Please contact the Church Office for more information.



To view our flyer on the "5 Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith," [click here](#).

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## TOOLING AROUND THE TOWNSHIP FIX-UP DAY

Saturday, April 24, 2010

The Woodbridge Township Municipal Council wants to remind everyone that Tooling Around the Township is just around the corner. The annual Township-wide "fix-up" day is scheduled for Saturday, April 24. Don't wait. Nominate a house for repair or volunteer to help today. Call 732-634-2750, Ext. 105, or log on to the Township webpage at <http://twp.woodbridge.nj.us> for more details.

## DIVISION ON AGING – TAX HELP FOR SENIORS

The Township of Woodbridge, Division on Aging, will once again offer senior taxpayers help in preparing their 2009 New Jersey Property Tax relief forms (NJ Property Tax Reimbursement Forms PTR1 and PTR2) and New Jersey 2009 Homestead Rebate Form. To be eligible, you must be a Woodbridge resident age 65 or older (proof of residency required) and earn less than \$38,000 (married) or \$30,000 (single).

Senior residents under the age of 65 must be receiving federal SSD Benefits (Social Security Disability Benefits). Appointments available beginning February 1<sup>st</sup>. To schedule an appointment, call 732-855-0600, Ext. 5023.

Assistance is also available for seniors and those with low income who need help with their Federal and/or NJ State income tax returns. That assistance is provided by AARP volunteers as follows:

- Mondays at the Evergreen Senior Center in Colonia from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., starting on Monday, February 22, 2010
- Wednesdays at the Woodbridge Main Library from 12:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m., starting on Wednesday, February 10, 2010

You do not have to be an AARP member to obtain this help, and no appointment is necessary. PTR1 and PTR2 assistance is also available.

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## Free Stuff!

Kathy McKelligett has lots of hand tools that she no longer needs. They include hammers, screw drivers, pliers and other tools like this. She also has a working 13 inch cable-ready color TV and a chest of drawers (4 drawers) which is in good condition but could be refinished if desired.

If anyone wants to take a look, please call Kathy at home or through the Church Office. She would be very happy if the church or church members could use any of these things.

## Sunday School Superintendent Needed

The Christian Education Committee is looking for someone who cares about our children and wants to commit their Sunday mornings to a program to inspire the children to learn about Jesus Christ. Talents needed are the love of Jesus Christ, caring for our kids, and time for our church. Some of the responsibilities include ordering curriculum and supplies, record-keeping, organizing events, programs and activities, and helping to recruit teachers and helpers.



The Church staff wishes to thank the congregation for the wonderful Christmas "bonus!" Your generous and heart-felt support for our work here is truly appreciated! We look forward to serving you in 2010!

May God bless you, as you've been a blessing to us.

Sincerely,  
Rev. Jason Tucker, Carol Palmer, Francesco Santelli and Ron McGarry



### Confirmation Class

Thursday Nights  
February 4, 11, 18  
and 25 at 7:00 p.m.  
in the Youth Room

Open to all youth 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade who wish to be confirmed. Pastor Jason will be leading this class, and the youth will officially join as members on Easter Sunday, April 4. Please contact the Church Office at 732-634-1631 or email Pastor Jason at [pastorjtucker@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjtucker@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

### Alternative Worship Task Force

The first two meetings will be Sunday, February 14 and Sunday, February 28 in Kent Hunt Lounge immediately following the morning worship service. Pizza and beverages will be provided.



The Church Office will be closed on Monday, February 15, 2010 for President's Day.

IT'S FINALLY HERE! WHAT WE'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR...

## OUR 5TH ANNUAL BAKE OFF/COOK OFF

Saturday, February 27, 2010 - Jacob Morgan Hall - 5:00 p.m.

Please mark your calendars and get out those cookbooks. And remember, the rules are: Anyone, any age, any gender can enter the Bake-Off. However, the Cook-Off is for **men only**.



Any man wanting to participate in the Cook-Off must bring his best dish directly to JMH by 5:00 p.m. There will be tables set up in front of the room for you to display your dish. There will be a prize ribbon for "Best Tasting Dish."

For those entering the Bake-Off, please bring your baked item, completely concealed, to the kitchen door by 5:00 p.m. in order to have it registered and numbered. All entries will be judged on presentation and taste.

The men's covered dishes and all of the baked goods will be judged by everyone who attends. You DO NOT have to enter either contest to come and enjoy this delicious evening. If you have not been to this event before, please mark your calendar and come! It has proven to be Great Fun and Fellowship in years past.

Any questions? Call Cindy Culton at home or through the Church Office.  
No Pre-Registration required.



### Our Military Servicemen, Servicewomen and Their Families

Anthony Battito, Robert Bartko, Jason Bone, Amy Updike, Michael Barany, Justin Kitchen, Carson Severyn, Edward Merz, Daniel Hedner, Brian Williams, Brian Ragas, Michael Warren, Joshua McCullough, Lauren Pfeifer, Bryan Palmer, Rev. Adam Tiejte

**FREEDOM ISN'T FREE.  
SOMEBODY PAID.**



Jolan Farkas, Eleanor Smith, Toni Anderson,  
Linda Bisgaard and Edith Cloidt

### Prayer Requests

To add someone to this list, please call the Church Office at 732-634-1631



### Recent Concerns

Kathy McKelligett, Alexis, Nicole, Rev. Adam Tietje, Mary Corigliano (cousin of Carol and Larry Palmer), Josephine DeVito (mother of Carol Palmer), Ernie Zelizi (brother of Vilma Ambis), Tessa Campbell (great-niece of Arleen Schreiber), Helena Weeks (friend of Wayne Collins), Charlotte Lankford (friend of the McKees), Helen Smith (grandmother of Jessica Miller), Tim Spewak (brother-in-law of Carol and Larry Palmer), Howard Ely

### Those with On-Going Long-Term Concerns

Edward and Betty Dobson, Jennifer Perez, Tyler Rich and Family (cousin of Carol Palmer), Dorothy Piperi (mother of Carolyn Gilligan's co-worker), Diana Dydak, Jeremy Hogan, Don Gilligan, Leo and Lucille Webber (friends of Carolyn Gilligan), Esther Nielsen, Phil Prasser



The Kudos Korner is intended to celebrate the life and accomplishments of members young and old, and is open all year round.

**LAUREN PFEIFER** graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard boot camp on Friday, November 13, 2009 and was presented with her graduation certificate in a ceremony on that day in Cape May, New Jersey. She also earned the Honor Graduate Award, which was presented to the recruit with the highest average score in all aspects of her training, classwork, physical fitness, seamanship and leadership, and she received the Seamanship award as well. These awards are truly earned by hard work and dedication. Lauren will continue her career on the Coast Guard Cutter Sea Horse.

Congratulations to Lauren and her proud grandmother, Kathy McKelligett. And thank you Lauren for your service to this country.



### Top Ten Predictions for 2010

1. The Bible will still have all the answers.
2. Prayer will still be the most powerful thing on earth.
3. The Holy Spirit will still move.
4. God will still honor the praises of His people.
5. There will still be God-anointed preaching.
6. There will still be singing of praise to God.
7. God will still pour out blessings upon His people.
8. There will still be room at the Cross.
9. Jesus will still love you.
10. Jesus will still save the lost when they come to Him.

Isn't it great to remember who is really in control, and that "the Word of the Lord endures forever." (1 Peter 1:25)

Submitted by Carolyn Stockl

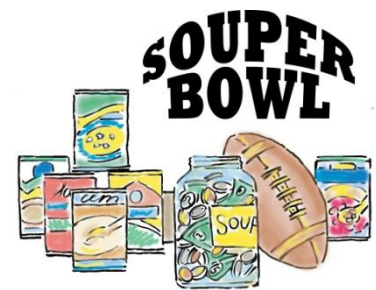


### December Arrival

Congratulations to the Battito family on the birth of a sweet baby girl, Karen Angelina.

### "SOUPER" BOWL SUNDAY

That is right, SOUPER, as in soup. Joann's Pantry is asking everyone to please



bring in one or more cans of soup on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Not only is it SUPER BOWL SUNDAY, but it is also the day that pantries around the nation are asking for SOUP donations.

We still have a lot of COLD days ahead of us and there is nothing to take the chill off like a nice hot bowl of soup. Please do your part to help us stock our shelves with lots and lots of soup.

Thanks and enjoy the game. We hope your favorite team wins.

Jake & Carolyn Stockl  
Coordinators of Joann's Pantry

### Happy Valentine's Day

Love bears all things,  
believes all things, hopes  
all things, endures  
all things.  
1 Corinthians 13:7 (NKJV)





**Become  
Part of  
Our  
Church  
Family**

### **New Member Classes Beginning Thursday, March 11, 2010**

While we consider everyone who walks through these doors to be our brothers and sisters in Christ – part of God’s family – we also recognize the importance of joining a congregation as a sign of one’s deeper commitment to the life of the church. We believe that our church is a wonderful place for such a commitment and we’re extending an open invitation for all who’d like to join at this time.

This will be a 3-week class that will meet from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday nights, March 11, 18 and 25, 2010. All members will officially join on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2010.

Please contact the church office at 732-634-1631 to sign up or email Pastor Jason at [pastorjtucker@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjtucker@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

### DECEMBER 2009 SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



At the December Session meeting, the Elders:

- Held the annual joint meeting with the Board of Deacons as required by the Book of Order.
- Approved the transfer of membership of Roy and Lori Hoppock to the Englishtown Presbyterian Church.
- Approved using the Greener Solutions Co. for snow plowing.
- Approved a recommendation from the Evangelism Committee to allow Jennifer Sands to make a presentation on September 10, 2010.
- Approved a recommendation from the SMI Committee to donate \$400 of their funds to help defray the cost of a mission trip by Spencer Severyn.
- Approved receiving gifts of appreciation for the paid staff members.

★ **EXTRA! EXTRA!** ★

READ ALL ABOUT IT!

BETHLEHEM COMES TO AVENEL AS WITNESSED BY A  
LOCAL ROVING PHOTOGRAPHER

Entering into Bethlehem on the night of Sunday, December 13, 2009, I was greeted by an official census taker who recorded my name and town of origin. Proceeding further into town, I came upon a variety of shops. The shopkeepers were all eager to show and sell their wares. I came away with many treasures. As I continued walking thru Bethlehem, I was amazed and awestruck at the size of the crowds, the excitement in the air, and the bustling marketplace. Even the youngest children were so moved as to part with their precious coins to the local beggar. The most awesome sight (and not soon forgotten by this photographer or any of the children or adults witnessing it) was Mary and Joseph in a stable cradling and cooing to their baby, Jesus. Many stopped to speak and touch the hand/head of God. What a wondrous sight! You couldn’t help but be touched by this spectacular event and forever blessed by being part of it.

Thank you all for bringing Bethlehem to Avenel. A special thanks to the shepherds without whom we never would have found our way around the town and eventually to the baby Jesus.

Jan Gagnon



## DEACONS' TEA

**Here we go everyone!!!**

On Sunday, March 21, 2010, we will have another Deacons' Tea. So mark your calendar because that is when you get to "Meet Your Deacon."

This is a time for fun, fellowship and good food. Let's all make this 2010 Deacons' Tea the biggest and the best. It will be held in the Gym of the Christian Education Building immediately following the morning worship service. See you there!!!

## 42ND ANNUAL HOLIDAY FAIR

### Requests from the Annual Holiday Fair Committee

As I am looking over the financial report for the Fair, I notice that our two biggest moneymakers are White Elephant and the Jewelry table. With that in mind, I would like to ask everyone reading this to look through your jewelry boxes for anything unwanted and please donate it to the Fair. It would be helpful to tell your friends and family too. Pete Allebach, Wayne Collins and I cleaned out the Fair room and we now have plenty of space. If there are any Christmas presents that you received and can't use, please pass them along for the Silent Auction. We are asking you to keep the Fair in mind when you do your spring cleaning. So much of the Fair runs on your donations.

If you need to reach me, please call me at home or through the Church Office.  
Thank you in advance.



Cindy Culton, Chairperson  
Holiday Fair Committee



## NEWS FROM JOANN'S FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry had a very busy year in 2009. As of December, we gave out over 1500 bags of food to feed a total 504 families. That is not counting those that came to the church office for emergency food bags. Carol Palmer gave those out. Thank you Carol.

We also helped supply food for Family Promise. You did a great job Tim.

We would like to remind everyone that the food in the pantry is available to anyone in our congregation that may need a helping hand. All you have to do is call the office. All requests are kept confidential. You do not have to sign anything and there is no record of your request. Arrangements will be made for you to pick up food at a convenient time. Please take advantage of the food we have to share if you are in need. I am sure that everyone in this church has hit a few bumps in the road at times. I know we have. We are here to help. Please let us.

We would like to thank all those that so generously donated their help this year. It was greatly appreciated. It really helped us to keep the pantry going.

God bless you all,  
Jake and Carolyn Stockl  
Coordinators of Joann's Pantry



## *Family Promise/Interfaith Hospitality Network*

Our church hosted the guests from Family Promise during the week of December 26 thru January 3. There were 14 guests, 5 of which were children. This week was a success because of all the volunteers who were able to make dinner/dessert, social serve and be an overnight host.

Now for behind the scenes. We have a crew who helps put the beds up and volunteers who wash the linens at the beginning of the week and at the end of the week. It takes a lot of volunteers in order for this week to be successful. Even though we had a successful week, we still were in need of more volunteers. If we are to continue with this program, we need more people to step up and volunteer in the areas of social servers and overnight hosts. Our next week will be April 25 thru May 2. If you have never volunteered, please prayerfully consider doing so.

Tim Samons and Carol Palmer,  
Co-Chairs of Family Promise

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## NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED

During the morning worship service on Sunday, January 17, 2010, two new members publicly professed their faith in Jesus Christ and were welcomed into the fellowship and ministry of our church through a transfer of their membership from the First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen.

We welcome as members of the church and servants of God:

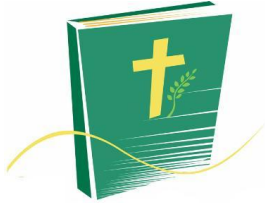
**CHRIS RUMONDOR AND MERRY PADANG**



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## *At a Glance.....*

- **Confirmation Class** – Thursday nights, February 4, 11, 18 and 25 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Room
  - **David's Challenge** – Sunday, February 7 at 9:00 a.m. sharp in the Gym
  - **Pancake Supper** – Tuesday, February 16 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in Jacob Morgan Hall
  - **Ash Wednesday Service** – Wednesday, February 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
  - **Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting** – Sunday, February 21 immediately following the morning worship service
  - **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Bake Off/Cook Off** – Saturday, February 27 at 5:00 p.m. in Jacob Morgan Hall
  - **Lenten Soup Suppers/Vesper Services/Discussion Group** – Wednesday Nights, February 24 thru March 24 from 5:45 to 7:55 p.m. Jacob Morgan Hall/Chapel/Ken Hunt Lounge
  - **New Member Class** – Thursday nights, March 11, 18 and 25 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.
  - **Deacons Tea** – Sunday, March 21 immediately following the morning worship service in the Gym
  - **Daylight Savings Time Begins** – Sunday, March 14 at 2:00 a.m. – turn clocks ahead
  - **Palm Sunday** – Sunday, March 28, 2010
  - **Maundy Thursday** – Thursday, April 1, 2010
  - **Good Friday** – Friday, April 2, 2010
  - **Easter Sunday** – Sunday, April 4, 2010
-



## February Memory Verse

Matthew 5:10 (NIV)

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



## Transferred to the Church Triumphant

December 2009 – **Elizabeth “Betty” Price**, our 31 year faithful and generous church member, one-time Secretary of the Holiday Fair Committee and former Elder.

January 2010 – **Richard “Rich” Gagnon**, our beloved and dedicated church member and friend since April 1974, Elder of 11 years, Deacon of 6 years, Youth Leader, Chair of SMI Committee, Sunday School teacher, and so much more. Godspeed dear friend.

## Thought of the Month



Nothing is permanent in this world,  
not even our troubles.

~ Charlie Chaplin ~



## February Birthdays

If there are any omissions or errors in the February birthday list, please contact the Church Office at 732-634-1631. Thank you!

- 01 Chris D’Amato
- 02 Mark Tarby
- 04 Eddie Sammartino, Cindy Culton, Steven Kosakowski, Sarah Kosakowski
- 05 Chris Yuhasz
- 07 Diana Dydak
- 09 Linda Palmerini, Dorothea Smith, John Altieri
- 10 Bob Schulz
- 11 Eddy Exantus
- 13 Arlene Farley
- 14 Alyson Rasimowicz
- 15 Jessica Miller
- 18 Toni Anderson, Jonathon Sternesky
- 21 Marjorie Greasheimer, Sarah Benkert
- 22 Becky Schulz, Patrick Lombardi
- 24 Paul Chomiak
- 25 Jolan Farkas, Justine Durham, Jaime Dydak
- 28 Roy Palmerini, Jordon Connolly



## Winter

Surely as cometh the winter, I know there are  
spring violets under the snow.

~ R.H. Newell ~



## Christian Reflections

### The Carpenter

I hired a carpenter to help me restore an old farmhouse. After he had just finished a rough first day on the job, a flat tire made him lose an hour of work, his electric saw quit, and now his ancient pickup truck refused to start.

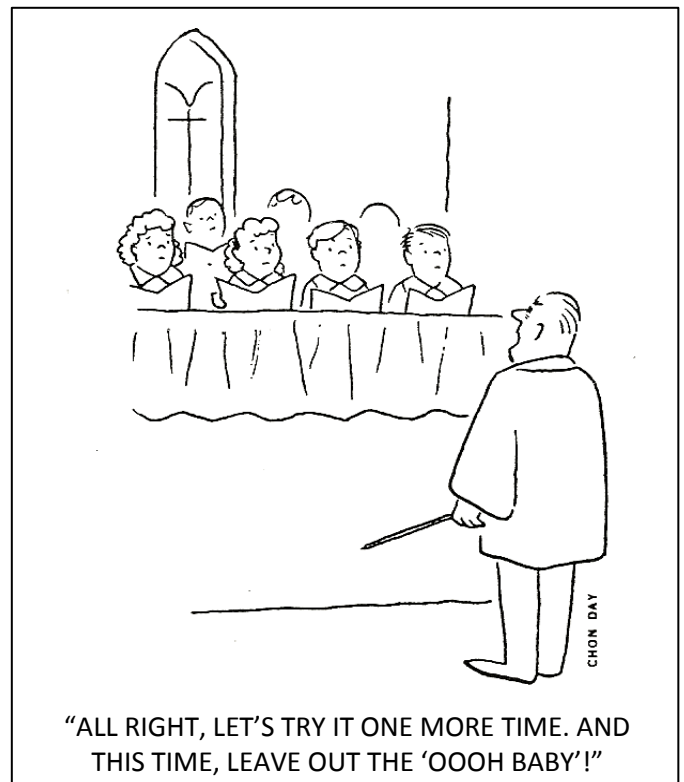
While I drove him home, he sat in stone silence. On arriving, he invited me in to meet his family. As we walked toward the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of the branches with both hands. When opening the door, he underwent an amazing transformation. His tanned face was wreathed in smiles, and he hugged his two small children and gave his wife a kiss.

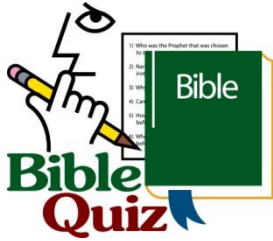
Afterward, he walked me to the car. We passed the tree and my curiosity got the better of me. I asked him about what I had seen him do earlier. "Oh, that's my trouble tree," he replied. "I know I can't help having troubles on the job, but one thing's for sure, troubles don't belong in the house with my wife and the children. So I just hang them up on the tree every night when I come home. Then in the morning I pick them up again."

"Funny thing is," he smiled, "when I come out in the morning to pick them up, there aren't nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before."

## COMIC RELIEF

**"A cheerful heart is good medicine...." Proverbs 17:22**





## Monthly Bible Trivia Quiz

See how well you did by finding the answers elsewhere in this newsletter

**Category:** Jesus  
**Quiz Title:** Sermon on the Mount

- 
- Complete the Beatitude: Blessed are the pure in heart....
    - for they shall see God
    - for they shall obtain mercy
    - for they shall inherit the earth
    - for they shall be comforted
  - To what food does the Lord compare his disciples?
    - Herbs
    - Bread
    - Salt
    - Yeast
  - What did Jesus say is as bad as murder?
    - Jealousy
    - Anger
    - Greed
    - Adultery
  - Jesus said not to swear by your head because you cannot do what?
    - Count the hairs on your head
    - Make one hair black or white
    - Make your hair grow
    - Stop your hair going grey
  - According to Jesus, what is the earth?
    - God's throne
    - God's creation
    - God's footstool
    - God's garden
  - What should you do if someone asks you to go with them for a mile?
    - Say no
    - Go with them for a mile
    - Go with them for two miles
    - Go with them for a mile and carry their bag
  - Where is the best place to pray?
    - In your closet with the door shut
    - On the street corner
    - In the synagogue
    - With your family
  - In the Lord's prayer, what follows the line, "Hallowed be thy name?"
    - Give us this day our daily bread
    - Thy will be done on earth
    - Thy kingdom come
    - Lead us not into temptation
  - What should you do when you fast?
    - Wash your face and put on your robes
    - Have a sad countenance
    - Pray in the synagogue
    - Anoint your head and wash your face
  - What happens to treasure on earth?
    - You pay taxes with it
    - You worry about it
    - Thieves steal it
    - The king takes it

### Answers to Monthly Bible Trivia Quiz

1. a) for they shall see God – Matthew 5:8    2. c) Salt – Matthew 5:13    3. b) Anger – Matthew 5:21-22  
4. b) Make one hair black or white – Matthew 5:36    5. c) God's footstool – Matthew 5:35  
6. c) Go with them for two miles – Matthew 5:41    7. a) In your closet with the door shut – Matthew 6:6  
8. c) Thy kingdom come – Matthew 6:9-13    9. d) Anoint your head and wash your face – Matthew 6:17  
10. c) Thieves steal it – Matthew 6:19

# STREAM LINES

Love

FEBRUARY 2010

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# STREAM LINES

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