

# STREAM LINES

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



MAY 2010

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**May 2010**

**"Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. All those who heard him were astonished and asked, 'Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?' Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ." (Acts 9:19b-22)**

Sometimes I wonder why I've become so desensitized to the incredible tragedies going on in the world. Sometimes I wonder why my heart is not stirred to tears every time I hear about: *war, babies found in dumpsters, economic collapse, murder, theft, arson, and on and on and on*. I suppose there's a part of my heart that has been *hardened* by the deluge of information that washes over me every day: waves of emails, newscasts and podcasts that beat against me so often, I've become accustomed to it. It's as if every day I take an emotional *Ali-esque* beating, with the world shouting from the center of the ring, "I am the greatest." And, perhaps in self-defense, my proclivity to avoid sorrow and run toward laughter creates a powerful outer husk that protects me from the pain of such awful truths.

The reality of being human is that our hearts can easily harden. In fact, from a spiritual point of view, one could say it's our *natural inclination* to be hardened toward God. And yet, God can soften or even melt the hardest of us. In my own experience, I've seen God soften the hearts of friends and family who I thought would *never* soften toward Him. In fact, some of the strongest leaders in the Church today are those who once committed their lives to *opposing* Christianity.

Saul (Paul) is the Biblical example of this. He was a persecutor of Christians, and by all accounts, he enjoyed his job. He was good at it. And because he was good at it, he had developed quite a

reputation. People had heard of Saul's exploits against the Christians in Jerusalem all the way in Damascus (150 miles away). Saul (Paul) was smart, prestigious and popular.

Then, God knocked him off his high horse (so to speak). With a word, He humbled and softened one of the hardest hearts around. Many people see God's interaction with Saul as a miracle. If a miracle, by definition, is "an act of God," then yes, it certainly was. But I think the next part of Saul's story, as told in the above passage from *Acts*, is an even bigger miracle. For after his conversion, he went out and *proclaimed the Gospel*, leaving his friends in bewilderment and anger. He started living for the God he once despised. And *that's* the power that comes through a relationship with God. It turns everything on its head. It resensitizes that which has been hardened toward God.

I think the Church has a tendency to over-complicate the Gospel. When someone asks what Christianity is all about, some Christians (of course, none of us here at Avenel), drone on and on like they're trying to pass some kind of exam. They try and fit every theological truth they ever heard into a kind of "spiritual filibuster" that leaves the poor questioner drowning in information overload.

If we learn anything from Paul's conversion, it's that his transformation, his heart-softening, didn't come by examining complex matters of theology (that came later), but *first* and *foremost*, through a *relationship* with God. And that, brothers and sisters, is where every hardened heart must begin: with an *encounter*.

Have you encountered the Gospel of Jesus Christ for yourself? Don't get bogged down in all the theology (important and necessary as it is), at least not right away. Allow yourself to *experience* God's saving grace in your own life. Allow Him to walk with you *in* your pain and brokenness. Allow Him to speak to you *in* your daily circumstance. And when He says, "Follow me," then *follow*.

In Christ,  
Rev. Jason Tucker

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## STREAM LINES INFORMATION

**The deadline for the June/July 2010 issue of Stream Lines will be Wednesday, May 19, 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 June/July issue will be available for online reading and printing on or about Wednesday, May 26, 2010 and will be available to those who have no internet service and pick up their copies in the Sanctuary on Sunday, May 30, 2010.

**Remember:** There is no separate July issue of Stream Lines, but rather a combination June/July issue going out at the end of May. Please keep this in mind when planning your articles.

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## **MINUTES of the CONGREGATIONAL/CORPORATION MEETING First Presbyterian Church of Avenel February 21, 2010**

The semi-annual meeting of the Congregation was called to order at 11:55 AM in the sanctuary with prayer by the Moderator, Rev. Jason P. Tucker.

The Call of the meeting was found to be in order, and a quorum of the membership was determined to be present. **On motion and second, the docket was approved.**

Rev. Tucker presented his report to the congregation. **On motion and second, the report was received.**

Report of the Clerk – the statistical report of the Clerk was presented. **On motion and second, the report was received.**

Report of the Church Treasurer – The 2009 report was available for review. There being no questions about the report, **on motion and second, the report was received.**

Report of the Financial Secretary - The 2009 report was available for review. There being no questions about the report, **on motion and second, the report was received.**

Report of the Auditing Committee – The 2008 auditing report (completed in February, 2009) was available for review. Charles Kurowsky, committee chairperson, noted that all issues in the report had been resolved and, **on motion and second, the report was received.** The 2009 audit has not yet been completed.

Report of Benevolence - The 2009 Mission and Benevolence Committee report was available for review. A typographical error (Johnsonburg vs. Johnsonberg) was noted for correction. **On motion and second, the report was received as corrected.**

Reports of Committees and Organizations – The Moderator asked if there were any questions regarding the reports of the various committees and organizations. None being raised, **on motion and second, the reports were received.**

New Business – Kathy Sturtz indicated that additional volunteers were needed for Adventures in Worship and Toddler Care.

Randy Hunt announced that additional members were needed in both Joyful Ringers and Good News Puppeteers to replace young people leaving for college. He also mentioned that he was seeking a committee of people to assist in videotaping the church services, since he found it difficult to operate the camera and sing in the choir as well, and he had no back-up to videotape on weeks he was unable to be in church.

Rev. Tucker mentioned that both DVDs and sermon podcasts were being utilized and accessed regularly. The podcasts can be downloaded from the church website. In response to a question about having the entire worship service available on the website, Randy Hunt indicated that the church did not currently have the technology available to do that. Inquiry had been made about the possibility of having the service available on local access Cable TV channels, but the Township indicated that it was not their policy to air worship services.

### **Corporation Meeting**

On motion and second, the Congregational meeting was suspended and a meeting of the Corporation convened at 12:15 PM. Elder Wayne Dubin, President of the Corporation, moderated.

After determining that there was no business to properly come before the Corporation, **on motion and second, the Corporation meeting was closed at 12:17 PM,** and business of the Congregational meeting was resumed.

There being no further business to properly come before the meeting, it was closed with prayer by the Moderator at 12:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles P. Kurowsky  
Clerk of Session

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## Deacons Tea

The Deacons' Tea was held on Sunday, March 21st in the Gym of the Christian Education Building. Hope you were able to attend and meet your Deacon, relax and enjoy good food and fellowship. To those of you who attended,

**"THANK YOU FOR COMING!"**

"Bless You" and a big "Thank You" to those who donated sandwiches, desserts and beverages, and those who helped with the setup and cleanup.



Your Board of Deacons

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## CONFIRMATION CLASS 2010/NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED

During the morning worship services on Palm Sunday, March 28 and Easter Sunday, April 4, 2010, six new members publicly professed their faith in Jesus Christ and were received into the fellowship and ministry of our church.

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

**CONFIRMATION CLASS:**

**KAYLA FOWLER, ABIGAIL RAGAN AND KRISTINA STERNESKY**

**MEMBERSHIP CLASS:**

**MICHAEL HOWELL, ROBERT RAGAN AND CHARLENE RAGAN**

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## JANUARY/FEBRUARY SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



At the January Session meeting, the Elders:

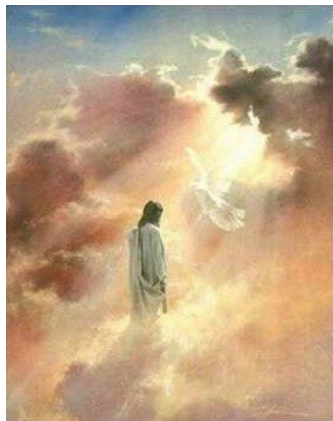
- Approved the minutes of the Special meeting of the Congregation and Corporation held on December 13, 2009.
- Were assigned roles as committee chairpersons.
- Approved the recommendation of the Christian Ed. Committee to hire a student intern from Princeton Theological Seminary at a cost of \$3200 to work with the Youth Fellowships beginning in September, 2010.
- Approved recommendations from the SMI Committee to donate \$200 of their funds to Samoa Tsunami Relief, and \$500 to the Warren family of Avenel who were burned out of their home.
- Approved the recommendations of the Worship Committee to schedule worship services during the Lenten season.

At a special Session meeting on January 31, the Elders:

- Approved a request to allow the baptism of Rui Miguel Baptista, Jr., infant son of Andrea and Rui Baptista, Sr.
- Set the date of the semi-annual meeting of the Congregation and Corporation for February 21 following worship.
- Approved the notification of lease termination to the landlord of the property being rented for the Tucker family.

At the February Session meeting, the Elders:

- Approved changes to the schedule of paid holidays for the Administrative Assistant and the Sexton to bring them in line with Rev. Tucker's holidays.
- Approved the dates of July 26-30, 2010 for Vacation Bible School.
- Approved a recommendation from the Finance Committee to establish a sub-account for Youth Memorials in the Memorial account.



## ***ASCENSION DAY AND PENTECOST***

By: Rev. Dr. Charles H. Baier

Ascension Day (May 13, 2010), marks the day when Jesus Christ ascended into Heaven. It was 40 days after his resurrection from the dead. Pentecost marks the sending of the Holy Spirit and is celebrated 50 days after Easter. This year, Pentecost is on Sunday, May 23, 2010.

Behind the events of the Day of Pentecost are the events of the Day of Ascension. Without His ascension, there would be no Day of Pentecost. The sending of the Holy Spirit is the direct result of Jesus ascending to the Father and the Father giving Jesus all power and authority in heaven and on earth. With this authority, Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to bring creation into

conformity with God's will.

After his suffering, Jesus showed himself to the apostles and gave many convincing proofs that He was alive. He said to them, "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

If the world often seems out of control, we have the assurance that Jesus is Lord (Ascension Day) and we have the promise of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us (Pentecost).

Mark your calendars and join us for morning worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2010, at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.



## **Graduations, Honors and Awards**

That time of the year is fast approaching for graduations, honors and awards. Please email the information that you would like published in the June/July issue of Stream Lines to [streamlines@comcast.net](mailto:streamlines@comcast.net) and [avenepres@verizon.net](mailto:avenepres@verizon.net). You can also mail your information to the Church Office if you do not have internet service.

Just a note to remind you that the Kudos Korner, which celebrates the life and accomplishments of members young and old, is open all year round.

## ***Summer Worship Schedule***

The last day of Sunday School is Sunday, May 16, 2010.

Beginning Sunday, June 6, 2010, the morning worship service begins at 9:30 a.m.



*Office Holiday*

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, May 31, 2010  
for the Memorial Day holiday.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2010**

**JULY 26-30 FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 12:00 NOON**

ALL CHILDREN 3 YEARS OLD AND POTTY TRAINED  
THROUGH 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

COME AND LEARN OF GOD'S LOVE!

MUSIC, CRAFTS, SNACKS AND MORE!

**SIGN UP NOW!**

July 26-30, 2010  
First Presbyterian Church of Avenel  
621 E. Woodbridge Avenue  
Avenel, NJ 07001  
732-634-1631

Children 3 years old and potty trained through 5<sup>th</sup> grade

**REGISTER BY JUNE 20, 2010**

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday \_\_\_\_\_ Grade completed in June: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

## Sunday School Awards

The Sunday School Annual Awards program will take place on Sunday, May 16, 2010. The children will go directly into the Chapel upon arrival, where our program will start promptly at 9:00 a.m.

We hope everyone will be able to attend this very special event as we congratulate our children on all their accomplishments during this Sunday School year and show appreciation to our staff for their help and dedication.

Hope to see you there!

The Sunday School Staff



### SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION 2010-2011

**Preschool (3 years old before October 31, 2010) thru High School**

**Sunday School starts on September 12, 2010  
from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**

If your child will be 3 years old by October 31, 2010 and you wish to register him/her in Sunday School for the 2010-2011 term, please fill out the information on the form below and return it to the Church Office at 621 E. Woodbridge Avenue, Avenel, NJ, 07001, or place it in the offering plate on a Sunday morning.

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### SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM 2010-2011

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

Date of Registration: \_\_\_\_\_

Pupil's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Church Affiliation: Ours: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_



## Sunday School Wish List 2010-2011

The Sunday School is again asking you to donate to its "Wish List."

If you would like to donate any of the supplies listed below, the Sunday School would greatly appreciate it. It is never too early to start gathering supplies for the upcoming Sunday School year!

Thank you in advance for your help.

Computer Paper  
Masking Tape  
Dry Eraser Markers  
Dry Erasers  
Permanent Markers  
Scotch Tape  
Felt  
AA Batteries  
Hot Glue  
One-Hole Punch

Card Stock Paper  
Poster Board  
Tissues  
Colored Pencils  
Crayons  
Colored Tissue Paper  
Adult Scissors  
Children's Paint  
Staple Removers

Fun Tack  
Laminating Paper  
Laminating Machine  
Markers  
Glitter Glue  
Pipe Cleaners  
Children's Scissors  
Paintbrushes  
Rulers



### Our Military Servicemen, Servicewomen and Their Families

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

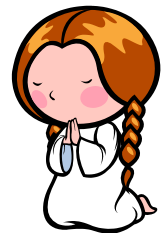
**FREEDOM ISN'T FREE.  
SOMEBODY PAID.**



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

Josephine DeVito (mother of Carol Palmer), SPC Roberto Rosado, Phil and Judi Prasser, Mary Corigliano (cousin of Carol and Larry Palmer), Clara Howell (friend of Mary Ann Miller), Sylvia Cullum (mother of Carolyn Cullum), Linda Strausser (friend of Robert and Joan Hornyak), Bill McLachlan, The D'Amato family, Bill Klansek (Belinda Kerchner's uncle), John Hogan, John Wehrle (friend of Jackie Turnbull), Helene Weeks (friend of Wayne Collins), Tonny Seik, Tessa Campbell (niece of Arlene Schreiber)

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

Edward and Betty Dobson, Jennifer Perez, Dorothy Piperi (mother of Carolyn Gilligan's co-worker), Diana Dydak, Jeremy Hogan, Don Gilligan, Esther Nielsen, Phil Prasser, Marjorie Speath (sister of Barbara Morgan), Jim and Robin Brinkman (son-in-law and daughter of Bette Duesterdick)



## A Little Parable for Mothers

The young mother set her foot on the path of life. "Is the way long?" she asked. And her Guide said, "yes, and the way is hard. You will be old before you reach the end of it. But the end will be better than the beginning."

The young mother was happy, and she would not believe that anything could be better than these years. So she played with her children and gathered flowers for them along the way, bathed them in clear streams, and the sun shone on them. Life was good, and the young mother cried, "Nothing will ever be lovelier than this."

Then the night came and the storm. The path was dark. Her children shook with fear and cold. The mother drew them close and covered them with her mantle, and the children said, "Oh Mother, we are not afraid, for you are near. We know no harm can come." The mother said, "This is better than the brightness of day, for I have taught my children courage."

And when the morning came, there was a hill ahead. The children climbed and grew weary, and the mother was weary also. But at all times she said to her children, "A little patience, and we are there." So the children climbed, and when they reached the top they said, "We could not have done it without you, Mother." The mother, when she lay down that night, looked up at the stars and said, "This is a better day than the last, for my children have learned fortitude in the face of hardness. Yesterday I gave them courage. Today I have given them strength."

The day to follow brought strange clouds which darkened the earth – clouds of war, hate and evil. The children groped and stumbled, and the mother said, "Look up. Lift your eyes to the light." The children looked and saw above the clouds an everlasting glory, and it guided them beyond the darkness. That night the mother said, "This is the best day of all, for I have shown my children God."

As the days went on – weeks, months, years – the mother grew sick. She became weak and tired. Her children were by now tall and strong. They walked with courage. When the way was hard, they helped their Mother, and when the way was rough, they lifted her, for she was light as a feather.

At last they came to a hill, and beyond the hill they could see a shining road and golden gates flung open wide. The mother said, "I have reached the end of my journey. Now I know that the end is better than the beginning, for my children can walk alone, and their children after them." The children said, "You will always walk with us, Mother, even when you have gone through the gates."

They stood and watched her as she went on alone, the gates closing after her. The children said, "We cannot see her, but she is with us still. A mother like ours is not a memory. She is a living presence."

Teach your children well and you will walk with them always.

## Annual Church Picnic

**Sunday, June 13, 2010 – 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. – Merrill Park**

**Come One – Come All!**

Join us for the Annual Church Picnic on Sunday, June 13, 2010 from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. at Grove 1B in Merrill Park. There will be children's games, adult games, and lots of fun and fellowship for young and old alike.

The Membership Care Committee will supply hot dogs, hamburgers, rolls and drinks. There will be a sign-up sheet at the back of the Sanctuary for other foods (salads, dessert, fruit, etc.)





59<sup>th</sup> Annual Observance of the  
**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**

Thursday, May 6, 2010

2010 Theme: PRAYER, FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

"The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him." -Nahum 1:7

### **The Lawsuit Against the National Day of Prayer (October 2008)**

On October 3, 2008, the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) filed a federal lawsuit in Wisconsin challenging the 1952 law that created the National Day of Prayer (NDOP). The lawsuit claimed the law to be a violation of the so-called Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution, which states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

Regarding the lawsuit, NDOP Task Force Chairperson Shirley Dobson said, "In recent years, we've seen increasingly aggressive attacks leveled against those who dare to express their faith in the public arena. There are some individuals who think *any* declaration of personal belief in God – 'In God We Trust' on our currency, 'Under God' in our Pledge of Allegiance, or the Ten Commandments – should be banished from public settings." She continues to say that she is "deeply concerned" by the efforts of groups like the FFRF and the ACLU to "stifle these public expressions of faith," and "dismantle the heritage of Judeo-Christian belief upon which our country was founded."

"Corporate intercession has been a cherished tradition among the American people, starting with our Founding Fathers," she said. "Now, during these troubling times, it is especially critical that we come together to seek the Lord's wisdom and guidance for the challenges before us."

"Prayer unites hearts and voices," she says. "It allows people of all denominations, demographics and backgrounds to come together before God's throne. This [NDOP] is a day when we can set aside our differences and agree on this: *Our nation needs prayer.*"

### **The Status of the Lawsuit (March 2010)**

While dismissing the lawsuit against Shirley Dobson personally, a federal judge ruled on March 1, 2010 that the Freedom From Religion Foundation's lawsuit challenging the National Day of Prayer can go forward. The suit continues to contest the law designating the first Thursday in May as a National Day of Prayer and requiring an official U.S. presidential proclamation. In her ruling that the Foundation has legal standing to sue, U.S. District Judge Barbara Crabb said the plaintiffs have shown they've suffered "concrete injury" that can potentially be remedied by judicial action. "The primary injury plaintiffs allege is the feeling of unwelcomeness and exclusion they experience as nonreligious persons because of what they view as a message from the government that it favors Americans who pray," Judge Crabb said in the opinion.

Attorneys for the NDOP (from the Alliance Defense Fund) have said that the implications of this suit – and the growing number of similar legal assaults on Christian expression in the public square – are ominous. "The court could tell presidents to declare that there can be no more National Day of Prayer...."

### **The Ruling by the Court (April 15, 2010)**

The National Day of Prayer, honored in the United States for more than a half-century, has been ruled unconstitutional by U.S. District Judge Barbara Crabb. In a 66 page opinion, she determined that the holiday violates the establishment clause of the First Amendment, which creates a separation of church and state.

The Justice Department is reviewing the ruling to determine if it will file an appeal. Rep. Lamar Smith (R-Tex), ranking Republican on the House Judiciary Committee, said in a statement, "The decision undermines the values of religious freedom that America was founded upon. What's next? Declaring the federal holiday for Christmas unconstitutional?" Within hours of the decision, Rep. Smith urged the Justice Department to immediately file an appeal.

Judge Crabb said the ruling would not have any effect until all appeals are exhausted.

The National Day of Prayer was first established by Congress in 1952, with a more specific date for the holiday set in 1988. It is now observed on the first Thursday in May. Rep. Smith said he can "assure" Americans that "Congress will do everything in its power to protect the National Day of Prayer."

### **PRAYER FOR THE NATION (2010)**

by Franklin Graham – 2010 Honorary Chairman

Lord,

We are thankful for the abundant blessings You have bestowed on America. Our forefathers looked to You as Protector, Provider, and the Promise of hope. But we have wandered far from that firm foundation. May we repent for turning our backs on Your faithfulness.

We pray that this great nation will be restored by Your forgiveness.

From bondage, You grant freedom.

Through Your own sacrifice, You offer salvation.

From the state of despair, You offer peace.

From the bounties of Heaven, You have blessed – not because of our goodness – but by Your grace.

You have given us freedom to worship You in spirit and in truth as Your holy Word instructs. May our lives honor You in word and deed. May our nation acknowledge that all good things come from the Father above.

President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed that our nation should set apart a day for national prayer to confess our sins and transgressions in sorrow, "yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon... announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord."

"We have vainly imagined in the deceitfulness of our own hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own... we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God who made us! It behooves us then... to confess our national sins and to pray for clemency and forgiveness."

Help us to pray earnestly for our president and leaders who govern, that they will humble themselves and seek Your guidance so that everything we do will shine the light of Your glory in a darkened world.

May our prayers as a people and a nation be heard and blessed for such a time as this. We make this plea in faith, believing in the mighty name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

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**Our church will be observing the National Day of Prayer by meeting at the flagpole by the Manse at 12:00 noon on Thursday, May 6, 2010. Please come pray with us.**

## FATHER'S DAY REMEMBRANCES

Father's Day, this year June 20, 2010, is a day to honor and remember that special man in our lives that we call "Dad." This year, we invite you to honor your father, grandfather, or that special person you honor on Father's Day, with a gift to our Father's Day Collection. The funds raised during this year's collection will be donated to the Johnsonburg Camp Capital Funds Improvement Project.

Please fill out the form below and return it to the Church Office at 621 E. Woodbridge Avenue, Avenel, NJ, 07001, together with your check made payable to the First Presbyterian Church of Avenel. You may also place these items in the offering plate. Please write "Father's Day Remembrance" on your envelope and check.

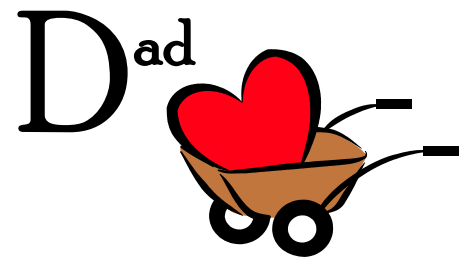
**Donations will not be accepted after Sunday, June 13, 2010**

**Please Print Clearly**

Your Name(s):

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

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In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Property Care Newsletter**

Now that spring has sprung, our committee's focus will for the most part be shifting to the outdoor projects. These include:

- Weekly mowing and trimming of our church grounds
- Various landscaping projects
- Odds and ends - roof maintenance and repair
- Gutter - maintenance and repair



Power washing our facilities  
Piping water from the gutters out to the street  
Outdoor painting, etc.

You get the idea -- lots of outdoor projects. **Anyone interested in volunteering on a part-time or project-related basis, contact any committee member to join in.** The weekly mowing alone saves our Church \$225 each week. If you haven't already done so, please sign up for a week of mowing on the list at the back of the Sanctuary. We have three mowers (2 push and 1 rider) and would be happy to train you how to use them or any of our other lawn equipment. We are blessed with a lot of property. Let's be good stewards and keep it beautiful.

*Having any trouble sleeping at night or just need to work on that tan? Choose any of these outdoor activities. They're sure to be the remedy! ☺*

**Other current/pending projects include:**

- Installing a **chain link fence** in the side and back yard of the Manse. This project was just completed on April 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all that helped. There was a good turnout, which made the work go quickly. It looks great too!
- **Ken Hunt Lounge** – The last of the tiles were finally glued down. Remaining work includes some caulking, adding a few door saddles, and a final cleaning of the entire floor to get up any residual adhesive left during the installation.
- **Replacement/repair** of various **gutters** throughout our facility.
- **Side Chapel steps** are falling apart and will have to be rebuilt.
- Options are being explored for repairing/sealing/replacing the **gym roof**. Some minor repair work had been completed in the late fall, but clearly more work needs to be done to maintain our gym. Possibilities include adding solar panels and financing a new roof through a solar panel company (this option would generate a payback – future energy cost savings), various re-seal, other replacement options and the possibility of "Tooling around Woodbridge" to donate manpower to help install a new roof. Coming up with a cost-effective solution is the challenge. It is probable that fundraisers will be conducted to cover the cost of this project. **This will be one of our major projects for 2010.**
- The **furnace in Head Start** needs to be replaced as it is leaking carbon monoxide. Quotes are in process of being solicited. On a positive note, with a new furnace we should see a considerable utility savings beginning next fall.

**Remaining work for the Manse includes:**

- Install new gutters, wrap the eaves and windows in aluminum (bids are being solicited)
- Landscaping plan for the manse (a plan is being developed)
- Replace the squirrel cage over the chimney and remove the old antenna from the roof
- Updating the fireplace and mantle
- Still need to finish painting and sealing back porch

These are just a sample of the projects being worked on by the committee.

Karen Severyn is stepping down from the committee but will continue to help with projects and events as time permits. Thanks Karen for all of your hard work over the years as part of our committee/team!

**Thanks also to all who volunteer their talents and time in helping us maintain our church campus!**

**Committee Members:** Rich Culton, John Hogan, Frank Battito, Gay Patrouch, Ralph Price, Bruce McKee, Joan Ross, Rick Severyn and Gary Stevenson.

Respectfully Submitted, Rick Severyn



## ONE NATION - ONE MOMENT

Observe the **National Moment of Remembrance**  
at 3:00 p.m. local time, Memorial Day, May 31, 2010

Alone or with family and friends, observe the Moment at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day, May 31, 2010. Stop wherever you are and pause to think about those who paid for our freedom with their lives. Commit to give back to our country -- live honoring America's fallen.

Ask at least three others to remember – members of your organization, family, friends, church, neighborhood, or other organizations to which you belong or influence, to observe the Moment.

This is a moment of reflection and commitment to give back to America in memory of our fallen. Your participation in this shared remembrance will help to unite the country in putting the "Memorial" back in Memorial Day and demonstrate gratitude and respect for those who died so that we may live in freedom.

### PBS NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY CONCERT 2010

Sunday, May 30, 2010 at 8:00 p.m.

The 2010 *National Memorial Day Concert*, featuring the National Symphony Orchestra, will be broadcast live on PBS stations nationwide on Sunday, May 30 from 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 pm. EDT (check your local listings) in High Definition.

This top-rated show will be broadcast live from the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol before an expected live audience of hundreds of thousands, to millions more at home and, via American Forces Radio and Television Network to the approximately 1 million U.S. Armed Forces, Department of Defense civilian employees and their families stationed overseas in 176 countries and territories, and aboard more than 200 U.S. Navy ships at sea.

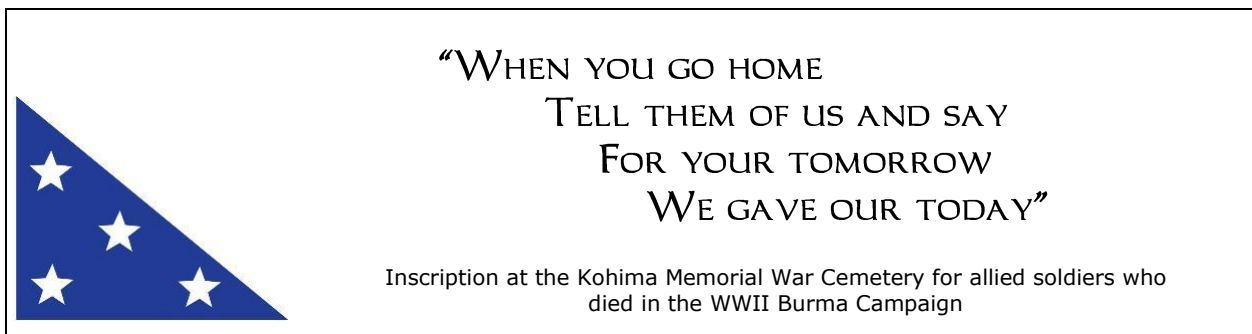


The 2010 event will focus on three main themes:

- Paying homage to the more than 125,000 WWI and WWII service members who did not come home but rest in 24 military cemeteries in the foreign lands where they fought for liberty.
- Highlighting the 60th anniversary of the Korea War.
- Honoring the sacrifices, suffering and love of a new generation of young military widows whose fallen spouses served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This multi-award winning *National Memorial Day Concert* will be co-hosted for the fifth year by Emmy Award-winner Gary Sinise ("CSI: New York") and Tony Award-winner Joe Mantegna ("Criminal Minds"), two acclaimed actors who have dedicated themselves to veterans' causes and supporting our troops in active service. Other guests include distinguished American leader General Colin L. Powell (U.S. Army, Retired), and country music artist Brad Paisley.

This unique program, featuring uplifting musical performances, documentary footage and dramatic readings, honors all Americans who have served or made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.



## IN OUR DENOMINATION

SUNDAY MAY 2, 2010  
OLDER ADULT WEEK BEGINS



The Presbyterian Church (USA) is committed to equipping leaders, developing covenant connections and providing resources to welcome and encourage older adults to participate at every level of the church while meeting their needs and utilizing their talents. This is done by means of important networks of Presbyterians out in the church working with older adults.

The lengthening of the average human lifespan is one of the remarkable achievements of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1900, life expectancy was only 47, but over those 100 years, it rose to 75 for men and 78 for women. The percentage of older persons in our global society is growing and expected to nearly double between 1990 and 2030.

The trend is no less apparent here in the United States and is especially noticeable within our own congregations of the Presbyterian Church (USA), where the average age of worshipers is 58 – and rising. For every worshiper under the age of 25, there are more than six worshipers over the age of 65, which account for 35% of all Presbyterians. Our churches, which have traditionally focused on our youth members, must now answer this question: “How can we adjust our focus to better meet the needs of and utilize the skills and wisdom of our older persons?”

The Presbyterian Church (USA) works primarily with its covenant partners, the Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry Network (POAMN) and the Association of Retired Ministers, their Spouses or Survivors (ARMSS), to help congregations address new challenges and ever-changing needs, collaborate with other religious and secular ministries, and advocate on behalf of society’s older adults.

The church-planning calendar designates the first week in May as Older Adult Week to acknowledge older adults as one of the gifts with which God has blessed us. We dedicate this week to older adults because they are the backbone of our church, our nation and the world. Older adults represent the gifts of wisdom gained through living a life in faith, hope through hard times lived with perseverance, and generosity in loving and stewardship. Older Adult Week is the moment to make a special effort to let our elders know they are cared for, loved, and never forgotten.

Take the time to recognize, honor and pray for older church members on Older Adult Sunday, May 2, and throughout the week. Give thanks for the lives of older adults and the gifts they bring to the congregation. Recognize the courage it takes to stop driving, to accept assistance, to give up a home, and to depend on family and friends. Pray also for strength and courage for those who provide care for older persons.



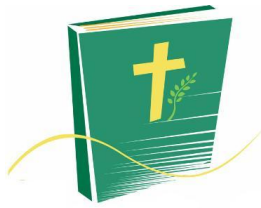
### Ushers Still Needed!

The Worship Committee is asking for volunteers to consider being ushers and sign up! At this time, we need ushers for June, July, August, September and October. We need your smiling face greeting our members and visitors. There is a sign-up sheet in the rear of the Sanctuary. You may also speak to Elaine Ferrie, any other member of the Worship Committee, or call the Church Office to volunteer.

### Church Polo Shirts, Sweatshirts and T-Shirts

The Mission Committee is selling Polo Shirts, Sweatshirts and T-Shirts that are printed with “Avenel Presbyterian Church.” The polo shirts and T-shirts are available in men’s and women’s cuts, and the T-Shirts and sweatshirts are available in youth sizes. See Ryan Miller or Linda Sammartino for order forms. Orders will be collected until May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please make your checks payable to Avenel Presbyterian Church.





## May Memory Verse

Hebrews 9:28 (NIV)

“So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.”



## Transferred to the Church Triumphant

March 2010 – **Maria DesPlaines**, our beloved friend, former Deacon, and long-time church member since November 1955.

March 2010 – **Al Hornyak**, Bob’s father and our beloved church friend

April 2010 – **Hendrika “Rita” Hoffer**, our beloved friend, former Elder and church member since January 1991.

April 2010 – **Yuliana Seik**, Tonny’s mother

April 2010 – **Ernie Zelizi**, Vilma Ambis’ brother

## Thought of the Month

If you can’t sleep, don’t  
count sheep.  
Talk to the Shepherd.



## May Birthdays

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



- 01 Richard Skanks
- 02 Belinda Kerchner
- 03 Edward Dobson
- 05 Fran Henry, Richard Culton, Laura Meehan
- 06 Delia Culton
- 07 Rachael Haggerty
- 08 Jan Gagnon
- 10 Rebecca Tarby, Chioma Usuwa, Michael R. Howell
- 12 Rebecca Ballister
- 13 Huguette Exantus, Bill Walsh, Jr., Bette Duesterdick
- 14 Kristy Englert
- 15 Jake Stockl
- 16 Heather Rienzo
- 18 Lacey Fowler
- 19 Anthony Battito, Linda Bisgaard, Caitlin Meehan, Matthew Haggerty
- 21 Bill Morgan, Jr.
- 22 Matthew McCann, Jr.
- 23 Kayla Fowler
- 24 Wayne Collins, Ryan Miller, Hanna Culton
- 26 Wayne Dubin, Jerry Sternesky, Jr.
- 27 Jamie Sterlacci
- 28 Marie Bertram, Ronald Holtz
- 30 Rosemarie Eckhardt, Hailey Sammartino
- 31 Mary Ann Lombardi, Rob Eigenbrod, Krista Hallenbeck



## Spring

“It’s spring fever – You don’t quite know what it is you do want, but it just fairly makes your heart ache, you want it so!”

Mark Twain

## Reflections

Christian



### The Sneeze

(submitted by Carol Palmer)

They walked in tandem, each of the 92 students, filing into the already crowded auditorium. With their rich maroon gowns flowing and the traditional caps, they looked almost as grown up as they felt.

Dads swallowed hard behind broad smiles, and moms freely brushed away tears.

This class would NOT pray during the commencements – not by choice, but because of a recent court ruling prohibiting it.

The principal and several students were careful to stay within the guidelines allowed by the ruling. They gave inspirational and challenging speeches, but no one mentioned divine guidance and no one asked for blessings on the graduates or their families.

The speeches were nice, but they were routine – until the final speech received a standing ovation.

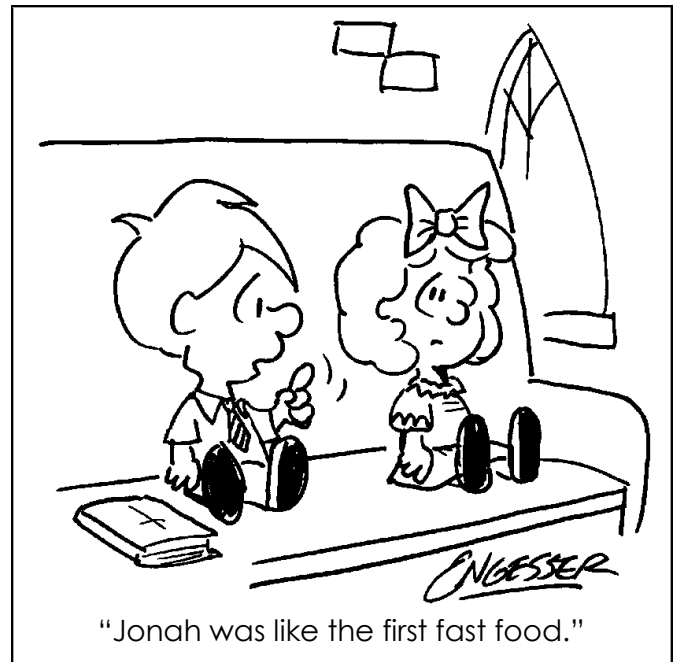
A solitary student walked proudly to the microphone. He stood still and silent for just a moment, and then it happened... All 92 students, every single one of them, suddenly SNEEZED!!!!

The student on stage simply looked at the audience and said, "GOD BLESS YOU, each and every one of you," and walked off stage.

The audience exploded into applause. This graduating class had found a unique way to invoke God's blessing on their future with or without the court's approval.

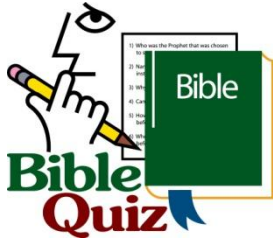
## COMIC RELIEF

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



### Price of a Good Sermon

One beautiful Sunday morning, a pastor announced to his congregation: "My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons -- a \$1000 sermon that lasts five minutes, a \$500 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes, and a \$100 sermon that lasts a full hour. Now, we'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver."



## Monthly Bible Trivia Quiz

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

**Category:** Apostles  
**Quiz Title:** Acts of the Apostles

- 
- Who wrote the book of Acts?
    - Matthew
    - Mark
    - Luke
    - John
  - Who was appointed to replace Judas Iscariot as a disciple?
    - Joseph
    - Matthias
    - Barnabas
    - Barsabas
  - Which Pharisee said that if the gospel truly comes from God, no one will be able to stop it spreading?
    - Paul
    - Nicodemus
    - Theudas
    - Gamaliel
  - On what day did the apostles receive the Holy Spirit?
    - Day of Pentecost
    - Day of Atonement
    - Passover
    - Purim
  - Who looked after the coats of the men who stoned Stephen?
    - Peter
    - Saul
    - Gamaliel
    - Joseph
  - What nationality was Timothy's father?
    - Jewish
    - Roman
    - Greek
    - Egyptian
  - What was the name of the first Gentile convert to Christianity?
    - Paul
    - Agabus
    - Simon
    - Cornelius
  - The field that Judas Iscariot purchased with his betrayal money was called Aceldama, but as what was it also known?
    - Field of Blood
    - Field of Bones
    - Field of Iniquity
    - Field of Sin
  - In which city did Silas and Timothy meet up with Paul?
    - Corinth
    - Antioch
    - Athens
    - Rome
  - What was the name of the young man who fell out of the window during one of Paul's speeches?
    - Philemon
    - Tychicus
    - Eutyclus
    - Onesimus

### Answers to Monthly Bible Trivia Quiz

1. Luke (Acts 1:1, Luke 1:3)    2. Matthias (Acts 1:26)    3. Gamaliel (Acts 5:38-39)    4. Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4)    5. Saul (Acts 7:58)    6. Greek (Acts 16:1,3)    7. Cornelius (Acts 10)  
8. Field of Blood (Acts 1:19)    9. Corinth (Acts 18:1,5)    10. Eutyclus (Acts 20:9)

# STREAM LINES



MAY 2010

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## STREAM LINES

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