



STREAM LINES

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



OCTOBER 2009

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FROM THE PASTOR

"Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will." (2 Timothy 2:23-26)

October 2009

I believe that Christians are the most *overtly* persecuted religious group in the United States. Don't believe me? Here's a field test. Let's say you decide to run for local public office. During your campaign, you make it very clear that you are a practicing Buddhist, and even more, that it is the very bedrock of your life. I don't think anyone would question your sanity, or ability to serve the needs of your constituents, based solely on your religious practices. Now let's say you run for office as a practicing Christian. I may be wrong, but I think religion would become fair game for public criticism -- at least in this part of the country.

And what about the media? I don't think I need to convince you of their bias against Christianity. How many movies and T.V. shows have depicted Christians as intolerant, aggressive and ignorant? How many celebrities have openly attacked the Christian faith as a catalyst for war, discrimination and hate-speech?

I could cite numerous examples, as I'm sure you could, regarding our cultural shift away from Christianity and toward *anything* else. We simply live in a day and age that assumes if you're a Christian, you have a *lot* of explaining to do. America simply wants nothing to do with Christianity. And you know what? *I don't blame them.*

Christians seem to have more exposure (and political power) than ever before. Think about all the best-selling books, the explosion of Christian music, *The Passion of the Christ*, the *Chronicles of Narnia*, Christian cable stations, T.V. preachers, etc.

So why do people hate us so much? Because, while the *exposure* to Christian media is way up, the *quality* of the messages we're sending is a bit suspect. The airwaves are *filled* with some pretty crazy things being said and done in the name of Jesus Christ. And most of the time, when I see Christians in the public arena, *they're yelling or arguing about something*.

Why would anyone think Christianity is attractive, relevant, or God's saving Truth? Instead of living our lives by "loving God," and "loving others" (The Greatest Commandment), it seems we're always trying to win some public debate. Where is the *joyful Christian life*? We Christians seem to talk a good game about joy, but don't experience it in everyday life.

As Paul puts it in his letter to Timothy, "the Lord's servant must not quarrel" because it only drives people away. Now that's not to say that public debate is never important. Of course, we know it's *sometimes* necessary. But if we spent more time worrying about living a life that imitated Christ, we would surely have a bigger impact on our country than we do by constantly arguing.

A couple years ago, my cousin was visiting from California. She is a brilliant young woman who I don't know real well but respect very much. She's not a Christian (or at least wasn't at the time), but she asked me about my faith. I told her of my conversion and how Christ changed my life. Later in the evening, we started getting into "debates" over human sexuality, salvation through other religions, etc. And at the end of the night, we were both frustrated, red-faced, and honestly, much farther apart in our beliefs than we were a few hours before. She even told me, "Jason, I believed you more when you told me how your faith changed your life, not when you tried to convince me with how much you *know*."

I have never forgotten that night. And I wish I could do it differently. But all I can do now is learn from it. The bottom line is that the power of our faith doesn't come from words; it comes from our *transformed lives*.

This is *exactly* our focus here at Avenel Church right now. As we explore how to live our lives "wide open" for God, we must first understand what God is calling us to do. And that comes through spending time with God in prayer and study. Our Adult Sunday School class will continue to meet at 9:00 a.m. in Ken Hunt Lounge through the month of October. It's a series called "Faith Seeking Understanding," a 13-week class that is covering the major doctrines of the Christian faith. And, for those who can't make Sunday morning, there is a Wednesday Bible Study at 7:00 p.m. in Jacob Morgan Hall on Paul's letter to the *Romans*. Please feel free to come as often as you like.

May God continue to move and guide us by the power of the Holy Spirit to live our *transformed lives* for the world to see. Let's move beyond "quarrelling" and move toward living the joyful Christian life. May God bless you and your family this month.

In Christ's Service,
Rev. Jason P. Tucker

STREAM LINES INFORMATION

The deadline for the November 2009 issue of Stream Lines will be Wednesday, October 21, 2009 at 12:00 noon.

Remember to email your articles to:

Susan Smolsky at streamlines@comcast.net and
Carol Palmer at avenelpres@verizon.net

**From the
Editor**

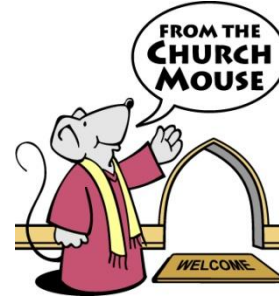


The November issue will be available for online reading and printing on or about Wednesday, October 28, 2009 and will be available to those who have no internet service and pick up their copies in the Sanctuary on Sunday, November 1, 2009.



Fall Congregational Meeting

The Session has set the fall congregational meeting for Sunday, **October 25, 2009**, immediately following the morning worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to present the 2010 budget, to elect officers, and to conduct any other business that may be properly brought to the attention of the congregation.



**HICKORY DICKORY DOCK
DON'T FORGET TO TURN BACK
THE CLOCK!**

Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on
Sunday, November 1, 2009.

August 2009 Session Meeting Highlights



The following is a summary of some of the actions taken at the August 25, 2009 regular Session meeting:

- Approved a resolution and the format for a Promissory Note to be issued when a loan is made to the church as part of the Capital Campaign.
- Approved a recommendation from the Outreach and Evangelism Committee that a Christmas Luncheon and Choir Concert be held on December 20, 2009 following worship.
- Approved several recommendations from the Christian Education Committee including allowing Pastor Tucker to lead an Adult Sunday School class and a Wednesday night Bible Study class, allowing Dawn Connolly to organize a "Night in Bethlehem" event on December 13, 2009, allowing Jackie Turnbull to establish a Mommy and Me group, and having Chris and Carrie D'Amato lead the Mid-Level Fellowship group.
- Also approved a recommendation from Christian Education to allow Pastor Tucker to lead a youth mission trip to New Castle, Pennsylvania next July 18-24, 2010.
- Reviewed the status of the manse renovation project and related work to the church property.



ANNUAL HOLIDAY FAIR REMINDER

**Saturday, October 24, 2009
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Starting September 27, 2009, you may leave your donations on the stage in Jacob Morgan Hall. Please make sure all items are clean and not broken. Also, it would be a BIG help to the volunteers if you could sort the items into categories and label your boxes or bags.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2009

Peace, hope, love, joy. It's amazing what you can fit in a shoebox! This Christmas, share the power of a simple gift and remind a child in need that God loves them and that they have not been forgotten.

This year, all boxes should be in by Sunday, November 8, 2009.

You will find instructions on how to pack and wrap a shoebox, as well as the gift suggestion list, at the back of the Sanctuary. If you have any other questions, please call Rich or Jan Gagnon or the Church Office.

Do a shoebox – put a smile on a child's face!

HIS HANDS COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

Making a Difference in Our Community



Hello from His Hands Ministry!

We want to send out a big THANK YOU to all who helped with the mountain of clothing that was sorted in September. It was a large job but many hands make light work and the LAUGHS help to make the work go quicker. Much love and appreciation to all!!

The need for furniture and appliances continues. Right now we have requests for a washing machine, refrigerator and two dressers. The ministry no longer has a place to store donated furniture and appliances, but we can continue to try and meet the needs of those who come to us for help. If you have items that you would like to donate we would like to be able to get it to someone who could use it. If you are willing to keep the item in your home until we find a new home for it that would be wonderful. Please contact Karen Severyn and let her know what you would like to donate and the length of time you are willing to continue keeping it in your home.

There are many opportunities available within His Hands Community Outreach Ministry. If you would like to know more about what His Hands Ministry is all about and how you can be a part of the work that we do, simply call Karen Severyn, Kathy Sturtz, Cindy Culton or Joan Benkert.

TOGETHER WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THIS COMMUNITY!



Property Care Newsletter

October 2009

Our Committee's major focus continued to be the preparation/renovation of the Church Manse for our pastor, the Rev. Jason P. Tucker and his family. Activities slowed during the month of August as the financial options to cover the associated costs were addressed by our Finance Committee. The current status and noteworthy developments are:

Contractor – Paul's Tile & Construction should begin working on the Manse at the end of September, pending work permit approval by the township.

Sewer Line – Session has approved to award the contract to Accurate to install two sewer lines -- one for Head Start and one for the Manse. Work is scheduled to also begin at the end of September or early October.

Insulation – To make the Manse more energy efficient, insulation will be added to the living room and dining room ceilings (currently not insulated). After a competitive bidding process, the work was

awarded to Quality Insulation.

Fence – A fence will be installed for the side and backyard of the manse to add security and to discourage people from cutting through the property. A work party* will be organized to install the fence. Note: the fencing will not be installed until AFTER the sewer line is completed.

***Work Parties** are being formed to address various remaining projects tied to readying the Manse for occupancy by Jason & his family. In addition to the fencing installation mentioned above, help will be needed for finishing the rear porch, painting inside the Manse (including the basement) and landscaping around the Manse. Sign-up sheets are at the rear of the sanctuary. Persons signing up will be contacted when the work is scheduled. Please come join us in helping to complete these tasks.

Other noteworthy work and ongoing assignments:

- **Sign** – The old sanctuary sign will be installed outside of the CE Building, adjacent to the main entrance.
- **Security** - Alarm Systems are being looked into for both the CE Building and the Manse. A security camera option is also being looked into for monitoring the CE Building/Office entrances. This option would be a one-time cost that could provide remote monitoring through a personal computer(s).
- **Gym** – Estimates are being obtained for repairing the gym roof, including the option of pricing out the materials to repair it ourselves. This is a very big job and would require ten to twelve men if we were to do the work ourselves.
- **Weekly Lawn Maintenance** – Too few have been taking care of our church grounds. HELP is needed to spread out the workload. While a sign-up sheet is at the rear of the sanctuary, anyone is welcome to join us on Saturday mornings (9:30 a.m. to noon). As mentioned before, it's just as good as heading to the gym – **it's great exercise!** 😊
- **Fall Clean-Up** is scheduled for Saturday, November 21, 2009 beginning at 9 a.m.

These are just a sample of the projects being worked on by the Committee. **Again, anyone interested in volunteering, even on a part-time or project-related basis, contact any Committee member to join.**

Committee Members: Rich Culton, John Hogan, Ralph Price, Bruce McKee, Joan Ross, Karen Sevryn, Rick Sevryn, John Specht, Gary Stevenson and Bill Walsh.

Respectfully Submitted, Rick Sevryn



Live Nativity

Mark Your Calendars - Volunteers Needed

Our LIVE NATIVITY will be held on Sunday, December 20, 2009, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. We will need 20 actors – no experience necessary! We will also need people (with muscles) to help Ralph set up the stable at 2:00 p.m. on December 20. We will need 5 bakers to supply refreshments to the volunteers. Two runners will also be needed to greet the cars and give the driver a CD and then run back to the exit to retrieve it.

This program requires about 35 volunteers. In mid-November, I will have a sign-up sheet in the back of the Sanctuary.

If you are thinking of a part you would really like to play, let me know as soon as possible. This proves to be an exciting evening for all involved.

Cindy Culton

Baptism signifies the faithfulness of God, the washing away of sin, rebirth, putting on the fresh garment of Christ, being sealed by God's Spirit, adoption into the covenant family of the Church, and the resurrection and illumination in Christ.

Book of Order W-2.3004



On Sunday, August 30, 2009, **REAGAN NICOLE CONNOLLY** was baptized by Rev. Jason P. Tucker during the morning worship service, and the congregation committed themselves to nurture this child in faith.

May God grant the Connolly family all the blessings of His gentle love.



Sunday School Mini-Crop Walk

Sunday, October 25, 2009

The Nursery through 5th Grade Sunday School will be raising money for CROP by having a mini-walk around the church grounds on Sunday, October 25, 2009 during the Sunday School hour.

If you would like to sponsor a Sunday School class, you may do so by using a sponsorship envelope found at the rear of the Sanctuary during the month of October. Enclose your check made out to CWS/CROP and place it in the offering plate or send it to the Church Office. Please make sure you note which class you want to sponsor.

Thank you for your support. CROP helps people around the world as well as our local food pantries.

Woodbridge Crop Hunger Walk

Sunday, October 25, 2009

Walk: 1:30 p.m.

Alvin Williams County Park, Woodbridge



What is a CROP Hunger Walk? It is neighbors walking together to take a stand against hunger in our world. Together we raise awareness and funds for international relief and development, as well as local hunger-fighting.

Walkers for this year's Woodbridge Area Crop Walk may register and pick up their sponsor envelopes at the table in the rear of the Sanctuary.

Walk or sponsor a walker. It makes a difference for our community and the world!



Signed, Sealed, Delivered -- He's Ours!!!

We are pleased to announce that on Sunday, September 20, 2009, the Rev. Jason P. Tucker was installed as the new minister of the First Presbyterian Church of Avenel.

This was indeed a glorious day for Jason and his family, as well as for our entire congregation. We look forward to countless years of Jason's ministry, fellowship and spiritual guidance and enlightenment.



The Fish Hospitality Program

The FISH Hospitality Program, an affiliate of Family Promise, gives us the opportunity to welcome and care for women and families, improving their lives one week at a time. It is a tri-county program serving Middlesex, Union and Somerset Counties in New Jersey. Avenel Presbyterian Church is one of 15 host congregations serving the tri-county area.

From January 1, 2009 thru June 30, 2009, these 15 host congregations sheltered 23 family units for a total of 46 persons. The number of adults was 26 and the number of children was 20. Guests normally stay for a period of 6 months then move into their own housing.

There are many success stories because of this program and your help. Success is only possible when we all work together as volunteers. As volunteer Catherine Stanford from the Christ United Methodist Church of Piscataway said, "Being a volunteer with FISH Hospitality has given me a very real and specific opportunity to accompany my neighbors when they are in need. I have grown in spiritual maturity as I have practiced following Christ in this simple task."

There are opportunities to donate time, food and other needs to help families who are working toward self-sufficiency and independence. See more information in Stream Lines and the Sunday bulletin the next time we are the host congregation for this program.



Our Military Servicemen, Servicewomen and Their Families

Jason Bone, Amy Updike, Bryan Palmer, Justin Kitchen, Carson Severyn, David Sturtz, Donna Palmer, Edward Merz, Michael Barany, Robert Bart, Daniel Hedner, Brian Williams, Brian Ragas, Michael Warren, Anthony Battito

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



Jolan Farkas, Eleanor Smith, Toni Anderson,
Elizabeth Price and Linda Bisgaard

Prayer Requests

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

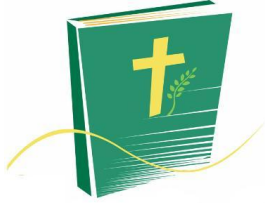


Recent Concerns

Karen Clauberg (relative of Cheryl Mock), Mary Corigliano (cousin of Carol Palmer), Bryan Palmer, Bill Horhay (co-worker of Pat Battito), Rose Szymanski (neighbor of Joan Benkert), Bob Woods, Bridgit Sigley (friend of Carol Palmer), Kyle Sisk (friend of Carol Palmer), Edith Cloldt, Lacey Fowler, Tyler Rich (cousin of Carol Palmer), Keri Schafer (niece of Joan and Wayne Collins), James Hawke (uncle of Mary Anne Coyle), Kathy McKelligett

Those with On-Going Long-Term Concerns

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



October Memory Verse

Matthew 5:6 (NIV)

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.



Transferred to the Church Triumphant

August 2009 – Our beloved long-time church member and former deacon,
Robert (Bob) Lucas



Thought of the Month

When the tides of life turn against you
And the current upsets your boat
Don't waste those tears on what
might have been
Just lie on your back and float.

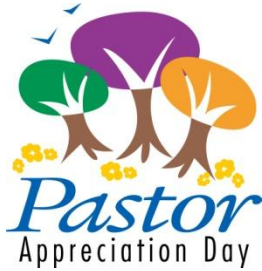


October Birthdays

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

- 01 Edith Cloidt, Cameron Battito
- 03 Courtney Kost
- 04 Julie Cahill, Breeanna Welch
- 05 Lorine Price, Ann Usuwa, Dawn Walsh
- 06 Ilene Nisbet, Diane Stulga, Caitlyn Altieri
- 07 Andrew Marshello
- 08 Nick Sammartino, Ariana Sterlacci
- 10 Lillian Thorsen, Susan Smolsky, Lori Hoppock, Suzanne Hogan
- 11 Matthew Sternesky
- 12 Kevin Englert, Nina D'Amato
- 13 Maureen Nielsen
- 14 Spencer Severyn, Jason C. Tucker
- 15 Kevin Hogan
- 16 Dorothy Allebach, Bruce McKee
- 17 Edna Ely, Michelle Miller
- 18 Brian Dunlap
- 19 Jane McKee
- 23 Shirley Benkert, Justine Schulz
- 25 Linda Gavor
- 30 Leslie Dudas

*October's poplars are flaming torches
lighting the way to winter.*



PASTOR APPRECIATION

Appreciate your pastoral leaders who gave you the Word of God. Take a good look at the way they live, and let their faithfulness instruct you, as well as their truthfulness. Hebrews 13:7 (MSG)

Pastor Appreciation Month is October, and Pastor Appreciation Sunday is always the second Sunday in October, this year Sunday, October 11, 2009.

Below are excerpts from an article by Victor Parachin appearing in the September/October 1999 issue of *Today's Christian* entitled "8 Ways to Encourage Your Pastor."

Sometimes pastors are the loneliest people in the church. Often their hours are long, the pay minimal, the criticism considerable and constant. Feelings of disappointment, discouragement and defeat may begin to plague the best of them.

Paul's admonition to "serve one another in love" (Gal. 5:13) should encourage us to remember our shepherds. Here are eight ways to make their lives better:

1. **Cut the Criticism** – Unlike most workers who are evaluated once or twice a year, clergy are often critiqued weekly after each worship service. It's not unusual to hear people say that the music was poor, the hymn selection was awful, or the sermon was boring. We would do well to remember that most spiritual leaders work hard to make worship a unique celebration each week.
2. **Pray Regularly** – Ask God to shower your pastor with an abundance of love, hope, joy, faith, peace, power, wisdom and courage. Pray for your spiritual leader's maturity and growth in the faith.
3. **Express Appreciation in Writing** – A spoken compliment is always welcome, but a written one can be read over and over again for years. So when you hear or see something you like from your minister, write an appreciative note.
4. **Use Your Skills to Bless** – Are you proficient with computers? Help your pastor master the church's new computer. Are you a mechanic? Offer to service the car free of charge or at a reduced fee. Whatever your skills, use them to help and bless.
5. **Squelch Gossip** – If you hear a negative comment, respond with a positive one. If misinformation is being spread, correct it with the accurate information. Or if people are gossiping, just walk away.
6. **Offer to Meet a Need** – Some people make their spiritual leaders defensive and angry by saying, "You need to..." That approach is seldom welcome and almost always counterproductive. If you see a need, approach your spiritual leader by saying, "I'd like to help by..." If you see an area that can be improved, take responsibility for working on it.
7. **Be Openly Responsive** – Nothing so animates and excites a spiritual leader as seeing people respond to the preaching and teaching. For example, a pastor's heart filled with joy when a group of women responded to a sermon he preached from the words of Jesus, "Do not judge, or you too will be judged" (Matthew 7:1). After hearing the sermon, the women decided to give a baby shower for the young woman who provided childcare while they met for Bible Study. She was unmarried, close to going on welfare and without support from her family or the father-to-be. The young woman was moved to tears by the surprise baby shower. Later, the women explained to the pastor, "Your sermon taught us that it's possible to reach out to someone in need – in this case an unwed mother – without judging or condoning the situation."
8. **Throw Away the Measuring Stick** – Don't expect that your present spiritual leaders will do things the same way their predecessors did. Lay aside personal agendas and preferences. Instead, focus on how your leader is being used by God to do effective ministry now. By serving your shepherds, you will ensure that they will not only be encouraged, but will feel appreciated and continue to minister with enthusiasm and energy.



Grandma's Hands

Written by Melinda Clements

Grandma, some ninety plus years, sat feebly on the patio bench. She didn't move, just sat with her head down staring at her hands. When I sat down beside her she didn't acknowledge my presence and the longer I sat I wondered if she was OK.

Finally, not really wanting to disturb her but wanting to check on her at the same time, I asked her if she was OK. She raised her head and looked at me and smiled. "Yes, I'm fine, thank you for asking," she said in a clear strong voice.

"I didn't mean to disturb you, grandma, but you were just sitting here staring at your hands and I wanted to make sure you were OK," I explained to her.

"Have you ever looked at your hands," she asked. "I mean really looked at your hands?"

I slowly opened my hands and stared down at them. I turned them over, palms up and then palms down. No, I guess I had never really looked at my hands as I tried to figure out the point she was making. Grandma smiled and related this story:

"Stop and think for a moment about the hands you have, how they have served you well throughout your years. These hands, though wrinkled, shriveled and weak have been the tools I have used all my life to reach out and grab and embrace life.

"They braced and caught my fall when as a toddler I crashed upon the floor. They put food in my mouth and clothes on my back. As a child my mother taught me to fold them in prayer. They tied my shoes and pulled on my boots. They held my husband and wiped my tears when he went off to war.

"They have been dirty, scraped and raw, swollen and bent. They were uneasy and clumsy when I tried to hold my newborn son. Decorated with my wedding band they showed the world that I was married and loved someone special. They wrote my letters to him and trembled and shook when I buried my parents and spouse.

"They have held my children and grandchildren, consoled neighbors, and shook in fists of anger when I didn't understand.

"They have covered my face, combed my hair, and washed and cleansed the rest of my body. They have been sticky and wet, bent and broken, dried and raw. And to this day when not much of anything else of me works real well these hands hold me up, lay me down, and again continue to fold in prayer.

"These hands are the mark of where I've been and the ruggedness of life. But more importantly it will be these hands that God will reach out and take when he leads me home. And with my hands He will lift me to His side."

I will never look at my hands the same again. But I remember God reached out and took my grandma's hands and led her home.

When my hands are hurt or sore or when I stroke the face of my children and husband I think of grandma. I know she has been stroked and caressed and held by the hands of God.

Comic Relief



BUMP... BUMP... BUMP...

A man was walking home one night when he hears a BUMP... BUMP... BUMP... behind him. Walking faster, he looks back, making out the image of an upright coffin banging its way down the middle of the street towards him.

Bump... Bump... Bump...

The man begins to run towards his house, and the coffin bounces after him, faster... faster...

Bump... Bump... Bump...

He runs up to his door, fumbles with his keys, opens the door, rushes in, and locks it behind him.

The coffin crashes through his door, with the lid of the coffin clapping...

Bump... Bump... Bump... on the heels of the terrified man.

The man rushes upstairs to the bathroom and locks himself in, heart pounding. With a CRASH!, the coffin breaks down the door, coming slowly towards him.

The man starts screaming, reaches for something, anything...!!! All he can find is a bottle of cough syrup, which he throws at the coffin...

...and the coffin stops.

The Call from the IRS

Father O'Malley answers the phone.

"Hello, is this Father O'Malley?"

"It is."

"This is the IRS. Can you help us?"

"I can."

"Do you know a Ted Houlihan?"

"I do."

"Is he a member of your congregation?"

"He is."

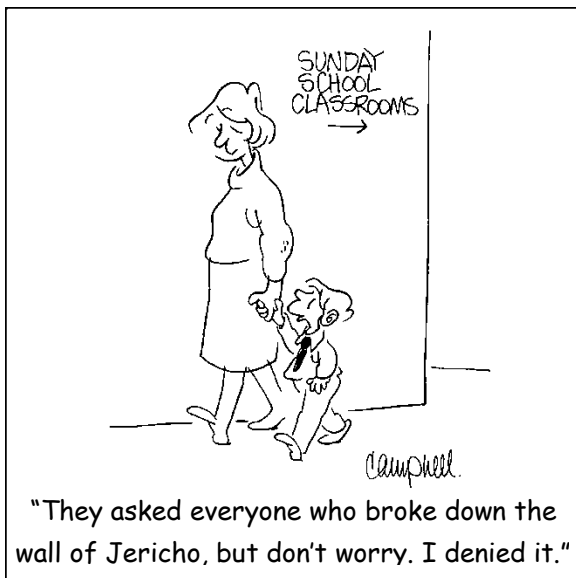
"Did he donate \$10,000 to the church?"

"He will."

Kids Say the Funniest Things

On the first day of school, the Kindergarten teacher said, "If anyone has to go to the bathroom, hold up two fingers." A little voice from the back of the room asked, "How will that help?"

A three-year-old put his shoes on by himself. His mother noticed the left was on the right foot. She said, "Son, your shoes are on the wrong feet." He looked up at her with a raised brow and said, "Don't kid me, Mom. I KNOW they're my feet."



IN OUR DENOMINATION

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2009

PRESBYTERIAN HIV/AIDS AWARENESS SUNDAY

It's a Matter of Faith

The fight against HIV/AIDS is about much more than distributing anti-retroviral drugs and condoms. For African churches, it's about delivering hope. Hope rooted in Jesus Christ. Hope arrives with a pastor who rides a bicycle to visit a dying patient. And with a home-based care volunteer carrying a backpack full of bandages. And with teachers who lead Bible studies that promote faithfulness and proclaim God's care.



Bicycles, backpacks, and Bible studies . . . unlikely but powerful tools in the church's battle against AIDS. Your gifts enable the Presbyterian Church (USA) to respond to African church requests for the practical tools and support they need to fight HIV/AIDS. For them -- and for us -- It's a Matter of Faith.

Average Life Expectancy in 11 African Countries		
Country	Age in Years Before AIDS	Age in Years by 2010
Angola	41.3	35.0
Botswana	74.4	26.7
Lesotho	67.2	36.5
Malawi	69.4	36.9
Mozambique	42.5	27.1
Namibia	68.8	33.8
Rwanda	54.7	38.7
South Africa	68.5	36.5
Swaziland	74.6	33.0
Zambia	68.6	34.4
Zimbabwe	71.4	34.6

To read more about the involvement of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in the fight against AIDS in Africa (where the crisis is most severe) and around the world, please visit <http://pcusa.org>.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2009
WORLD FOOD DAY

The Presbyterian Hunger Program is a sponsoring organization of the World Food Day.

World Food Day is observed each October 16th in recognition of the founding of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 1945. The aim of the day is to heighten public awareness of the world food problem and strengthen solidarity in the struggle against hunger, malnutrition and poverty. In 1980, the General Assembly endorsed observance of World Food Day because "food is a requisite for human survival and well-being and a fundamental human necessity."

The theme for World Food Day 2009 is "Achieving Food Security in Times of Crisis." It will highlight the challenges of climate change on the world's food security.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2009
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS SUNDAY

Theological Statement

Violence is contrary to God's intentions for the world. This reality demands the response of the church in these days of increasing danger to vulnerable peoples – children, youth, women, disabled and the elderly. Interpreting biblical teachings and responding to the leadership of Jesus Christ in our lives calls the church to pastoral and moral response through an active program of advocacy and resourcing for transformation.

My heart is in anguish within me; the terrors of death have fallen on me. Fear and trembling have beset me; horror has overwhelmed me. I said, "Oh, that I had the wings of a dove!
 I would fly away and be at rest." Psalm 55:4-6

Elder Abuse: The Church Speaks

The following is from the Presbyterian Church (USA) policy, *Turn Mourning into Dancing! A Policy*

Statement on Healing Domestic Violence, approved by the 213th General Assembly (2001).

Physical Abuse of the elderly implies hitting, slapping, punching, pushing, shaking, biting, pulling hair, force-feeding and other willful acts that may result in bruises, lacerations, fractures or any other types of physical injury.

Emotional Abuse is the most prevalent form of elder abuse and includes name-calling, derogatory comments, the use of insults, harassment and threats or speaking to an elderly person in a childish or demeaning manner. Withholding affection, failing to provide a sense of security and the caregiver refusing to allow an elderly person access to family members and friends may also be considered emotional abuse.

Although **Sexual Abuse** is not as prevalent with the elderly as it is with children, it does occur. Sexual abuse of the elderly is defined as engaging in sexual acts with an elderly person by means of force, threat of force or without consent, including forcing an elderly person to perform sexual acts on the perpetrator.

Financial Abuse is defined as the misappropriation or stealing of an elderly person's finances or personal possessions. The elderly can be victimized financially by family members, individuals hired as caregivers, or by companies taking advantage of a potential elderly customer. This form of abuse can have permanently devastating effects because it impacts on the elderly person's financial status that can subsequently affect the individual's future care.

Elder Neglect

Neglect is also a serious problem for the elderly and may be seen in the following forms: passive neglect, active neglect and self-neglect.

Passive Neglect is defined as the refusal or failure to fulfill a caretaking obligation. Abandoning a person or not providing food or health-related services are examples. Passive neglect generally is not a conscious or intentional act on the part of the caregiver. Rather, it often occurs when a caregiver is not aware of community sources that may aid the elderly person in need.

Active Neglect is the conscious and intentional withholding of care an elderly person needs, such as supplying proper nutrition, the meeting of toileting needs, treatment for physical conditions and the use of restraints.

In **Self Neglect**, there are no caregivers as perpetrators but rather elderly persons neglecting themselves. Self-neglect is hardly ever willful but rather the result of elderly persons being unable to care for themselves because of depleted physical or social resources.

The Presbyterians Against Domestic Violence Network (PADVN) welcomes those who promote non-violence in all relationships. They provide advocacy and resources for the prevention of and healing from societal and domestic violence. PADVN is one of ten networks organized under the Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association (PHEWA). If you would like further information, please visit <http://www.pcusa.org/phewa/padvn>.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2009

REFORMATION SUNDAY

Reformation Sunday is the Sunday closest to Reformation Day (October 31), when Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg.

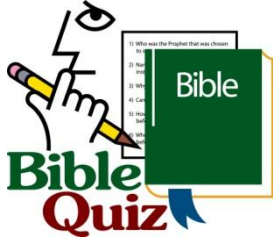
The tradition of Reformation Sunday offers an opportunity to celebrate our heritage and history, to affirm our central theological convictions, and to consider God's on-going reformation of the church. The Presbyterian Church does not have special scripture readings or resources designated for Reformation Sunday, since it is not part of the liturgical calendar. However, this is an opportunity to look not only back at the 16th Century, but ahead to the ways in which the church has reformed and is always being reformed according to the Word of God.

41ST ANNUAL HOLIDAY FAIR

First Presbyterian Church, 621 E. Woodbridge Avenue, Avenel, NJ 07001

**Saturday, October 24, 2009
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Booth	Group or Chairperson
Baked Goods and Bread	Joan Benkert, Bobbie Altieri, Luisa Rondoh
Face Painting	Shortcake the Clown (Carol Palmer)
New and Used Toys	Dawne Gardner, Frances Gardner
Books and Cookbooks	Pete Allebach, John Guarracino, George Shaffer, Lorine Price
Potpourri of Crafts	Gayle Nolan, Carolyn Gilligan, Cathy Shaffer
Audios, CDs and Tapes	Rick Severyn
Progressive Auction	Regina Luntungan and Arlene Farley
Jewelry	Gina Speer, Delores Jones
Busy Bees	Shirley Benkert
White Elephant	Ed Benkert, Rich Culton, Kathy Sturtz
Deacons Diner Sponsored by The Board of Deacons Menu Chairperson: Betty Hulsizer Menu Co-Chairpersons: Belinda Kerchner and Dawn Connolly Desserts Chairpersons: Jane McKee and Millie Knotts	
Menu	Hot Dogs and Sauerkraut – Sausage, Peppers and Onions – Sloppy Joes – Homemade Soup
Beverages and Desserts	Soda – Water – Coffee – Tea – Juice – Cake – Cookies – Cupcakes – Rice Pudding – Rolls and Butter – Bagels and Cream Cheese
Fair Committee	
General Chairperson	Cindy Culton
Coordinator	Jane McKee
Financial Records	Bruce McKee
Secretary	Joan Smith
Booth Chairperson	Carolyn Gilligan
Set-Up Chairperson	Wayne Collins
Breakdown Chairperson	John Hogan
Room Layout	Pete Allebach, Wayne Collins
Sign and Poster Distribution	Pete Allebach, Wayne Collins
Publicity	George Shaffer
Stream Lines	Cindy Culton
Calls for Baked Goods	Bobbie Altieri, Joan Benkert
Greeter at Door	Joan Buzick



Monthly Bible Trivia Quiz

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

Category: New Testament
Quiz Title: Parables

- In the parable of the Good Samaritan, who was the first man to pass by the wounded man?
 - Pharisee
 - Samaritan
 - Priest
 - Scribe
- In the parable of the two debtors, one owed 500 denarii, but how much did the other one owe?
 - 5
 - 50
 - 100
 - 5000
- When the Prodigal Son returned, his father gave him a robe, shoes and what other item?
 - Ring
 - Coin
 - Pearl
 - Fish
- Which one of the following was the kingdom not likened to?
 - Leaven
 - Fishing Net
 - Hidden Treasure
 - Vineyard
- Two men went up to the temple to pray, a Pharisee and who else?
 - Tax Collector
 - Scribe
 - Jew
 - Gentile
- In the parable about a fig tree, when you see the tree putting forth leaves, what is near?
 - Spring
 - Summer
 - Autumn
 - Winter
- Five of the "Ten Virgins" did not take enough of what?
 - Food
 - Clothing
 - Oil
 - Water
- In the parable of the sower, what does the seed represent?
 - Believers
 - Jesus
 - Gentiles
 - Word of God
- In the parable of the grain of mustard seed, when it becomes a tree, birds come and do what?
 - Build nests
 - Eat the leaves
 - Roost for the night
 - Die
- After the prodigal son had spent all his money and famine had come along, what job did he get?
 - Building houses
 - Feeding pigs
 - Sweeping streets
 - Herding sheep

Answers to Monthly Bible Trivia Quiz

1. c) Priest - Luke 10:30-37 2. b) 50 - Luke 7:41-47 3. a) Ring - Luke 15:11-32 4. d) Vineyard - Matthew 13:33, 44, 47 5. a) Tax Collector - Luke 18:9-14 6. b) Summer - Matthew 24:32, Mark 13:28, Luke 21:29-30 7. c) Oil - Matthew 25:1-12 8. d) Word of God - Matthew 13:3-23, Mark 4:1-20, Luke 8:5-15 9. a) Build nests - Matthew 13:31-32, Mark 4:30-32, Luke 13:18-19 10. b) Feeding pigs - Luke 15:11-32



Bible Verse QuoteFall Puzzle

The object of QuoteFalls is to construct a quotation by selecting from available letters in the vertical columns. The letters in each column of the puzzle will go into the squares immediately below them, but not necessarily in the order they appear. Do not take letters from other columns. Each letter is used only once, so cross it out after you use it so you don't try to use it again. A word broken at the end of a line will continue on the next line. A black square indicates the end of a word. When you have placed all the letters in their correct squares, you will be able to read a bible verse across the grid from left to right. Hint: Try to fill in the little words first.

Romans 1:16 (KJV)

M	E	L	A	O	F	N	T	H	R	I	G	T	A
P	I	D		M	F		O	T	E	A	S	H	S
	E			O			C	H			S	O	
■		■			■				■				
			■			■				■			
													■

(Free sample puzzle from <http://biblewordgames.com>)

OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF 2009-2010

Superintendent: Mrs. Suzanne Hogan
 Co-Superintendent: Mrs. Laura Meehan
 Office Staff: Ms. Tammy Salimbene, Mr. John Hogan



Nursery and Pre-K
 Kindergarten and 1st Grade
 3rd, 4th and 5th Grades
 Mid-Level
 Senior High
 Adult
 Substitutes
 Chapel Music

Mrs. Kathy Sturtz, Ms. Regina Luntungan
 Mrs. Karin Hallenbeck, Mrs. Shirley Benkert
 Mrs. Cindy Culton, Mrs. Monica Shannon
 Mr. Ed Benkert, Mrs. Jan Gagnon
 Mr. Ryan Miller, Mr. Rich Gagnon
 Pastor Jason Tucker
 Mrs. Gayle Nolan, Mrs. Carolyn Gilligan, Mrs. Belinda Kerchner, Mrs. Linda Palmerini
 Mrs. Jackie Turnbull

Fellowship Advisors

Senior High: To Be Announced | Mid Level: Chris and Carrie D'Amato

Answer to Bible Verse QuoteFall Puzzle

I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ.
 Romans 1:16 (KJV)

BENEVOLENCE REPORT – August 2009

	Debits	Credits	Balance
Cash Balance			\$6,526.54
Total Deposits			
10%		\$1,314.70	
Navajo Mission		\$0.00	
Family Promise (\$.02 A Meal)		\$36.00	
Total		\$1,350.70	
Total Working Capital			\$7,677.24
Specifics Set Aside			
Emergency Fund	\$1,000.00		
Emergency Fund Addition	\$0.00		
Emergency Fund Disbursement	\$0.00		
Family Promise	\$1,068.54		
Family Promise Addition	\$36.00		
Family Promise Disbursement	\$0.00		
Total	\$2,104.54		\$5,772.70
Net Funds Available			\$5,772.70
Disbursements - Denominational			
Unified Mission	\$600.00		
Total	\$600.00		\$5,172.70
Disbursements - Session			
Navajo Mission (Construction)	\$50.00		
Navajo Mission (Sunday School)	\$30.00		
Prison Ministries	\$50.00		
Walter Hoving Home	\$50.00		
Elizabethport Children's Programs	\$50.00		
Sudan Mission	\$50.00		
The Salvation Army	\$50.00		
Gambell Presbyterian Church (Alaska)	\$50.00		
Christian Appalachian Project	\$50.00		
Covenant House	\$50.00		
eape (Tony Campolo Ministries)	\$50.00		
Elijah's Promise (New Brunswick Soup Kitchen)	\$50.00		
Total	\$580.00		\$4,592.70
Disbursements - Committee Recommended (Session Approved)			
Total	\$0.00		\$4,592.70
Cash Balance			\$4,592.70
Money Held in Specifics		\$2,104.54	
Net Funds Available			\$6,697.24

STREAM LINES



OCTOBER 2009

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AVENEL
631 E. WOODBRIDGE AVENUE
AVENEL, NJ 07001
(732) 634-1631

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Organization



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OCTOBER 2009