

# *VISIONS* *January 2011*

## A New Year

This Sunday in worship we will be celebrating together one of my favorite parts of the Christmas story, the visitation of the Magi to the Christ Child. We are going to be doing some fun and new things in worship this Sunday, adults will be receiving a Star Gift and children a mini King Cake. One of my New Year's Resolutions for ministry this year is to get even more inventive and expressive in worship. Many of my friends who went to Seminary with me are doing some exciting new things in leading their congregations across our country in expressive elements in worship, and so I am committing this year as one of my ministry-resolutions to try new things at least once a month in worship. Worship is the heart of what we do together at WAPC—it is the fuel for the rest of our week, and it is our praise of God that leads us forward into mission and ministry.

**I hope you will put worship as your #1 New Year's Resolution, commit to be with us more, to offer feedback, share with me ideas for topics to be explored in worship, and sign-up to participate in leadership!**

Speaking of new things—this is the last official WAPC church newsletter in this format. Don't worry! We are still going to have a church newsletter, but it is going to be different starting February 1<sup>st</sup>! We are moving to electronic marketing software (aka Constant Contact) for the newsletter. Many of you receive these sorts of e-newsletters in your email inbox all the time and many congregations are going in this direction. Here are some important new features:

- The newsletter will now come out twice a month, making it shorter, easier to read, and with more directive information for you. It will arrive to you on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. **Please send in your submissions to Kathleen in the office by the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month for inclusion.**
- Richer color, fully web-enabled content, meaning direct linkages to the church website and other areas on the web to offer places for spiritual practices, articles referenced, and other information (such as linkages to the Presbytery, PC(USA), etc.)
- Will enable you to with just a few clicks register for church events online
- Social Media buttons on every single church article allowing you to easily share all the wonderful opportunities for spiritual connection and mission at WAPC with your personal network of friends and family—helping us to push our message and invitation far out beyond our regular channels of communication.

I know that some of you are saying to yourself “But I don’t do email or have a computer, what about me?!” **Don’t worry! You are not going to miss out!** You will still be able to pick up your paper copy at the church or have it mailed to your house.

So, if the church does not yet have your email address, now is the time to get it to the office! We have email address for the vast majority of our church members, and so this is going to be a big cost savings for the church going forward on the newsletter, and will allow for us to continue to expand our outreach!

It’s a New Year! Great New Things happening in ministry at WAPC! Join us!

Peace,

Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shannan".

Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo

## ***JANUARY WORSHIP***

Jan 9<sup>th</sup>: **Epiphany**

Scripture: Isaiah 60: 1-6 (Spanish)  
Matthew 2: 1-12

Sermon: "Living into our History"

Jan 16<sup>th</sup>: **Baptism of the Lord**

**Kori Phillips preaching**  
**Martin Luther King Sunday**

Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>: **Week of Christian Unity/**

**Ecumenical Sunday**

**Father George Farrell, preaching from**  
**St. Joseph's. Pastor Shannan preaching**  
**@9:00 am English & 12 noon Mass**  
**Spanish at St. Joseph's.**

Scripture: Isaiah 9: 1-4 &  
Matthew 4: 12-23

Jan 30<sup>th</sup>:

Scripture: Micah 6: 1-8  
Matthew 5: 1-12

Sermon: "Dangerous Prophets on Hills"

## ***CONGREGATIONAL MEETING***

The Session has set the date for our 2011 Congregational Meeting for **Sunday February 6<sup>th</sup>**. We will share lunch in the Parish Hall immediately after worship followed by our meeting. Childcare will be provided free of charge during the congregational meeting (kids have lunch first up in the Parish Hall). If you are in need of childcare during the congregational meeting, please **RSVP** to Kathleen, in the church office by **February 1<sup>st</sup>**.

## ***SOUPER BOWL OF CARING***

Sunday February 6<sup>th</sup> is Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday. Please give as generously as you are able. We are collecting for F.I.S.H.!

## ***2011 PER CAPITA AMOUNT***

Our assessment from the **PCUSA** for 2011 is \$36.60 per member. If each member pays their share, it will free up money for other purposes. Place your \$36.60 in the per capita envelope in your envelope packet.

## ***JANUARY WOMEN'S RETREAT***

The Presbyterian Women's Retreat for Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church will be on Saturday **January 29<sup>th</sup> at Mount Saint Mary's House of Prayer in Watchung** <http://www.msmhope.org/>. All women of the church are invited to attend the retreat whether or not they are active in PW. All are welcome!!!!

- To sign up for the retreat, please contact Beverly Krausse 908-757-6654. The cost for the retreat is \$15 and Beverly will also give you an assignment of an ingredient to bring for soup.
- The retreat begins at 9am and ends at 3pm. It will include morning and afternoon sessions, time for silent retreat, walking the grounds, a visit to the Mt. St. Mary bookstore, lunch, and worship with communion.

**Please join us! We're looking forward to a wonderful day together of fellowship, renewal, and friendship!**

## ***YOUTH GROUP***

**January 9<sup>th</sup>** – Planning for Souper Bowl of Caring and Parents Meeting.

**January 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Wrap candy for Fund Raiser

**January 29<sup>th</sup>** – NYC trip for presentation on Bullying, at the First Presbyterian Church, Manhattan, NY.

## ***FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY***

There are many opportunities to provide flowers for the sanctuary this fall and winter. **The 2010 Flower Chart** is posted on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Please sign the chart for the Sunday of your choice and complete all required information on the signup sheet. It is the responsibility of the donor to contact a florist (or bring flowers from your garden)

If you do not have a florist, **Gray's**, Rte. 22, in Watchung has been a good source (908 757-0400). If you want Grays' to deliver, make sure you instruct them to do so.

**Leslie Hansen** is also interested in doing flower arrangements; she may be called at 908 604-0337. Leslie will place your flowers in the Sanctuary on Sunday morning when she comes for choir.

Gail Smith, PW Flower Chairperson  
(908-753-1249)

## ***SOUP-A-THON***

Sunday, **March 6<sup>TH</sup>** @ 12 Noon, Parish Hall  
Enjoy a variety of soups and dessert too! Tickets are \$ 6 for adults and \$3 for children 10 & under.

If you would like to donate a soup, call Estelle at 908-756-2077. If you would like to donate a dessert call Peggy 908-668-0051 or Faye 908-755-8413.

Get your appetite ready and join us for great food and a great time.

## ***PANCAKE DINNER***

### ***Youth Group Mission Trip Fundraiser***

Save the date - Tuesday, **March 8, 2010.**

Shrove Tuesday supper for the family.

Tickets will go on sale in February.

More information later.

## ***CIRCLE OF GRACE***

Circle of Grace will meet **Tuesday Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>** at the home of Fran Young. **Monday Feb 7<sup>th</sup>** at the home of Judith Botzan. **Monday March 7<sup>th</sup>** at the home of Colleen Parlman. **Monday April 4<sup>th</sup>** at the home of Dot Fenz.

## ***CIRCLE OF HOPE***

Circle of Hope will meet on **Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2011** at the home of Faye Steinau.

## ***CIRCLE OF JOY***

Circle of Joy will meet on **Thursday Feb. 3, 2011** in the **WAPC Parish Hall**, Evie LaMaire hostess.

## ***WINTER COATS***

***Our friends at St. Joseph's have received a donation of nearly 2,000 new winter coats for all ages and sizes!*** If you or anyone you know is in need of a warm winter coat, please call the St. Joseph's office at 908-756-3383 to schedule a time to pick up your coat(s). Or they are having a coat pick up extravaganza ***Saturdays January 8, 15, and 22 from 9-11am!!*** Coats can be picked up and the extravaganza visited at 99 Westervelt Ave. N. Plainfield.

***2010***

## ***CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE PROGRAM***

Faye Steinau and Peggy Bunnell want to thank all the people who donated generously to the Giving Tree. You all helped 50 children have a Merry Christmas!

## ***PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY WINTER MEETINGS***

The Prayer Shawl Ministry of WAPC now has a name. We are "Hearts, Hands & Stitches." Our members feel that this name reflects who we are and what we do. The ministry continues to meet monthly. We stitch at our meetings and on our own time to create comforting shawls. Our Winter meetings are scheduled as follows:

***Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>***, at the home of Gwyn Gronlund

***Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>***, at the home of Fran Young

***Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>***, at the home of Gail Smith

All evening meetings are held from 7:15 pm to 9:30 pm.

We have a time of quiet, prayerful stitching, plan our projects, and have refreshments, of course. All are welcome to join.

You may speak to Gwyn Gronlund for more information (908) 754-1251

## ***DID YOU KNOW!***

***The Bereavement Hospitality Committee*** was set up by Dot Fenz in 1996, to be of assistance to members of the church at the time of a death in the family. The purpose of this committee is to coordinate an informal luncheon or dessert to be served in the Parish Hall following a funeral or memorial service. Members of the committee set up, serve and cleanup in addition to supplying coffee, tea and dessert. The family of the deceased is responsible for the main course and paper products. If in need of this service or you would like to serve on this committee, please call Faye Steinau.

## ***WOMEN'S CRAFT GROUP***

Bring your scrapbooking, knitting, or other projects and come enjoy each other's company, plus get a break from your busy week. We meet on Friday evenings from 7:30 – 9:30 PM - sometimes in the church library and sometimes at someone's house. We even go on field trips occasionally! Come join us whenever you can – just call Gwyn Gronlund (908-754-1251) or Marilyn Cortright (home: 908-753-2859, cell: 908-295-4754) to find out where we will be meeting that week!

## ***MISSION OPPORTUNITIES***

If you would like to help out with a new local mission, we will be partnering with Crescent Avenue on the third Thursday of each month to serve meals at the Plainfield YMCA shelter. You can be a cook (who prepares food ahead of time and drops it off), a server, a helper, or all three! This is a great way for families to participate in mission together. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Ellen (Velasquez) Billard who is the Elder co-chair of our Mission Committee at: 908-757-2929

## ***ECO-TIPS***

### ***To Care for God's Creation***

**Toxics:** Many cleaning products contain chemicals that are bad for your health and the environment, and have not been adequately tested for their harmful effects. Clean safely by making your own green cleaners. Follow this simple recipe for an all-purpose cleaner:

4 cups warm water  
2 Tablespoons of vinegar or lemon juice  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
2 Tablespoons of natural liquid soap (such as Dr. Bronn's orange scented)  
10 drops of essential oil (Lavender, Pine or Tea Tree)—optional, but helps disinfect and adds a good smell  
Mix water, vinegar and baking soda first, then add the soap and essential oil.

• **Toxics:** Pesticides are designed to be harmful, and have been linked to many severe illnesses in both humans and wildlife (Beyond Pesticides). Children are especially susceptible to these chemicals since they are frequently touching surfaces, and they breathe more air per pound of body weight than

adults. Search for the least toxic methods for controlling pests in your home:

<http://www.beyondpesticides.org/alternatives/factsheets/index.htm>

• **Food:** Worldwide meat production releases more greenhouse gas emissions than the entire transportation sector combined (Source: UN Environment Programme). Start small by eliminating meat one day per week, or challenge yourself by taking a week-long vegetarian pledge. See [www.meatlessmonday.org](http://www.meatlessmonday.org) or [www.vegetariantimes.com](http://www.vegetariantimes.com) for good recipes and more information.

• **Food:** A typical carrot travels 1,838 miles to reach your dinner table (Sustainable Table). Support your farmers close to home and reduce your carbon footprint by visiting farmers' markets or participating in Community Supported Agriculture: [www.localharvest.org](http://www.localharvest.org)

• **Food:** Nearly 70% of commercial fishing grounds are depleted or recovering from overfishing (Source: UN Food and Agriculture Organization). Before ordering seafood, reach for your Seafood Watch pocket guide: [www.seafoodwatch.org](http://www.seafoodwatch.org) which will give you the 'red' light or 'green' when deciding what to choose.

• **Food:** As much as forty percent of the energy used in the food system goes towards the production of chemical fertilizers and pesticides (Sustainable Table). Can't afford to eat everything organically? Some fruits and vegetables are sprayed with more pesticides than others, and cannot be cleaned of pesticide residues as easily—start small by choosing organic for these 'Dirty Dozen' fruits and vegetables that fit this category: peach, apple, bell pepper, celery, nectarine, strawberries, cherries, kale, lettuce, grapes (imported), carrot, and pears.

<http://www.foodnews.org/>

## ***PRAYER LIST***

- Prayers of healing for *Jennifer Hernandez* recovering from aburst appendix.
- Prayers of strength for *Kori Phillips* as she takes a three-week Hebrew Intensive class.
- Prayers of comfort and healing for the family of *Dennis O'Brien*, who passed away last week.
- Prayers of celebration for *Barbara Goellner* who has completed all of her cancer treatments.
- Continued prayers of healing for *Ellwood Whitely*.
- Prayers of healing for *Joan Brown*, recovering at home.
- Prayers of healing and comfort for *Joan*, a friend of Rick Butare's, for the loss of her son Michael and for son Jason, awaiting brain and heart surgery.
- Prayers of healing for *Bob Block*, son of Rev. Russ Block (retired) and Nancy Block, suffering head injury after being hit by car while running.
- Prayers of healing and strength for *Hope Dolan*.
- Prayers of healing for *Christopher & Christin Hopp's twin girls*, born premature.
- Prayers of healing for *Tim Cortright*, anticipating surgery later this month.
- Prayers of healing for *Bob Hildebrandt*.
- Prayers of healing for *Joyce Veress*, Shannan and Juan's friend, who is battling breast cancer.
- Prayers of healing for *George & Colleen Parlman*.
- Prayers of healing for the *City of Plainfield* and for the end of gun violence.
- *Mary Wirth*, Pat Dell Bene O'Mara's grandmother.
- *Amanda Lake*, prayers of strength and courage.
- *Vi Krieg*, at home.
- *Alberta Vosburgh*, at Arbor Glenn Continuing Care, Rm. 636.
- *Helen Stagg*, in Cranford Extended Care Facility.
- *Helen Miller*, at home.
- *Henry Coates and Kori Phillips*, Our Seminary Interns.
- *Edwin Estevez, Jr.*, our Seminarian.

## ***CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS to DIRECTORY***

Please make the following corrections/additions in the Directory:

### **Sally Stagg**

5 Linbergh Ave

Warren, NJ 07059

### **John Piel**

(Michael & Christopher) 201.394.3652

26 Red Oak Way

Bridgewater, NJ 08807

**Bunnell** email - [jsbunnell@verizon.net](mailto:jsbunnell@verizon.net)

**Mullen** email - [Juliemullen1@verizon.net](mailto:Juliemullen1@verizon.net)

**Lake** email - [lakee@live.com](mailto:lakee@live.com), Tyler (Goodman)

**Ellen Velasquez** is now **Ellen Billard**.

**Jacob and Shelby Watters** - 908.296.4026

**Colleen Parlman** email -

[goldenmomcp@comcast.net](mailto:goldenmomcp@comcast.net)

**Griffin** phone # - 908.377.9042

### **SULLIVAN, JOHN**

732-218-5480

708 Cricket Lane

Woodbridge, NJ 07095

[Jts1166@aol.com](mailto:Jts1166@aol.com)

### **NEWMAN, CRAIG**

(Sam)

908-548-8039

74 Farragut Place

North Plainfield, NJ 07060

[Craig\\_man@hotmail.com](mailto:Craig_man@hotmail.com)

### **SMITH, BIELKA & (DREW)**

(Zamea)

908-422-0102

621 Parkview Avenue

North Plainfield, NJ 07060

[Bielkasmith89@gmail.com](mailto:Bielkasmith89@gmail.com)

## *February Birthdays*

Andrew Lake	2-Feb
Katy Strasko	6-Feb
Faye Steinau	7-Feb
Harry Krausse	10-Feb
Miguel A. Ramirez	12-Feb
Harriet Stambaugh	14-Feb
Leslie Hansen	17-Feb
Evelyn LaMaire	21-Feb
Helen Bradley	22-Feb
Emilio Peleaz	23-Feb
Patricia Taylor	25-Feb
Ethan Gottshall	25-Feb
Debbie Borberly	26-Feb
Autumn Rodriguez	27-Feb

## *Worship Services & Regular Meetings*

### *Regular Sunday Schedule:*

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal  
 10:00 a.m. Worship  
 10:20 a.m. Church School  
 11:00 a.m. Coffee/Fellowship

### *Weekly*

Wednesday Bible Study 10 a.m. in Lounge  
 Wednesday Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.  
 Thursday Bible Study 7:30 p.m.-Lounge

### *Monthly*

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Holy Communion  
 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday FISH (Food Bank) Collection  
 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Confirmation Class(12-1:30)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Healing Service  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday Session meets at 7:30 p.m.  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday Trustee's Meeting at 7:30 p.m.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Youth Group 11:30-1p.m.  
 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Men's Breakfast  
 4<sup>th</sup> Monday CHATS - 7:15 p.m. in Library

### *Key Cards*

We have a new policy for replacement of key cards.  
 Due to the cost of the cards we will need to collect a fee of \$10.00 for replacement of lost key cards.

## *WAPC Schedule of Regular Events*

### Sunday Schedule:

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal  
 10:00 am Worship  
 10:20 am Church School  
 10:55 am Coffee/Fellowship  
 7-9 pm Iglesia Cristo Mi Rey  
 Parish Hall

### Monday Schedule

8:15 am Head Start  
 2:30 pm ASP  
 7:15 pm CHATS (4th Monday)  
 7:30 pm Boy Scouts Parish Hall

### Tuesday Schedule

1-Jan 8:15 am Head Start  
 9:30 am WIC (Tuesday)  
 2:30 pm ASP  
 7-10 pm Iglesia Cristo Mi Rey  
 Parish Hall & classroom

### Wednesday Schedule

8:15 am Head Start  
 10:00 am Bible Study  
 2:30 pm ASP  
 7:30 pm Chancel Choir

### Thursday Schedule

8:15 am Head Start  
 2:30 pm ASP  
 7:30 pm Bible Study

### Friday Schedule

8:15 am Head Start  
 2:30 pm ASP  
 6-8 pm Girl Scouts Parish Hall

### Saturday Schedule

9-11 am Heritage Choir Parish Hall  
 7-10 pm - Iglesia Cristo Mi Rey  
 Parish Hall & classroom

*Visions* is published monthly.

The due date for articles for the **February** newsletter is: **Monday, January 24, 2011**

Pastor: *Shannan Vance-Ocampo*  
 Pastor Emeritus: *Brooks Smith*  
 Student Pastors: Henry Coates & Kori Phillips  
 Director of Music: *Sam Chapin*  
 WAPC After School Program – 908-755-8202  
 ASP Director: *James Winston*  
 Visions Editor: *Kathleen Golmont*

# Summer 2011 Youth Group Mission Trip

## June 26-July 1, 2011

### Stony Point, New York

Co-led by Pastor Shannan (Watchung Avenue) and Pastor Rob (Crescent Avenue)

Join the youth of Watchung Avenue and Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Churches for our Summer 2011 Mission Trip. We'll be going to Stony Point, NY to help with the building of a new arts building for the Stony Point Center, one of only three national conference centers of the Presbyterian Church (USA). In the evenings we will have the opportunity engage in Bible Study with the Community of Living Traditions—an interfaith (Jewish, Christian, Muslim) young adult ministry group that resides at the Stony Point Center and is committed to nonviolence. Together with them we will learn about the common roots of our faith and how together we can be agents of peace in the world.

We are very excited about this trip that will offer the youth of our congregations the opportunity to do physical and spiritual work as we build up ourselves as disciples of Jesus Christ!

#### **Cost \$600/participant**

Each participant is asked to contribute \$200 towards the cost of the trip, to fully participate to help fundraise towards our trip, and our two congregations will help with the rest. *Scholarships are available—see Pastor Shannan*



Register via the WAPC office with your \$100 deposit made out to "Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church". Note "youth mission trip" in the memo line. Please register ASAP

# VISIONS



# March 2011

Once again, spring is here. I don't know about you, but I had my doubts about if I would ever see spring again after the winter we just had! So much snow, so many dark and dreary days, and so much cold! I know, I know—March can be bad too! But, there is no doubting that spring is on her way. Trees are budding, plants are beginning to emerge from the ground, and our clocks are about to spring forward. There is no stopping it now, winter is over, spring is on her way.

Just this past Sunday, when we got home from church I quickly changed into my gardening clothes and got outside. It was late in the afternoon and I knew that I only had a few hours of daylight left. I had been wanting to get out in the garden all week—to rake out the flower beds and create more space and room around the bulbs that were just beginning to come up. I spent the next few hours digging in the dirt, clearing away dead branches and cutting back a few plants that were damaged by the heavy snow that sat on them for so long this winter. It felt wonderful to be outside again, to get some fresh air, and to get rid of the vestiges of winter in my garden. Getting rid of the old and making space for the new is always very exciting!

That is the season we are also in as a church, making space for the new. This month, after long last, our new church website will be launched!!!! We are envisioning new ministries, and re-engaging in mission and outreach. Our youth group is getting ready for their summer mission trip, launching some fun and exciting fundraisers along the way. Next week we begin the season of Lent, a time for renewal of faith—reflection on who we are and what we are about. **Clearing the cobwebs out of our souls and making room for something new to blossom and bloom.**

So, the question is, what are you interested in having bloom and grow in your soul or in your life this spring? A new relationship, a deeper relationship with God, a job, a renewed sense of confidence, the letting go of things that are old and tired—taking on a new sense of joy? What are you looking for? Lent is a great time to reprioritize, renew, and remake yourself. As Christians we know that we do this from the inside out—starting with our souls. That is what Lent is for—creating something new. I want to encourage you to renew your commitments, to yourself, to God, to this community during Lent...see you in church!

Peace,

Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo

## Worship During Lent

Wednesday March 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:30PM—*Ash Wednesday* Worship service. Designed and led by Seminary Interns Kori and Henry!

Sundays in Lent, 10AM—*Weekly Worship*—Strength for the Journey of Renewal

Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup>—*Palm Sunday* Worship with the Procession of the Palms

Thursday April 21<sup>st</sup>—*Maundy Thursday* Tenebrae Worship with Communion

Friday April 22<sup>nd</sup>—*Good Friday* Worship with Communion

Sunday April 24<sup>th</sup>—*Easter Sunday* Worship!

Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church  
170 Watchung Avenue  
North Plainfield, NJ 07060



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Email: [wapc@verizon.net](mailto:wapc@verizon.net)  
Web: [www.wapc.net](http://www.wapc.net)  
Fax: 908-756-7981

## *March Worship*

Mar 6<sup>th</sup>: **Transfiguration of the Lord**

Sacrament: Communion

Scripture: Exodus 24: 12-18 &  
Matthew 17: 1-19

Sermon: "Blinded by the Light"

Mar 9<sup>th</sup>: **Ash Wednesday**

Sacrament: Communion

Scripture: Isaiah 58: 1-12, Psalm 51,  
Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21 &  
2 Cor 5: 20b-6:10

Sermon: "Signs of Renewal for Lent"

Mar 13<sup>th</sup> – **First Sunday in Lent/Blanket Sunday**  
**Daylight Savings (spring forward)**

**Kori Phillips Preaching**

Scripture: Genesis 2: 15-17, 3:1-7 &  
Matthew 4: 1-11

Sermon: "Led by the Spirit"

Mar 20<sup>th</sup>: **Second Sunday in Lent**

Scripture: Genesis 12: 1-4a &  
John 3: 1-17

Sermon: "Watch Out You Might be  
Next!"

Mar 27<sup>th</sup>: **Third Sunday in Lent**

Guest Preacher—Pastor Shannan away  
on study leave

## *Daylight Savings Time*

**Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>** clocks spring ahead.

### *Dollars Destroying the Deficit!*

If every WAPC member gave an additional \$1/day all year—we would eliminate 100% of the church deficit! We would have more funds for mission & ministry. Put your \$ in the DDD envelope found in your pew rack and then the offering plate each week.

## *Lenten Bible Study*

### **WHAT DO YOU DO WITH ROME?**

Being a Christian in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:

A Lenten Bible Study

Please join Seminarian Intern Henry Coates as he leads a Bible study on the Book of First Peter on March 20, 27, and April 3 after worship (meet in the lounge). First Peter, although often overlooked, contains within it truths and wisdom vital to an understanding of how to live as a witness to Christ in a diverse, pluralistic society. As we reflect together during this Lenten season let us turn to Jesus, and pore over the text of First Peter as we seek to deepen in our spiritual formation as Christians and continue forward on our walk with Jesus. Come, join Henry for a great time together this Lent!

RSVP to the Church Office by March 18<sup>th</sup> to let Henry know you are coming: [wapc@verizon.net](mailto:wapc@verizon.net) or 908-755-2781. Please see Henry if you have any questions. See you there!!!

## *Save The Date*

Every year the five Presbyterian congregations in Plainfield/North Plainfield come together for worship on the first Sunday in May. This year we will be doing something different. Instead of just worship, we will be having a day-long festival of worship, food, and fellowship. **Our event this year will run from 10am-4pm on Sunday May 1 at the United/Nuevas Fronteras Church in Plainfield.** There is no cost for the day and free childcare is available. After lunch our churches will come together for Anti-Racism Training, a type of activity where we learn about various cultures, and how as Christians we live in ways that lift up the God-given humanity of each of us. There will be a special track for our youth groups to work together.

Lead Anti-Racism trainer for the Presbyterian Church (USA), Rev. David Bowie of Atlanta will be with us as well as Rev. Mark Koenig, Director of the PC(USA) Office at the United Nations in NYC. We are honored to have both David and Mark with us, and expect this to be a transformative day for all five of our congregations! **Put the day on your calendar now, and plan to be with us as we build God's beloved community together!!!!**

## A Winter Psalm

by E.R.Estevez

"Winter undoubtedly stirs up conversation. There are the blizzards, the ice, fallen trees, slippery paths, forecasts and possible delays and closures. Even for someone like me who genuinely enjoys a good snowfall and the rhythm of the seasons, winter can still take some getting used to. Winter is characterized by shorter days, by cold temperatures, and precipitation that literally sticks around. You may enjoy all of this. If, however, you are one of those longing for sunny days and warm breezes, or are pining for home, which is especially distant at this time, then perhaps the winter season is an apt metaphor for Psalm 42.

Here the Psalmist is "pouring out the soul," or as the Hebrew can translate "soul,": pouring out one's emotions, breath, life. Literally, the Psalmist has been "poured out," marking it with tears which have served as "food day and night." The soul is "downcast" and "disquieted" or "disturbed." "Why have you [God] forgotten me?" the Psalmist queries.

You know this. In some deep way, you know this wintry mix of cold and darkness in your own life, and your own "pouring out of the soul." You are spent, empty, tired. You feel isolated, disconnected. All around you, your "enemies" jeer—people who feel threatened by you or who have yet to welcome you; there are the failures at your feet, the disastrous program, the loss of income, unmet expectations, the work that overwhelms and the injustices that anger; critical funds have been pulled, relationships have broken, faith falters, the kingdom of God seems, not at hand, but certainly far off.

A choice soon approaches, like the moistened air just before a snowfall. You know you cannot live on this way. You make a choice to believe--if only out of a desperate need and not some noble ability on your part. You choose to believe that God, the One whose very presence connects all living things, the One who has called you, sustains you just as all creation is sustained, *this* One, is good. You realize that as cliché as it can sound, or as poster-perfect but intellectually unsatisfying it can be, believing that God is good is like gathering around a warm fire on a long, winter's night.

There, even in the darkness, God is present, at work. "Deep calls to deep." Beneath the frozen ground, there is life anew, blossoming and approaching. There, in the darkness, you will receive your strength. And from there, you will offer your life's song to others. Amen."

Edwin R. Estevez

## *Out Of Office*

**March 24-29, 2011**

Pastor Shannan will be out of the office for Continuing Education. Rev. Rob Martin at Crescent Avenue is on call for pastoral care emergencies, 908-756-2468.

## *March Presbytery Meeting*

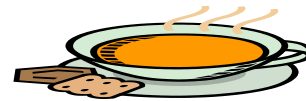
Pastor Shannan is preaching at the March 24, 2011 meeting of Elizabeth Presbytery. The worship service is at the beginning of the meeting which is being held at Third-Elizabeth Church. If you are interested in attending, please let the church office know!

## *Circle Of Grace*

Circle of Grace will meet **Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>** at the home of Colleen Parlman. **Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup>** at the home of Dot Fenz.

## *Circle Of Hope*

Circle of Hope will meet **April 5<sup>th</sup>**, 7:30pm, at the home of Cathy Lyttle.



## *Soup-A-Thon*

Sunday, **March 6<sup>TH</sup>** @ 12 Noon, Parish Hall  
Enjoy a variety of soups and dessert too! Tickets are \$ 6 for adults and \$3 for children 10 & under.

If you would like to donate a soup, call Estelle at 908-756-2077. If you would like to donate a dessert call Peggy 908-668-0051 or Faye 908-755-8413.

Get your appetite ready and join us for great food and a great time.



## *Pancake Dinner*

### *Youth Group Mission Trip Fundraiser*

Tuesday, **March 8, 7pm**

Shrove Tuesday supper for the family.

Tickets \$7 adults, kids \$5(10 & under) on sale during coffee hour! Don't come by yourself, bring all your friends and neighbors too!

## ***Hearts, Hands & Stitches Prayer Shawl Ministry***

The Prayer Shawl Ministry of WAPC now has a name. We are "Hearts, Hands & Stitches." Our members feel that this name reflects who we are and what we do. The ministry continues to meet monthly. We stitch at our meetings and on our own time to create comforting shawls. Our Spring meetings are scheduled as follows:

**Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>**, at the home of Fran Young  
**Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**, at the home of Cathy Boleyn  
**Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>**, at the home of Gwyn Gronlund

All evening meetings are held from 7:15 pm to 9:30 pm. We have a time of quiet, prayerful stitching, plan our projects, and have refreshments, of course. All are welcome to join. We hope to plan a Sunday afternoon knitting/crochet session this Spring—date to be announced.

You may speak to Gwyn Gronlund for more information (908) 754-1251

## ***Youth Group***

### **Sunday March 6<sup>th</sup>**

Youth Selling tickets after worship during coffee hour for the Pancake Dinner on March 8<sup>th</sup> to benefit the youth mission trip

### **Tuesday March 8<sup>th</sup>**

Pancake Dinner for Shrove Tuesday at the Church. 7pm. To benefit the youth mission trip. Youth/families there at 6pm for set up. Organizer of this event is Sue Durick. Please RSVP to Sue to let her know you are helping out. Bring friends and family!!!! Start to spread the word!

### **Sundays March 13/27**

Regular Sundays for youth group after worship

### **Saturday April 9<sup>th</sup>**

Dinner and Silent Auction Fundraiser at the church to support the youth mission trip. Save the date, more info coming soon. Organizer of this event is Rachel Weissenburger. If you have items/ideas for silent auction, please start letting Rachel know now!!!!

### **Thank You!**

To everyone who helped out with Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday and also with selling chocolates for Valentine's Day. The youth made nearly \$300 to send along to the local North Plainfield Food Bank (FISH) on Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday and we made about \$450 towards our mission trip selling candy and hot chocolate. The youth at Crescent Avenue also sold out and more chocolates, etc. are

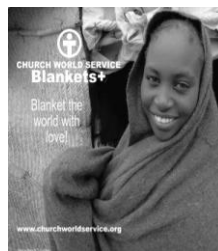
on their way for us to sell again in March to continue supporting our trip!

### **Mission Trip**

June 26 through July 1 to Stony Point NY(see flyer)

## ***Blanket Sunday***

Blanket Sunday is on **March 13<sup>th</sup>** Help us serve others and blanket the world with love....Church World Service will again be collecting money for \$5 blankets that are distributed in areas of most need mostly to those fleeing their homes because of violence and in areas struck by natural disaster. New Orleans received thousands and thousands of blankets after the disaster there.



Blankets are used to carry children, food and other possessions; as blankets, and as roofs in makeshift houses. As everything else increases in price the cost of a blanket is still \$5. Please be as generous as you are able. Offering envelopes will be in the pews on March 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Donations are welcome anytime. **Please write your check to CWS.**

## ***One Great Hour Of Sharing Offering***

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering begins on March 20<sup>th</sup>. We will be taking the offering as a congregation on **Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup>**. You can follow along with stories about the offering that will be presented in worship and in the bulletin on March 20<sup>th</sup>, March 27<sup>th</sup>, and April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please use the One Great Hour of Sharing envelope in your offering envelopes box or you may use the envelope that will be in your bulletin in worship on the 17<sup>th</sup>. The children will receive their materials on March 13<sup>th</sup> (caring calendar and Fish Coin Box). This offering goes to support three essential mission projects of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): **Self Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program.** More information about the offering can be found at [www.pcusa.org/oghs](http://www.pcusa.org/oghs)





## Easter Plants

We are creating a Spring Garden for **Easter Sunday Worship, April 24<sup>th</sup>**. This is a beautiful way to remember and honor loved ones! Look for order form in April Newsletter and March Bulletins.

## *Dinner & Silent Auction*

Silent Auction Fund Raiser for Mission Trip  
WAPC and CAPC are hosting a Silent Auction Dinner on **April 9<sup>th</sup>**. Plan to join us for a fun evening with friends. Youth Group will be selling tickets shortly so be sure to join us for a fun evening.

Do you have time, experience or talent to donate? We are looking for donations from you for the Silent Auction. All funds raised will go to the Youth Group Mission trip this summer.

If you have something to donate, email Rachel at [rachelmarjine@yahoo.com](mailto:rachelmarjine@yahoo.com).

A sampling of our Silent Auction Items so far:

Pastor Shannan: free wedding service

Juan Ocampo: Original painting

Cathy Boylen: Famous carrot cake

Rachel Weissenburger: Facepainting at your next party

Jake Watters: 2 hours of yard work or babysitting

## *Mission Opportunities*

If you would like to help out with a new local mission, we will be partnering with Crescent Avenue on the third Thursday of each month to serve meals at the Plainfield YMCA shelter. You can be a cook (who prepares food ahead of time and drops it off), a server, a helper, or all three! This is a great way for families to participate in mission together. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Joel Stamaugh Elder Chair of our Mission Committee.

## *Women's Craft Group*

Bring your scrapbooking, knitting, or other projects and come enjoy each other's company, plus get a break from your busy week. We meet on Friday evenings from 7:30 – 9:30 PM - sometimes in the church library and sometimes at someone's house. We even go on field trips occasionally! Come join us whenever you can – just call Gwyn Gronlund (908-754-1251) or Marilyn Cortright (home: 908-753-2859, cell: 908-295-4754) to find out where we will be meeting that week!

## *Thank You*

To our WAPC Family and Friends, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your cards, telephone calls and visits during our recovery period after the car accident. Your caring and support helped us through a very difficult time. A very special thank you to Shannan for her messages of comfort and her many contacts with us during that whole period of time. God Bless you All

With our Love,

Dorothy and Harry Hooker

To Hearts, Hands & Stitches, we thank you so much for the wonderful Prayer Shawl and Scarf you made with love for both of us. They are beautiful and very warm. We sincerely appreciate your concern and support.

With our Love,

Dorothy and Harry Hooker

To all my friends at WAPC, thank you all for your get well messages, visits and telephone calls after my recent surgery this past November. Your support meant so much and helped greatly during my recuperation. Also a very big Thank You to Shannan for being with me at the hospital that morning before the surgery and praying with Dot and I. Thank you all again

With Love, Harry Hooker

## ***PW Spring Retreat***

All the women of our church are invited to a joint retreat at Stony Point Conference center in Rockland county, NY with the women of Crescent Avenue and Fanwood Presbyterian on Friday, May 6 through Saturday, May 7. Rev. Beth Anderson-Domer and Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo will lead us in Bible Study and discussion.

We will be staying at the Gilmore Sloane House; Victorian mansion built in 1856, and will enjoy three healthy meals cooked from scratch for us by the excellent Stony Point Chefs. The conference center is a beautiful setting for meditation and prayer time. Perhaps you might enjoy a walk through their outdoor labyrinth and Japanese Peace Garden.

Please contact the office to make your reservation. A \$30 deposit is required. The remaining fee of \$85 may be paid in April.

## ***Flowers For The Sanctuary***

There are many opportunities to provide flowers for the sanctuary this spring. **The 2011 Flower Chart** is posted on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

Please sign the chart for the Sunday of your choice and complete all required information on the signup sheet. It is the responsibility of the donor to contact a florist (or bring flowers from your garden)

If you do not have a florist, **Gray's**, Rte. 22, in Watchung has been a good source (908 757-0400). If you want Grays' to deliver, make sure you instruct them to do so.

**Leslie Hansen** is also interested in doing flower arrangements; she may be called at 908 604-0337. Leslie will place your flowers in the Sanctuary on Sunday morning when she comes for choir.

Gail Smith, PW Flower Chairperson  
(908-753-1249)

## ***Thank You***

On January 5<sup>th</sup> Jennifer Hernandez had appendix surgery to remove her ruptured appendix. My family and I would like to thank everyone for all of the prayers and phone calls. Thank God the surgery went well for us and Jennifer is recovered now. We also want to thank each and every one of you who sent us dinner each day. It was so wonderful to have a hot meal after a long day in the hospital with Jennifer. They were all delicious and were extra help for our family since I was so tired I couldn't find time to take care of the rest of my family while worrying about Jennifer in the hospital. You made us feel so special. God Bless.

--Sandra Hernandez and Family

## ***Eco-Tips To Care for God's Creation***

- **Transportation:** 10 seconds of idling uses more fuel than turning the engine on and off (NJDEP). Turn your engine off when you are sitting for more than 10 seconds, especially near children and in urban areas where pollution levels are already high.
- **Transportation:** The U.S. is responsible for 45% of the world's total global warming pollution from vehicles (Environmental Defense). Purchasing a fuelefficient car is one of the most effective environmental choices you can make. When it comes time to purchase a vehicle, aim for one that is rated at 36 miles per gallon or higher: <http://www.fueleconomy.gov/>
- **Transportation:** \$6,251: Amount the average two-worker household saves annually by taking public transportation instead of driving a car (Source: Environmental Defense). Have you checked out the mass transit routes near your home, and do you use mass transit as often as possible? Where mass transit is infeasible try other sustainable methods of transportation: walking, riding a bike or carpooling.

## ***Did You Know!***

**The Bereavement Hospitality Committee** was set up by Dot Fenz in 1996, to be of assistance to members of the church at the time of a death in the family. The purpose of this committee is to coordinate an informal luncheon or dessert to be served in the Parish Hall following a funeral or memorial service. Members of the committee set up, serve and cleanup in addition to supplying coffee, tea and dessert. The family of the deceased is responsible for the main course and paper products. If in need of this service or you would like to serve on this committee, please call Faye Steinau.

## ***Prayer List***

- Prayers of healing for the family of *Roy DeVoe* who was murdered last week in Bridgewater. A good friend of the Boleyn Family.
- Prayers of healing for *Andy Lake*, recovering from surgery.
- Prayers of healing and comfort for the *Gronlund family*, on the passing of Bruce's mother and aunt.
- Prayers of peace for those who live in the Middle East and for the PC(USA) Mission Co-Workers who serve in these places.
- Prayers of healing for *Tim Cortright*, recovering from surgery.
- Prayers of healing for *Bob Hildebrandt*.
- Prayers of healing for *George & Colleen Parlman*.
- Prayers of healing for the *City of Plainfield* and for the end of gun violence.
- *Amanda Lake*, prayers of strength and courage.
- *Alberta Vosburgh*, at Arbor Glenn Continuing Care, Rm. 636.
- *Helen Miller, Ellwood Whitely & Joan Brown*, at home.
- *Henry Coates and Kori Phillips*, Our Seminary Interns.
- *Edwin Estevez, Jr.*, our Seminarian.

## ***March Birthdays***

Dot Fenz	2-Mar
David Hansen	3-Mar
John Langan, Jr.	5-Mar
Kirsten Beck	6-Mar
Robin Savage	6-Mar
Julia Lake	7-Mar
Kelly Burke	7-Mar
Patrick Slattery	8-Mar
Donald Miller	9-Mar
Dianne Ledder	11-Mar
Miles Falck	12-Mar
Fran Young	13-Mar
John Kendall	14-Mar
Rachel Kendall	15-Mar
Erika Gerhard	18-Mar
Dorothy Blain	20-Mar
Susan Bunnell	21-Mar
David Hooker	22-Mar
Isobel Green	26-Mar
Alice Lester	28-Mar
Lorraine MacNamara	28-Mar
Beverly Krausse	31-Mar
Colleen Parlman	31-Mar

## ***April Birthdays***

Peg Bunnell	1-Apr
Tom Bradley	1-Apr
Erika Marano	2-Apr
Donna Weiss	2-Apr
Richard Kennedy	3-Apr
Sarah Ledder	3-Apr
Doug Boleyn	4-Apr
Tracy Young	6-Apr
Sam Newman	6-Apr
Caren Strasko	9-Apr
Corey Downey	11-Apr
Sally Stagg	11-Apr
Tim Cortright	13-Apr
Estelle Kennedy	13-Apr
Brianna Burke	20-Apr
Steve Imperato	22-Apr
Harry Hooker	24-Apr
Kurt Hoppe	29-Apr
Jacqueline Slattery	29-Apr

## ***Worship Services & Regular Meetings***

### ***Regular Sunday Schedule:***

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 a.m. Worship  
10:20 a.m. Church School  
11:00 a.m. Coffee/Fellowship

### ***Weekly***

Wednesday Bible Study 10 a.m. in Lounge  
Wednesday Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.  
Thursday Bible Study 7:30 p.m.-Lounge

### ***Monthly***

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Holy Communion  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday FISH (Food Bank) Collection  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Healing Service  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday Session meets at 7:30 p.m.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday Trustee's Meeting at 7:30 p.m.  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Youth Group 11:30-1p.m.  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Men's Breakfast  
4<sup>th</sup> Monday CHATS - 7:15 p.m. in Library

### ***Key Cards***

We have a new policy for replacement of key cards.  
Due to the cost of the cards we will need to collect a  
fee of \$10.00 for replacement of lost key cards.

## ***WAPC Schedule of Regular Events***

### Sunday Schedule:

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 am Worship  
10:20 am Church School  
10:55 am Coffee/Fellowship  
7-9 pm Iglesia Cristo Mi Rey  
Parish Hall

### Monday Schedule

8:15 am Head Start  
2:30 pm ASP  
7:15 pm CHATS (4th Monday)  
7:30 pm Boy Scouts Parish Hall

### Tuesday Schedule

8:15 am Head Start  
9:30 am WIC (Tuesday)  
2:30 pm ASP  
7-10 pm Iglesia Cristo Mi Rey  
Parish Hall & classroom

### Wednesday Schedule

8:15 am Head Start  
10:00 am Bible Study  
2:30 pm ASP  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

### Thursday Schedule

8:15 am Head Start  
2:30 pm ASP  
7:30 pm Bible Study

### Friday Schedule

8:15 am Head Start  
2:30 pm ASP  
6-8 pm Girl Scouts Parish Hall

### Saturday Schedule

9-11 am Heritage Choir Parish Hall  
7-10 pm - Iglesia Cristo Mi Rey  
Parish Hall & classroom

Pastor: *Shannan Vance-Ocampo*

Pastor Emeritus: *Brooks Smith*

Student Pastors: Henry Coates & Kori Phillips

Director of Music: *Sam Chapin*

WAPC After School Program – 908-755-8202

ASP Director: *James Winston*

Visions Editor: *Kathleen Golmont*

# ***PANCAKE DINNER FUNDRAISER***

*MARCH 8, 2011*

*7PM @ Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church  
Parish Hall*

All proceeds to support the combined youth group mission trip in June 2011 to the Stony Point Center, one of three national conference centers of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Our youth will be participating in a building project at Stony Point Center and also learning about youth and young adult initiatives around peacemaking between Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.

**TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE  
FOR SALE AT THE  
CHURCH OFFICES OR AT  
THE DOOR.**

**Adults: \$7  
Children: \$5**

***Advance  
Tickets  
Recommended***






# MARCH 2011 CHURCH SCHOOL and ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN @ WAPC



*We have some great activities this March, see you at church school as we learn about God,  
grow in our faith, and have fun!!!*

	<b>Sunday March 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Tuesday March 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Wednesday  + Ash Wednesday  March 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Sunday March 13<sup>th</sup> Don't forget to spring forward! Spring</b>	<b>Sunday March 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Sunday March 27<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Bible Lesson and Teacher</b>	<i>Matthew 17: 1-19</i> Jennifer and Walter Rodriguez	<b>7PM</b>  <b>Pancake Dinner to Support the Youth Group.</b> <b>Adults \$7 Kids \$5</b>	<b>7:30PM</b>  <b>Ash Wednesday Worship</b>  <b>We will be using the candles the children made on March 6<sup>th</sup> to light our worship service.</b>	<i>Matthew 4: 1-11</i>	<i>John 3: 1-17</i> Teacher Needed	<i>John 4: 5-42</i> Walter and Jennifer Rodriguez
<b>Activity Information</b>	Making Prayer Candles to be used in Ash Wednesday Worship			Craft Sunday with Rachel!	Learning about Questions for Jesus and How we Answer Them!	Learning about the Samaritans and Celebrating our God-given differences!
<b>Special Information</b>	Don't forget to get your tickets after church for the Pancake Dinner on Tuesday!	<b>Lots of fun, pancakes, and sausages! YUM!</b>  <b>See you there!!!</b>  	<b>Pick up your child's candles after worship!!!</b>	<b>Parents:</b> Don't forget to pick up your children's Lenten Devotional Calendars and One Great Hour of Sharing Fish Boxes!	<b>Parents:</b> If you missed picking up your children's Lent packet, please pick one up!	How is Lent going at home for your family! Enjoy your family Lent calendar, your new spiritual practices as a family!

## Upcoming peacemaking and mission conferences

The Global Peacemaking/Mission Committee wants you to be aware of the following events. We are offering 100% registration scholarships to anyone connected to our Presbytery who would like to attend any of these conferences.

Participants would still then be responsible for costs of lodging/travel. To apply for scholarships, please be in touch with Rev. Chris Belden at [chrisbelden@verizon.net](mailto:chrisbelden@verizon.net)

### BIG TENT EVENT

June 30-July 2, 2011

Indianapolis, Indiana

[gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/big-tent](http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/big-tent)

Registration Fee: \$285

Join thousands of Presbyterians for nine national conferences in one place!

- Youth Clergywomen
- Immigration &
- Racial/Ethnic Ministry
- World Mission
- Evangelism and Church Growth
- Healthy Ministry
- National Elders
- Multicultural Church Peacemaking
- Communicators

**Programs for Children, Youth, and Young Adults!!!!**



### ECUMENICAL ADVOCACY DAYS



March 25-28, 2011—Washington D.C.

[advocacydays.org](http://advocacydays.org)

[gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/washington/](http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/washington/)

Registration Fee: \$175

Development, Security, and Economic Justice: What's Gender Got To Do With It?

Come learn on a variety of tracks: *Latin America, Africa, Asia-Pacific, Middle East, Domestic, Eco-Justice, Economics, Peace and Global Security*. Features a lobby day on Capital Hill and the Presbyterian luncheon. Engaging speakers, partnerships with other ecumenical leaders. Also this year, come a day early and celebrate the 65th Anniversary of the PC(USA) Washington Office with extra free seminars for Presbyterians-only and a dinner cruise on the Potomac with PC(USA) leadership!



The Office of Public Witness

the voice of Presbyterian public policy

### CONVOCATION OF PEACEMAKERS

April 7-9, 2011—Stony Point Conference Center (NY)

[presbypeacefellowship.org/convocation2011](http://presbypeacefellowship.org/convocation2011)

Registration Fee: \$230

**This is not a normal conference**, but a **working meeting** for peacemakers from across the church to plan together for effective advocacy and action. We will also employ Open-Space Technology and Anti-Racism training throughout the conference as we focus on four areas led by expert leaders:

- Colombia Accompaniment
- Israel/Palestine
- Gun Violence Prevention
- Becoming a "Peace-Church"



# Summer 2011 Youth Group Mission Trip

## June 26-July 1, 2011

### Stony Point, New York

Co-led by Pastor Shannan (Watchung Avenue) and Pastor Rob (Crescent Avenue)

Join the youth of Watchung Avenue and Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Churches for our Summer 2011 Mission Trip. We'll be going to Stony Point, NY to help with the building of a new arts building for the Stony Point Center, one of only three national conference centers of the Presbyterian Church (USA). In the evenings we will have the opportunity engage in Bible Study with the Community of Living Traditions—an interfaith (Jewish, Christian, Muslim) young adult ministry group that resides at the Stony Point Center and is committed to nonviolence. Together with them we will learn about the common roots of our faith and how together we can be agents of peace in the world.

We are very excited about this trip that will offer the youth of our congregations the opportunity to do physical and spiritual work as we build up ourselves as disciples of Jesus Christ!

#### **Cost \$600/participant**

Each participant is asked to contribute \$200 towards the cost of the trip, to fully participate to help fundraise towards our trip, and our two congregations will help with the rest. *Scholarships are available—see Pastor Shannan*



Register via the WAPC office with your \$100 deposit made out to "Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church". Note "youth mission trip" in the memo line. Please register ASAP

# Join us for Easter worship!

EASTER SUNDAY AT 10AM



## *VISIONS April 2011*

As I type this letter for the newsletter I am on my way back on New Jersey on the Amtrak train from a few days of continuing education time in our nation's capital of Washington D.C. I was there for an annual conference that happens every year called Ecumenical Advocacy Days. You can check out their website for more information ([www.advocacydays.org](http://www.advocacydays.org)). The last time I went to this conference was in 2007, and it is always a rich experience. This time I went in a new capacity, as one of the people involved in the mission work of the PC(USA) in Colombia, and host to our two Colombian Pastors who are visiting with us. Together we shared the leadership of a panel on the effects of war in Colombia on women and children, and we spent two full days lobbying our Congress (including some of our NJ reps) on US legislation as it pertains to Colombia. I found myself many times over the weekend moved to tears as I listened to my Colombian sisters speak with great courage about the ministry they do in place of such deep violence, fear, and war. I remember my first trip to Colombia twelve years ago, meeting the church there for the first time—and it still is a wonder to me today I get to help facilitate the work of some of the mission of our larger church in Colombia, and that I get to be a part of such holy conversations like the ones we had in DC this weekend every once in a while.



You might be asking yourself, why would a Presbyterian, a Christian, spend time doing things like talking to Congress? For me, it is because one of the central ways I follow Jesus is to make sure that the world we live in is more just and equitable for all of God's people. As a person of privilege, I have an opportunity to speak up, and for me, that feels like my duty as a person who loves Jesus and wants to see his vision of justice for people to be recognized. It's not something I do all of the time, but occasionally, when the opportunity presents itself. We should all find ways that make sense in our lives to speak up, and to be a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves—I do believe it is what Jesus would have us do!

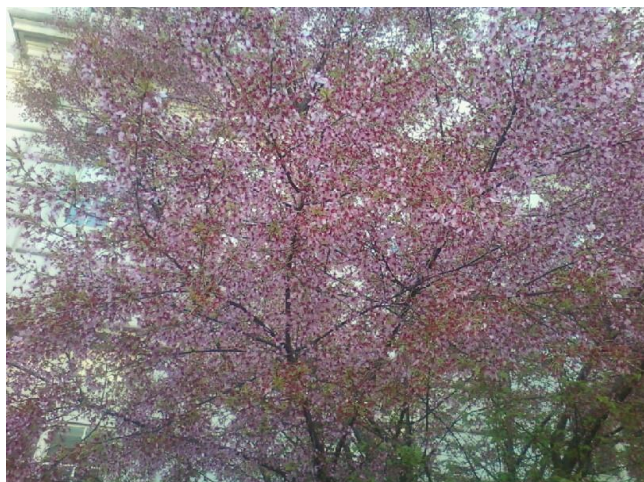
For me, the conference time, while busy, was also a time of relaxation and spiritual renewal. I got to see old friends, some of them from my time in Seminary and other places around the church. Hanging out with friends is good for the soul—and so many of my friends are dispersed around the country (and I even saw one who was here visiting from Bolivia!). I got to some great workshops about ways to bring back advocacy around local issues of hunger and community development that directly impact the things we are wanting to accomplish here in mission at WAPC—and I was inspired again about my ongoing role as a pastor. Having

Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church  
170 Watchung Avenue  
North Plainfield, NJ 07060



Telephone: 908-755-2781 / 2775  
Email: [wapc@verizon.net](mailto:wapc@verizon.net)  
Web: [www.wapc.net](http://www.wapc.net)  
Fax: 908-756-7981

some time to get re-acquainted with the larger church, and some of the deep reasons for my call is a good reminder now and then!



I also got to walk around DC in the spring, one of my favorite things to do. The cherry blossoms were popping, and I could see that spring really is on the way—something I know we are all waiting for. **I promise all of you winter-weary New Jersey-ians, spring is on its way, I saw it in DC and just in case, I took some photos as proof!!!!**

Time with our legislators reminded me again of the great gifts and responsibilities that our democracy calls us to, and I got in a trip to one of my favorite museums in DC—The Museum of the American Indian which is breathtaking.

The break was needed because we have a VERY busy month coming up at Watchung Avenue in ministry! We

are about halfway through Lent, and there are many opportunities for worship and connection this month. Kori and Henry's last Sunday with us is **Easter Sunday**, but we will have a party and celebrate the many gifts of ministry they brought to our congregation this year on **Palm Sunday**. We are welcoming my two Colombian friends in ministry to speak to us on this coming Thursday night **March 31st at 7PM**, and also after worship on **Sunday April 10<sup>th</sup>** for a special coffee hour. Most importantly for our families and children, we will be having our annual community **Easter Egg hunt** later this month and the youth group is hosting their next fundraiser on **Saturday April 9<sup>th</sup> at 6PM** for the Mission Trip this summer! Lots of fun, lots of fellowship, and lots of opportunities for connection for each of us!!!

Most importantly, we are on a journey this month towards the Cross and Resurrection. Renewal and Fellowship are important themes for this month. Lent is our time to renew our faith, and to celebrate each Easter in a new and more profound way, committing ourselves even more to being disciples of Jesus Christ. Jesus in his final days drew sustenance and strength from the people around him, and throughout his ministry he created strong ties for his disciples with each other and the communities they were a part of. That is Jesus' legacy to us: that we draw close to him, celebrate his resurrection, and go forward in faith and hope to create the beloved community he calls us to as individuals and as a people together.

**May the Light of Jesus be with you in this Lenten and Easter Season!**

Peace,

Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo

## Worship During Lent

Sundays in Lent, 10AM—*Weekly Worship*—Strength for the Journey of Renewal

Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup>—*Palm Sunday* Worship with the Procession of the Palms

Thursday April 21<sup>st</sup>—*Maundy Thursday* Tenebrae Worship with Communion

Friday April 22<sup>nd</sup>—*Good Friday* Worship with Communion

Sunday April 24<sup>th</sup>—*Easter Sunday* Worship!

## ***April Worship***

April 3<sup>rd</sup> : **Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Sacrament: Communion

Scripture: Psalm 23 &

Ephesians 5: 1-11

Sermon: "Followers of the Light"

April 10<sup>th</sup>: **Fifth Sunday in Lent/**

**One Great Hour of Sharing**

**Henry Coates and Kori Phillips**

**Preaching**

April 17<sup>th</sup>: **Palm Sunday**

Scripture: Isaiah 50: 4-9a &

Matthew 21: 1-11

Sermon: "The Road Warrior"

April 21<sup>st</sup>: **Maundy Thursday Tenabrae, 7pm**

Sacrament: Communion

Scripture: Exodus 12: 1-14, Psalm 116 &

John 13: 1-17, 31b-25

Sermon: "The Last Moments with His Friends"

April 22<sup>nd</sup>: **Good Friday, 7pm**

Sacrament: Communion

Dramatic Presentation of  
Jesus' Denial, Trial and Death.

April 24<sup>th</sup>: **Easter Sunday**

Scripture: Jeremiah 31: 1-6 &

John 20: 1-18

Sermon: "Rising and Renewal:

Reflections on Easter for Such a  
Time as This"

## ***New WAPC Operating Manual***

"At the March 14, 2011 Session meeting a new WAPC Operating Manual was approved. If you would like a copy of that manual to be sent you electronically or to pick up a hard copy, you may request one from Kathleen Golmont in the church office."

## ***Celebrating Our Seminarians*** ***Kori Phillips and Henry Coates***

This year Watchung Avenue has been very blessed by the incredible ministry that has been done among us by our Seminary Students: Kori Phillips and Henry Coates. They have been a part of leading church school, youth group, mission outreach, Confirmation class, a Lenten Bible study, events in our larger community and Presbytery. Most of all, Kori and Henry have helped lead us in worship every Sunday; including preaching many times for us this year! We have all watched Kori and Henry grow so deeply in their preparation for ministry and have enjoyed our friendship with them. We have enjoyed many great and fun moments, we are going to miss both of them so much!!!!

**Kori and Henry's last Sunday with our church is Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup>**, and we will be having a special coffee hour after worship to celebrate this ministry. Kori and Henry will be preaching their final sermon (a conversation sermon!) on Sunday April 10<sup>th</sup>....don't miss it!!!!

Many of you have asked what is next for Kori and Henry; they will both be headed for India on April 25<sup>th</sup> for a three week international preaching class. This summer Kori will be home in Ohio for her Clinical Pastoral Education class (hospital residency) and Henry will be doing a summer field education placement in South Africa. We pray for God's blessings and protection to be upon both of them.

Be sure to join us on Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup> for worship as we send Kori and Henry off to their next adventures in preparation for ministry!!! (P.S. Please see Kathleen in the church office to make a contribution towards their gifts which we will present on April 17<sup>th</sup>)

## ***Dollars Destroying the Deficit!***

If every WAPC member gave an additional \$1/day all year-we would eliminate 100% of the church deficit! We would have more funds for mission & ministry. Put your \$ in the DDD envelope found in your pew rack and then the offering plate each week.

## ***Prayer Shawl Ministry***

### ***Spring Sit 'n' Knit***

***Sunday, April 3, 12:30 pm til 3 pm***

Come and join us to knit or crochet the afternoon away! It's a great way to spend a chilly afternoon. We will gather at about 12:30 in the Parish Hall (after Henry's Bible Study) and share lunch, then retire to the lounge for a relaxing knitting session. Bring your latest project, or come to learn if you are a beginner. Yarn, needles and instructions will be available. Bring a light brown-bag lunch. Dessert and beverages will be provided. Teens and children are welcome, if they would like to learn to knit or crochet.

### ***Circle Of Grace***

Circle of Grace will meet **Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup>** at the home of Colleen Parlman and **Monday May 2<sup>nd</sup>** at the home of Dot Fenz.

### ***Circle Of Hope***

Circle of Hope will meet **April 5<sup>th</sup>**, 7:30pm, at the home of Cathy Lyttle.

### ***Circle Of Joy***

Circle of Joy will meet **April 7<sup>th</sup>**, at the home of Louise Thul.

## ***Princeton Theological Seminary Annual Book Sale***

It's time again for the Annual Book Sale. April 6 through April 9 with a Preview Sale on April 6. Whiteley Gymnasium, corner of Hibben Rd. and Stockton Street/ Rte 206 in Princeton.  
April 6: 9am-8pm (\$25 fee applies from 9-3pm)  
April 7, 8, 9: 9am-9pm. If you would like to donate books or financial gifts, call 609.306.0787 or email [ptsbooksale@gmail.com](mailto:ptsbooksale@gmail.com).

## ***Habitat For Humanity 5k Run/Walk***

Greater Plainfield Habitat for Humanity  
5K April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Time:runners: 2pm walkers: 2:05pm.

For more info: [www.gphabitat.org/5K](http://www.gphabitat.org/5K)

## ***One Great Hour Of Sharing Offering***

We will be taking the offering as a congregation on **Sunday April 10<sup>th</sup>**. You can follow along with



stories about the offering that will be presented in worship and in the bulletin. Please use the One Great Hour of Sharing envelope in your offering envelopes box or you may use the envelope that will be in your bulletin in worship on the

10<sup>th</sup>. This offering goes to support three essential mission projects of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): **Self Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program.** More information about the offering can be found at

[www.pcusa.org/oghs](http://www.pcusa.org/oghs)

*Parents : Please bring children's boxes to worship!*

## ***Youth Group***

### ***Saturday April 9<sup>th</sup>***

Dinner and Silent Auction Fundraiser at the church to support the youth mission trip. Organizer of this event is Rachel Weissenburger. If you have items/ideas for silent auction, please start letting Rachel know now!!!!

### ***Sunday May 1<sup>st</sup>***

Event at United Church, Youth forum on overcoming racism.

### ***Mission Trip***

June 26 through July 1 to Stony Point NY(see flyer)

## ***Clean Up Day!***

***April 16<sup>th</sup>***

To all church members and friends.

We will be working on the church grounds and we will need help with weeding, raking, spreading mulch and general clean up of the grounds.

We will start at 9am and finish about 11am.

If you can help, call Tom Ledder at 908-232-2119 or the church office and leave a message.

Thank you, Trustee Chairman, Tom Ledder

## ***Special Joint Festival Day Of The Plainfield Presbyterian Mission Group***

On **Sunday May 1, 2011** we will be having our annual joint worship service of the five Presbyterian congregations in the Plainfields. The service this year will be held at the United Church on Front Street in Plainfield.

As part of our event, we will be having lunch together after worship and following lunch we will be having a time of training for all five of our congregations around issues of race and how to overcome racism in our communities. The leadership boards of all five of our congregations are committed to attend and we want to be sure that every single member of our congregations also attends this event. Free childcare will be available and a separate track for youth groups will also be set up.

### **This is the schedule for the day:**

10-11:30AM	Worship
11:30AM-12:30PM	Lunch
12:30-3:30PM	Training

*Our training will be led by the Rev. Dr. David Bowie of the Greater Atlanta Presbytery. He will be joined by the Rev. Mark Koenig, Director of the Presbyterian Office at the United Nations and member of the NYC Presbytery and another trainer, Jackie Caleb.*

Please sign up with the WAPC office by April 25, 2011 and indicate the number of people from your home who are attending and how many children need childcare and their ages! If you have any questions, please be in touch with Pastor Shannan at the church office.

***See you there for a GREAT and EXCITING  
gathering of Presbyterians!!!!***

## ***Marriage Announcement***

Ms. Emily E. Hummel and Mr. Makato Kawasaki, of Osaka, Japan are happy to announce their marriage on March 14, 2011 at Higashi Osaka City Hall. A spring ceremony is planned. Both are safe and unharmed from the March earthquake and tsunami. Emily is the daughter of Rev. Dr. Cynthis Huling Hummel of Waverly, New York, a former member of WAPC.

## ***Soup-A-Thon News***

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the ***Soup Luncheon*** a success.

### ***Congratulations to the Winners:***

***1<sup>st</sup> place*** – Erik Jackson – Au Gratin Potato Soup  
***2<sup>nd</sup> place*** – Jim Durick – “Cliff House” New England Clam Chowder  
***3<sup>rd</sup> place*** - Monica Boleyn – Baked Potato Soup.

## ***Hearts, Hands & Stitches Prayer Shawl Ministry***

The Prayer Shawl Ministry of WAPC, continues to meet monthly. We stitch at our meetings and on our own time to create comforting shawls. Our Spring meetings are scheduled as follows:

***Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>***, at the home of Cathy Boleyn  
***Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>***, at the home of Gwyn Gronlund  
***Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>***, at the home of Gail Smith

All evening meetings are held from 7:15 pm to 9:30 pm.

We have a time of quiet, prayerful stitching, plan our projects, and have refreshments, of course. All are welcome to join.

Call Gwyn Gronlund for more information (908) 754-1251

## ***Mission Opportunities***

### **LOCAL MISSION**

WAPC has been partnering with Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church on the third Thursday of each month to serve meals at the Plainfield YMCA shelter. You can be a cook (who prepares food ahead of time and drops it off), a server, a helper, or all three! This is a great way for families to participate in mission together. Upcoming dates are: ***April 21<sup>st</sup>, May 19<sup>th</sup>, and June 16<sup>th</sup>***. If you are interested in helping out, contact Gwyn Gronlund of the Mission Committee for details.

## *Crop Report*

We apologize for being so late with this report. There is an old saying that goes: Better late than never. But at Plainfield/North Plainfield CROP we have ours too: It's better because it's late! The good news is that this year's walk earned \$9,590 which is quite a bit better than last year and one of the best of recent vintage. So all who participated can have some satisfaction in knowing that you have contributed a lot to many people around the world, around the country and right here in Plainfield/North Plainfield.

### ***The top five fund raisers this year are:***

1. Phil Anderson, Plainfield Elks Club.
2. Dianne Ledder, Watchung Ave. Pres.
3. Gwyn Gronlund, Watchung Ave. Pres.
4. Ellen Lake, Watchung Ave. Pres.
5. Rev. Calbert and Kyla Brantley, Agape House (Trinity Reformed Church). Great Job!

***In addition to the above those at WAPC who earned \$200 or more:*** L. Lampariello.

***Those that earned \$100 or more:***

W. Rodriguez, A. Lester, D. Treichler, S. Durick., L. Durick. More great work!

***We would like to thank everyone for your tremendous support!*** Next year's walk is on October 23 so mark it down on your calendars and bring a couple of friends or relatives along and let's see if we can match our beat 2010.

***God Bless You All!***

Tom Ledder, Coordinator/Assist. Treasurer  
Al Smith, Treasurer/Assist. Coordinator

## *Thank You*

Estelle Kennedy and her family would like to thank each and every one for their prayers, cards, visits and well wishes!! Estelle looks forward to more cards, calls and visits, She is at the Somerset Valley Rehab. & Nursing Center, Room 6, 1621 Rt. 22 West Boundbrook, NJ 08805 (next to the "Office"). 908.581.0628. Hours 8am-8pm.

Ps Estelle's birthday is April 13!

## *Jelly Bean Donations*

If you would like to donate a bag or two of jelly beans to this year's Easter egg hunt, please give to Shawn Watters or Susan Durick any Sunday from now till April 17<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

## *Wapc Easter Egg Hunt*

Come join us on **Saturday, April 23rd, 2011** from 10:00 am at the church. There will be Egg hunting, a special craft and most importantly, the Easter Bunny! All children 10 years old and younger are invited to participate. See flyer attached.

## *WAPC Planned Giving Program*

We are moving ahead with the development of the WAPC Planned Giving Program and it is time to ask for your help. Please respond to the two questions below. Either reply to Pastor Shannan (908.755.2781), [svanceocampo@yahoo.com](mailto:svanceocampo@yahoo.com) or Bob Goellner 908.561.3346, ([mr.bobg@yahoo.com](mailto:mr.bobg@yahoo.com).) or you can also write out and place in the offering plate. Bob would like to hear all of your ideas on this program.

**Question # 1:** Have you already made WAPC a recipient for a donation in your Will?

**Question # 2:** If YES, do you mind if we give you recognition for this? ( If you do not want recognition, we would still like to know and you can tell Pastor Shannan or Bob in strict confidence and your name will not appear anywhere.

**Question # 3:** Do you have a good name for our legacy society: all names will be considered! No, there will be no reward. (well, maybe a Dunkin Donuts coupon if it is a real good name!)

"Let us know who you are, you count, and so does your opinion!"

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## *Flowers For The Sanctuary*

There are many opportunities to provide flowers for the sanctuary. **The 2011 Flower Chart** is posted through **August** on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Please sign the chart for the Sunday of your choice and complete all required information on the signup sheet. It is the responsibility of the donor to contact a florist (or bring flowers from your garden) If you do not have a florist, **Gray's**, Rte. 22, in Watchung has been a good source (908 757-0400). If you want Grays' to deliver, make sure you instruct them to do so.

**Leslie Hansen** is also interested in doing flower arrangements; she may be called at 908 604-0337. Leslie will place your flowers in the Sanctuary on Sunday morning when she comes for choir.

Gail Smith, PW Flower Chairperson  
(908-753-1249)

## *Long Range Planning Survey*

As a follow up to my sermon on 3/27/2011 I would like to pursue my "DREAM" of our church and its service to our North Plainfield Community. In this regard I would like to begin picking the brains of all of our members. I was taught by some really smart people that, "in the collective mind of the group lies the solution(s) to every problem the group will face. I strongly believe that and have found it to be the case in my professional work. So group, here is your first, of several, questions.

**Question # 1 Part A:** If we continue to 'do business as usual,' what will our church family and program look like 3 years from now?

**Question # 1 Part B:** In a perfect world, with no budget constraints and all traffic lights turning green, what SHOULD our church family and program look like 3 years from now?

This will be the first of several questions coming your way and I hope to have a response from everyone. You can tell Pastor Shannon, call or email the office or me at [mr.bobg@yahoo.com](mailto:mr.bobg@yahoo.com). You can also write a note and put it in the collection plate..every Sunday if you like!

I know that we have a future, but I really think that if we start to build and control it NOW it will be a future that we will all be very proud of!

Bob Goellner, Elder of Long Range Planning

"Let us know who you are, you count, and so does your opinion!"

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## *Women's Craft Group*

Bring your scrapbooking, knitting, or other projects and come enjoy each other's company, plus get a break from your busy week. We meet on Friday evenings from 7:30 – 9:30 PM - sometimes in the church library and sometimes at someone's house. We even go on field trips occasionally! Come join us whenever you can – just call Gwyn Gronlund (908-754-1251) or Marilyn Cortright (home: 908-753-2859, cell: 908-295-4754) to find out where we will be meeting that week!

## *PW Spring Retreat*

All the women of our church are invited to a joint retreat at Stony Point Conference center in Rockland county, NY with the women of Crescent Avenue and Fanwood Presbyterian

**on Friday, May 6 through Saturday, May 7.**

Rev. Beth Anderson-Domer and Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo will lead us in Bible Study and discussion.

We will be staying at the Gilmore Sloane House; a Victorian mansion built in 1856, and will enjoy three healthy meals cooked from scratch for us by the excellent Stony Point Chefs. The conference center is a beautiful setting for meditation and prayer time. Perhaps you might enjoy a walk through their outdoor labyrinth and Japanese Peace Garden.

Please contact the office to make your reservation. A \$30 deposit is required. The remaining fee of \$85 may be paid in April.

## *Eco-Tips*

### *To Care for God's Creation*

- **General:** The U.S. has 5% of the world's population but uses 25% of its natural resources (Source: US EPA). How many earths would be needed if everyone on the planet used the same amount of resources as you? Find out by taking an ecological footprint quiz: [www.myfootprint.org](http://www.myfootprint.org)
- **Waste Reduction:** The average American creates 4.5 lbs. of garbage each day (Source: Story of Stuff), much of which is food waste. Starting an indoor or outdoor compost bin is easy, smell-free, and turns food waste into nutrient-rich soil. Learn how easy it is at: [www.howtocompost.org](http://www.howtocompost.org) . Contact your township—often, townships will provide compost bins for free or at a discount. In a small space or urban area? See this composting guide for New York City: <http://www.nyccompost.org/how/index.html> .
- **Waste Reduction:** Your waste will outlive you—plastic can take up to 600 years to break down in a landfill, and Styrofoam never breaks down. When planning parties and events, keep the environment in mind by using reusable dinnerware. Start small with reusable utensils, since they can be easily collected and washed, supplemented with recycled-content paper and/or biocompostable dinnerware: [www.worldcentric.org](http://www.worldcentric.org) .

## *Prayer List*

- Prayers of healing for the family, co-workers and friends of Piscataway *Police Sergeant David Powell* who died as the result of a gunshot wound on Sunday, March 27, 2011. David was a co-worker of Shawn Rapach. This has hit the Department and Community very hard.
- Prayers of thanksgiving for the life of *Rev. Omar Maren Turcaz*, friend of Pastor Shannan's. He was killed in a car accident Sunday near his church in Santa Clara, Cuba. He was 34. Prayers of *healing* for his congregation and all who loved him.
- Prayers of healing for the family of *Rosie Rusch*, a 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Sofia Ocampo's school who passed away.
- Prayers of strength for *the people of Libya*.
- Prayers of healing for *all of those affected in Japan*.
- Prayers of healing for *Lew Thomas*, father of Jim Thomas, recovering from a heart attack.
- Prayers of healing for *Bob Hildebrandt* who is having surgery April 6<sup>th</sup>, to remove more cancerous growths.
- Prayers of healing for *Estelle Kennedy*, recovering from a stroke. Estelle looks forward to cards, visits and calls: Somerset Valley Rehab. & Nursing Ctr., Room #6, 1621 Rt. 22 W., Boundbrook (next to the "Office"). 908.581.0628.
- Prayers of healing for *Andy Lake* recovering.
- Prayers of healing for the *City of Plainfield* and for the end of gun violence.
- *Alberta Vosburgh*, at Arbor Glenn Continuing Care, Rm. 636.
- *Helen Miller, Ellwood Whitely & Joan Brown*, at home.
- *Henry Coates and Kori Phillips*, Our Seminary Interns.
- *Edwin Estevez, Jr.*, our Seminarian.

## *May Birthdays*

Lynn Lampariello	1-May
Joan Brown	1-May
Virginia Metz	3-May
Shelby Watters	7-May
Neema Adelaja	8-May
Scott Ledder	10-May
Patrick Ronk	16-May
Natalia Sophia Rodriguez	16-May
Cathy Boleyn	24-May
Misha Griffin	25-May
Andre Serieux	26-May
Elizabeth Kennedy	29-May
Bridget Thomas	29-May
Charlotte Downey	30-May
Alexandra von Bradsky	31-May

## *Did You Know!*

**The Bereavement Hospitality Committee** was set up by Dot Fenz in 1996, to be of assistance to members of the church at the time of a death in the family. The purpose of this committee is to coordinate an informal luncheon or dessert to be served in the Parish Hall following a funeral or memorial service. Members of the committee set up, serve and cleanup in addition to supplying coffee, tea and dessert. The family of the deceased is responsible for the main course and paper products. If in need of this service or you would like to serve on this committee, please call Faye Steinau.

## ***Worship Services & Regular Meetings***

### ***Regular Sunday Schedule:***

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 a.m. Worship  
10:20 a.m. Church School  
11:00 a.m. Coffee/Fellowship

### ***Weekly***

Wednesday Bible Study 10 a.m. in Lounge  
Wednesday Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.  
Thursday Bible Study 7:30 p.m.-Lounge

### ***Monthly***

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Holy Communion  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday FISH (Food Bank) Collection  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Healing Service  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday Session meets at 7:30 p.m.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday Trustee's Meeting at 7:30 p.m.  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Youth Group 11:30-1p.m.  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Men's Breakfast  
4<sup>th</sup> Monday CHATS - 7:15 p.m. in Library

### ***Key Cards***

We have a new policy for replacement of key cards.  
Due to the cost of the cards we will need to collect a  
fee of \$10.00 for replacement of lost key cards.

## ***WAPC Schedule of Regular Events***

### **Sunday Schedule:**

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 am Worship  
10:20 am Church School  
10:55 am Coffee/Fellowship  
7-9 pm Iglesia Cristo Mi Rey  
Parish Hall

### **Monday Schedule**

8:15 am Head Start  
2:30 pm ASP  
7:15 pm CHATS (4th Monday)  
7:30 pm Boy Scouts Parish Hall

### **Tuesday Schedule**

8:15 am Head Start  
9:30 am WIC (Tuesday)  
2:30 pm ASP  
7-10 pm Iglesia Cristo Mi Rey  
Parish Hall & classroom

### **Wednesday Schedule**

8:15 am Head Start  
10:00 am Bible Study  
2:30 pm ASP  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

### **Thursday Schedule**

8:15 am Head Start  
2:30 pm ASP  
7:30 pm Bible Study

### **Friday Schedule**

8:15 am Head Start  
2:30 pm ASP  
6-8 pm Girl Scouts Parish Hall

### **Saturday Schedule**

9-11 am Heritage Choir Parish Hall  
7-10 pm - Iglesia Cristo Mi Rey  
Parish Hall & classroom

Pastor: *Shannan Vance-Ocampo*

Pastor Emeritus: *Brooks Smith*

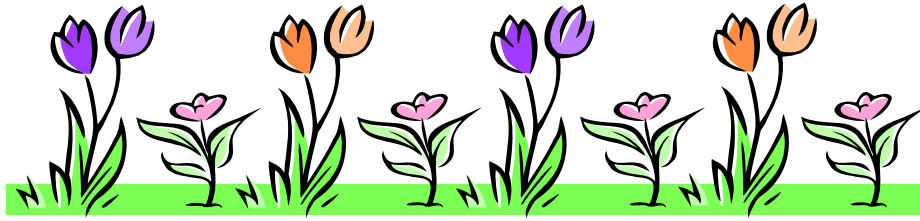
Student Pastors: Henry Coates & Kori Phillips

Director of Music: *Sam Chapin*

WAPC After School Program – 908-755-8202

ASP Director: *James Winston*

Visions Editor: *Kathleen Golmont*



## *Easter Plants*

We are creating a Spring Garden for Easter Sunday Worship. This is a beautiful way to remember and honor loved ones! Please fill out this form and place it in the offering plate, or leave it in the church office. Cash or check must accompany all orders.

**Please make your check payable to: "PW in WAPC".**

**Enclose payment with your order by: April 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please write in how many of each you would like to order:

\_\_\_\_\_ Azalea(s) .....\$13.00 each

\_\_\_\_\_ Hydrangea(s)...\$17.00 each

\_\_\_\_\_ Daffodil(s).....\$8.00 each

\_\_\_\_\_ Hyacinth(s) .....\$8.00 each

\_\_\_\_\_ Lily(s) .....\$8.00 each

\_\_\_\_\_ Tulip(s) .....\$8.00 each

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up my plant(s) after the service.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like the committee to deliver my plant(s) to a friend at home or someone who is ill.

My plant is given:

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ To God's Glory for:

\_\_\_\_\_

# DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER

*Benefiting the Watchung and Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church's Youth Groups*

## Saturday April 9, 2011

7PM—Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church

Tickets: \$5 (pre-buy via Watchung Ave office and/or at the door)

Our youth groups are travelling to the Stony Point Center (NY) for a week this summer to help out on a building project and participate in activities with their Community of Living Traditions. Join us for dinner and some great auction items to support our trip and our youth!



### Bid on These Exciting Items!!!!

- Oil Painting
- Wine
- Baked Goods
- Local Restaurant Gift Certificates
- Pet-sitting
- Night for Two at the Summit Arboretum
- Personal Training Session
- Financial Advising Session
- Homemade Cake
- Face painting by Rachel
- Babysitting Services
- Leaf and Lawn Services
- Home Services
- Free Clergy Services for a Wedding

....and more!!!

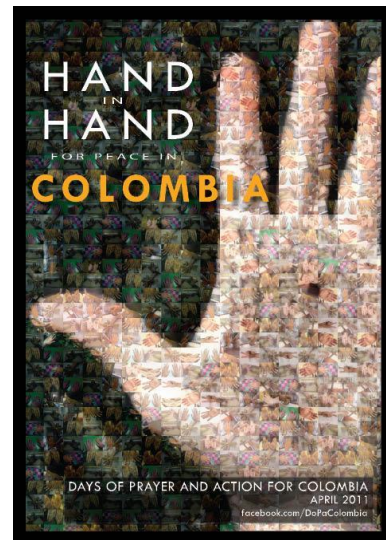
Directions and more information at [www.wapc.net](http://www.wapc.net)

## Days of Prayer and Action for Colombia

# Sunday April 10, 2011

Every year, hundreds of faith communities around the United States hold special worship services and activities to pray and act for peace in Colombia. Since two pastors from the Iglesia Presbiteriana de Colombia will be visiting us that weekend and staying with Shannan, Juan, and Sofia—we will be having a special activity after worship during coffee hour as part of this national effort!

The theme for this year is “Hand in Hand for Peace in Colombia.” Colombia suffers the highest number in the world of internally displaced persons (UN estimates are 5.2 million) putting Colombia well ahead of places we hear about all the time like Sudan or Afghanistan. Gloria and Adelaida will talk to us about peace in Colombia, how the Presbyterian Church there is working to make peace a reality, show some videos on our screen in the Parish Hall, and we will make hands for peace to send back to our sister congregations in Colombia. Our hands for peace that we will make will go back to Colombia with Gloria and Adelaida to be displayed in churches there!



**Don't miss this fun coffee hour for all ages!!!! Nos Vemos el 10 de Abril!!!!**



**REV. ADELAIDA JIMÉNEZ CORTES** is an ordained minister and member of Council in the Iglesia Presbiteriana de Colombia (Presbyterian Church of Colombia). She works as Pastor to three Presbyterian congregations in Barranquilla as well as the Chaplain to the Colegio Americano (American School). Displaced by violence in Colombia, her family recently lived in the United States for nearly three years; working with congregations and organizations to promote understanding about the situation in Colombia, while also working on a Masters in Theological Studies at McCormick Seminary in Chicago. Today Adelaida is working with the Reformed University (in Barranquilla) as Director of the Theology Program. She coordinates the group of investigations (REMEFES—Recuperation of the Historical Memory with Faith and Hope). This investigation is recovering the collective memories of displaced persons in Colombia, especially those of women and children. Adeladia is married to the Rev. Milton Mejía. Together they have two children, Iván and Andrés.

**REV. GLORIA ULLOA** is an ordained minister in the Iglesia Presbiteriana de Colombia. She has extensive experience in religious education, pastoral and public administration, women's rights, conflict resolution, and community organization. She holds a Bachelors of Theology degree from the Biblical Seminary of Medellin, Colombia, is licensed in elementary education, and holds the Diplomate in Pedagogical Strategies from the University of the North in Barranquilla, Colombia. Most recently, Gloria has served as the Executive Secretary of the Presibteria de la Costa (Colombia, and as Director of Secondary Education at the Colegio Americano in Barranquilla, Colombia. She is currently the Chaplain at the Colegio. She has significant cross-cultural experience, in 2003-2004 she served as an International Peacemaker for the Presbyterian Church (USA) and has been honored in Colombia not just for her work in the church, but by governmental officials for her ongoing dedication to women's rights.





# Presbyterian Women

*Present*

## **“Everybody’s Birthday”**

**Sunday, May 15, 2010—12:00 Noon**

**WAPC Parish Hall**

*Hostesses: Circle of Grace*

*Devotions: Circle of Hope*


Health and School Kits will be collected.

Please bring a covered dish to share and a small wrapped gift—perhaps something you have received that you are unable to use and would like to pass on to someone else.

After lunch, members of the Scrapbooking Group will be available to help everyone make 6 cards that can be taken home with you.

For planning purposes, please reserve your place through Circle Chairpersons or by calling the church office at 908 755-2781 by **Tuesday, May 10, 2011**

# APRIL 2011 CHURCH SCHOOL CALENDAR

	Sunday April 3	Sunday April 10	Sunday April 17 Palm Sunday	Sunday April 24 Easter Sunday
<b>Bible Lesson and Teacher</b>	<i>Psalm 23</i> 	Walter and Jennifer Rodriguez <i>Ezekiel 37: 1-14</i> 	Rachel Weissenburger 	Easter Sunday  No Church School  Childcare Rooms Open  Children in Worship for Easter Sunday!
<b>Activity Information</b>	Making sheep and learning about how God cares for us!	Making symbols of hope and resurrection	<b>Craft Sunday!</b>	
<b>Special Information for Families</b>	Communion Sunday. Children stay in worship after children's sermon for communion.	Bring in One Great Hour of Sharing Fish Boxes to church. Let's see who has the box that weighs the most!!!!	Children to process into worship with palm fronds. Meet outside church 10 minutes before worship!	

## Upcoming peacemaking and mission conferences

The Global Peacemaking/Mission Committee wants you to be aware of the following events. We are offering 100% registration scholarships to anyone connected to our Presbytery who would like to attend any of these conferences.

Participants would still then be responsible for costs of lodging/travel. To apply for scholarships, please be in touch with Rev. Chris Belden at [chrisbelden@verizon.net](mailto:chrisbelden@verizon.net)

### BIG TENT EVENT

June 30-July 2, 2011

Indianapolis, Indiana

[gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/big-tent](http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/big-tent)

Registration Fee: \$285

Join thousands of Presbyterians for nine national conferences in one place!

- Youth Clergywomen
- Immigration &
- Racial/Ethnic Ministry
- World Mission
- Evangelism and Church Growth
- Healthy Ministry
- National Elders
- Multicultural Church Peacemaking
- Communicators

**Programs for Children, Youth, and Young Adults!!!!**



### ECUMENICAL ADVOCACY DAYS



March 25-28, 2011—Washington D.C.

[advocacydays.org](http://advocacydays.org)

[gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/washington/](http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/washington/)

Registration Fee: \$175

Development, Security, and Economic Justice: What's Gender Got To Do With It?

Come learn on a variety of tracks: *Latin America, Africa, Asia-Pacific, Middle East, Domestic, Eco-Justice, Economics, Peace and Global Security*. Features a lobby day on Capital Hill and the Presbyterian luncheon. Engaging speakers, partnerships with other ecumenical leaders. Also this year, come a day early and celebrate the 65th Anniversary of the PC(USA) Washington Office with extra free seminars for Presbyterians-only and a dinner cruise on the Potomac with PC(USA) leadership!



The Office of Public Witness  
*the voice of Presbyterian public policy*

### CONVOCATION OF PEACEMAKERS

April 7-9, 2011—Stony Point Conference Center (NY)


[presbypeacefellowship.org/convocation2011](http://presbypeacefellowship.org/convocation2011)

Registration Fee: \$230

**This is not a normal conference**, but a **working meeting** for peacemakers from across the church to plan together for effective advocacy and action. We will also employ Open-Space Technology and Anti-Racism training throughout the conference as we focus on four areas led by expert leaders:

- Colombia Accompaniment
- Israel/Palestine
- Gun Violence Prevention
- Becoming a "Peace-Church"





The past year has brought us many sad stories of Americans who have been killed by people using guns. Sadly and tragically, little has been done since by our representatives to limit or end gun violence. There is an attempt, even by some representatives in Trenton, to eliminate some state laws that are the toughest in the country about gun control. Elizabeth and Plainfield, and other towns and communities in our Presbytery of Elizabeth, are struggling with gun violence.

The Global Mission & Peacemaking Committee of the Presbytery are joining with the First Presbyterian Church in Westfield to bring Bryan Miller to speak about "Inspiring Hope, Raising Voices and Taking Action To End Gun Violence".

*(Bryan Miller is an elder at the Bryn Mawr Church in Philadelphia Presbytery, and Director of Ceasefire NJ and Heeding God's Call)*

## Heeding God's Call

### Sunday, April 10

### 11:45 a.m.



Fellowship Hall  
First Presbyterian Church in Westfield  
140 Mountain Avenue  
Westfield, NJ 07090

#### 219th General Assembly Action

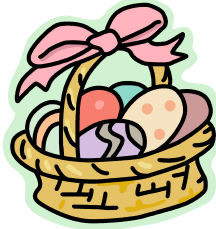
The Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP), recognizing the need for a new approach to the plague of gun violence, recommended, and the 219th General Assembly (2010) approved the following:

To awaken members and communities to the faith dimensions of our on-going tragedy:

Encourage the church at every level—from individual member to congregation, presbytery, synod, and national church—to become informed and active in preventing gun violence, to provide pastoral care for victims of gun violence, and to seek a spiritual response of grief and repentance, grace and courage to resist that violence and celebrate the Lord and Giver of Life. This proposal does not preclude the legal use of personal firearms for hunting or sports-related purposes,

## Please SEND Representative





Please join us for the annual

# WAPC EASTER EGG HUNT & Indoor Playground

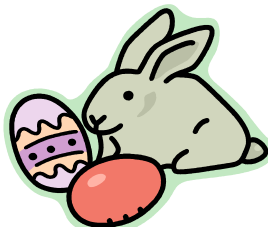
When: Saturday, April 23, 2011  
At 10:00AM

Where: Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church  
170 Watchung Avenue, North Plainfield



*ages 10 and under*

Egg hunting, games, prizes, crafts  
and most importantly,  
The Easter Bunny





# News & Announcements

From the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

## **'In Christ we are not alone'**

MISSION PARTNERS, WORKERS IN JAPAN FEEL SUPPORTED BY PRAYERS

*General Assembly Mission Council  
by [Judson Taylor](#), Communications Associate  
World Mission*

In the aftermath of the Japanese earthquake and tsunami catastrophe on March 11, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s global partners and mission co-workers have been buoyed by the transformative power and solidarity of prayer.

The Presbyterian [World Mission](#) ministry area has been in contact with several of its partner organizations and churches and with all of its [mission workers](#) in Japan since the devastating earthquake and tsunami on March 11.

Messages from PC(USA) mission partners and institutions have expressed thanks and provided information about specific situations and responses. "[Your] encouragement makes us realize in Christ we are not alone,"

wrote the Korean Christian Church in Japan. Many tell about churches and members suffering from the disaster, refugees living in shelters, and the shortage of food, relief supplies, and fuel. But they are organizing to assess the needs and help get aid to those in the greatest need. A spokesman for the Reformed Church of Japan wrote: "We would like to be effective witnesses to the Lord in the midst of devastation."

The United Church of Christ (Kyodan), the church the PC(USA) works most closely with, reported a number of members missing and at least one confirmed death. A staff member of a nursery school related to Iwaki Church died on the day of the earthquake while communicating with the children's parents. Some of the churches have hosted refugees. The chapel of Shinsei Kamaishi Church in the coastal fishing city of Kamaishi was reportedly filled with mud and oil. Built in 2000, it was known as a pioneer "eco-church," with a solar-power system and transparent glass roof.

Rev. Isamu Koshiishi, moderator of the National Christian Council in Japan (NCCJ), is thankful for the prayers of so many in the United States. He says the NCCJ's assessing the damages and recovery will take some time, but "we have been encouraged and strengthened by the many messages of support from our Christian brothers and sisters all over the world. Our immediate request is for you to continue to keep us in your prayers as we are coordinating a network of local support for those most severely affected. At this time of our great need, we want you to know how grateful we are for your expressions of support and solidarity."

"We are touched by your prayers," wrote an officer of the Kyodan. Yodogawa Christian Hospital in Osaka, one of the institutions with which the PC(USA) has had a strong relationship, wrote: "Thank you so very much for your prayers. Our hospital patients and staff and their families are all safe, but our hearts ache as the earthquake disasters are spreading in other parts of Japan. We are praying for God's protection and comfort over those people in the earthquake-affected areas."

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[Read the story online](#) →

→

# Summer 2011 Youth Group Mission Trip

## June 26-July 1, 2011

### Stony Point, New York

Co-led by Pastor Shannan (Watchung Avenue) and Pastor Rob (Crescent Avenue)

Join the youth of Watchung Avenue and Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Churches for our Summer 2011 Mission Trip. We'll be going to Stony Point, NY to help with the building of a new arts building for the Stony Point Center, one of only three national conference centers of the Presbyterian Church (USA). In the evenings we will have the opportunity engage in Bible Study with the Community of Living Traditions—an interfaith (Jewish, Christian, Muslim) young adult ministry group that resides at the Stony Point Center and is committed to nonviolence. Together with them we will learn about the common roots of our faith and how together we can be agents of peace in the world.

We are very excited about this trip that will offer the youth of our congregations the opportunity to do physical and spiritual work as we build up ourselves as disciples of Jesus Christ!

#### **Cost \$300/participant**

Each participant is asked to contribute **\$100** towards the cost of the trip, to fully participate to help fundraise towards our trip, and our two congregations will help with the rest. *Scholarships are available—see Pastor Shannan*



Register via the WAPC office with your \$100 deposit made out to "Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church". Note "youth mission trip" in the memo line. Please register ASAP

## VISIONS

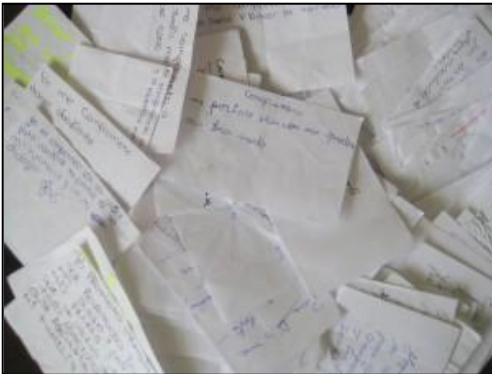


## MAY 2011

**A**pril is over, and we are now in the Easter Season! Thank you to every WAPC member and friend who helped out in one way or another with all of the activities, worship services, and other events we hosted at the church this past month, especially during Holy Week! Lots of great things were accomplished in April at the church, with many more wonderful things coming up!

The month of May kicks off with our combined worship for the Plainfield Mission Group. As I preached about on Palm Sunday, we will be having combined worship at 10:30am at the United Presbyterian Church (see next page in the newsletter for more information, directions, etc.), a luncheon, and then Anti-Racism Training for our five congregations. It is going to be a great day, with wonderful learnings for all of us! **Don't miss it!**

While Easter Sunday might have been just last weekend, according to the church calendar, we are in the Easter Season for six weeks! One of my friends in her Easter Sunday Sermon invited those at the worship service to write little notes and place them in the offering plate with the ways they will live as Easter People who believe in the Resurrection. How will their lives change as a result of Easter? These are just some of the answers back that she got:



- *I promise to take better care of my children.*
- *I promise to forgive those who have hurt me.*
- *I will be faithful and constant, and I will leave behind the things that are enslaving me.*
- *I will serve you better in communities that are in need.*
- *I will tithe.*

If you had to write down how you would live now that the Good News of the Resurrection is present once again in your life what would you write? During worship in May we will be working our way through the early part of the Book of Acts—which is a history book of some of the things the early church did. They had to figure out how to live as people of the Resurrection in their context, just as we do today. I hope you'll join us in worship and Bible study this month as we reflect on these ideas, and as we think about how we might be people of the Resurrection in our world today. It's the holy task that Jesus gives to us, and it is the holy calling that God invites us to. What will you do? What will you be?

Peace,

Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo

Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church  
170 Watchung Avenue  
North Plainfield, NJ 07060



Telephone: 908-755-2781 / 2775  
Email: [wapc@verizon.net](mailto:wapc@verizon.net)  
Web: [www.wapc.net](http://www.wapc.net)  
Fax: 908-756-7981

## *May Worship*

May 1<sup>st</sup>: **10:30 am Combined Worship with  
Plainfield Churches  
At Nuevas Fronteras/United  
Communion**

May 8<sup>th</sup>: **Mother's Day**

Scripture: Acts 2: 14a, 36-41 &  
Luke 24: 13-35

Sermon: "A Tough Sell"

May 15<sup>th</sup>:

Scripture: Acts 2: 42-47 &  
I Peter 2: 19-25

Sermon: "Going The Distance"

May 22<sup>nd</sup>: **World Peace Sunday**

Scripture: Acts 7: 55-60 &  
Psalm 31

Sermon: "Don't be a Martyr!"

May 29<sup>th</sup>: **Memorial Day**

Scripture: Acts 17: 22-31 &  
John 14: 15-21

Sermon: "Figuring out Who to Follow"

## *Thank You*

Thank you to all who helped with spring clean-up at the church! The grounds look beautiful!

## *Help Needed Nicaragua Shipment*

Please come and help with the 57<sup>th</sup> container sent from Central NJ to Nicaragua! Loading is from **10am till 8pm on May 7<sup>th</sup>** at United Presbyterian Church parking lot.

Help needed packing and loading, over 1200 items. Brooks Smith

## *Circle Of Grace*

Circle of Grace will meet *May 2<sup>nd</sup>* at the home of Dot Fenz.

## *Circle Of Hope*

Circle of Hope will meet **May 3<sup>rd</sup>**, 7:30pm, at the home of Dianne Ledder and **June 7<sup>th</sup>**, 5:30 pm., at Giovanna's. Please call Faye Steinau to rsvp.

## *Circle Of Joy*

Circle of Joy will meet **May 5<sup>th</sup>**, at the home of Louise Thul.

## *Blanket Sunday*

Blanket Sunday was celebrated on Sunday March 13, 2011. This year our total gift to Church World Service was \$1,185. Imagine 223 blankets to victims of floods, earthquakes and the many other catastrophes! Thank you, from CWS, for all who show your care each year for this mission.

## *Dollars Destroying the Deficit!*

If every WAPC member gave an additional \$1/day all year-we would eliminate 100% of the church deficit! We would have more funds for mission & ministry. Put your \$ in the DDD envelope found in your pew rack and then the offering plate each week.

## *May Youth Group Activities*

**May 1**—Anti-Racism Training Day with Plainfield Mission Group Youth Groups  
United Presbyterian Church 10:30AM-3PM—  
Lunch Included!

**May 8**—Selling Chocolates for Mission Trip for Mother's Day

**May 15**—Bowling with Youth Group from Crescent Avenue \$10/person (scholarships available)

**May 21**—12-4pm Youth Day #2 with Presbyterian Welcome in NYC—Shannan and Juan Ocampo leading (\$20/person for train, scholarships available)

## *Mission Trip*

June 26 through July 1 to Stony Point NY

## ***PW Spring Retreat***

All the women of our church are invited to a joint retreat at Stony Point Conference center in Rockland County, NY with the women of Crescent Avenue and Fanwood Presbyterian

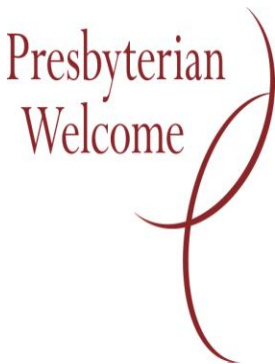
**on Friday, May 6 through Saturday, May 7.**

Rev. Beth Anderson-Domer and Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo will lead us in Bible Study and discussion.

We will be staying at the Gilmore Sloane House; a Victorian mansion built in 1856, and will enjoy three healthy meals cooked from scratch for us by the excellent Stony Point Chefs. The conference center is a beautiful setting for meditation and prayer time. Perhaps you might enjoy a walk through their outdoor labyrinth and Japanese Peace Garden.

Please contact the office to make your reservation. A \$115 fee.

## ***Presbyterian Welcome Events for Member Churches in May***



### **Youth Event #2—For Youth Grades 8-12**

12-4PM—Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup>  
Rutgers Presbyterian Church  
235 West 73<sup>rd</sup> Street,  
New York, NY  
Shannan and Juan Ocampo  
will be coordinating this day!

### **Celebration and Prayer Worship Service for the PC (USA) and Ordination Standards**

4PM—Sunday May 22<sup>nd</sup>

First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York  
12 West 12<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY

## ***Mission Opportunities***

### **LOCAL MISSION**

WAPC has been partnering with Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church on the third Thursday of each month to serve meals at the Plainfield YMCA shelter. You can be a cook (who prepares food ahead of time and drops it off), a server, a helper, or all three! This is a great way for families to participate in mission together. Upcoming dates are: **May 19<sup>th</sup>, and June 16<sup>th</sup>.** If you are interested in helping out, contact Gwyn Gronlund of the Mission Committee for details.

## ***Special Joint Festival Day Of The Plainfield Presbyterian Mission Group***

On **Sunday May 1, 2011** we will be having our annual joint worship service of the five Presbyterian congregations in the Plainfields. The service this year will be held at the United Church on Front Street in Plainfield.

As part of our event, we will be having lunch together after worship and following lunch we will be having a time of training for all five of our congregations around issues of race and how to overcome racism in our communities. The leadership boards of all five of our congregations are committed to attend and we want to be sure that every single member of our congregations also attends this event. Free childcare will be available and a separate track for youth groups will also be set up.

### **This is the schedule for the day:**

10-11:30AM	Worship
11:30AM-12:30PM	Lunch
12:30-3:30PM	Training

*Our training will be led by the Rev. Dr. David Bowie of the Greater Atlanta Presbytery. He will be joined by the Rev. Mark Koenig, Director of the Presbyterian Office at the United Nations and member of the NYC Presbytery and another trainer, Jackie Caleb.*

Please sign up with the WAPC office and indicate the number of people from your home who are attending and how many children need childcare and their ages! If you have any questions, please be in touch with Pastor Shannan at the church office.

***See you there for a GREAT and EXCITING gathering of Presbyterians!!!!***

## ***Hearts, Hands & Stitches Prayer Shawl Ministry***

The Prayer Shawl Ministry of WAPC, continues to meet monthly. We stitch at our meetings and on our own time to create comforting shawls. Our Spring meetings are scheduled as follows:

**Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>**, at the home of Gwyn Gronlund  
**Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>**, at the home of Gail Smith

All evening meetings are held from 7:15 pm to 9:30 pm.

We have a time of quiet, prayerful stitching, plan our projects, and have refreshments, of course. All are welcome to join. Call Gwyn Gronlund for more information (908) 754-1251

## *Women's Craft Group*

Bring your scrapbooking, knitting, or other projects and come enjoy each other's company, plus get a break from your busy week. We meet on Friday evenings from 7:30 – 9:30 PM - sometimes in the church library and sometimes at someone's house. We even go on field trips occasionally! Come join us whenever you can – just call Gwyn Gronlund (908-754-1251) or Marilyn Cortright (home: 908-753-2859, cell: 908-295-4754) to find out where we will be meeting that week!

## *Flowers For The Sanctuary*

There are many opportunities to provide flowers for the sanctuary. **The 2011 Flower Chart** is posted through **August** on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Please sign the chart for the Sunday of your choice and complete all required information on the signup sheet. It is the responsibility of the donor to contact a florist (or bring flowers from your garden)

If you do not have a florist, **Gray's**, Rte. 22, in Watchung has been a good source (908 757-0400). If you want Grays' to deliver, make sure you instruct them to do so.

**Leslie Hansen** is also interested in doing flower arrangements; she may be called at 908 604-0337. Leslie will place your flowers in the Sanctuary on Sunday morning when she comes for choir.

Gail Smith, PW Flower Chairperson  
(908-753-1249)

## *June Birthdays*

Elizabeth J. Kennedy	1-Jun
Mark von Bradsky	6-Jun
Nancy Squier	17-Jun
Bruce Gronlund	20 Jun
Matthew Lyttle	23-Jun
Randy Blain	24-Jun
Chrissie Imperato	25-Jun
Lisa von Bradsky	25-Jun

## *Did You Know!*

**The Bereavement Hospitality Committee** was set up by Dot Fenz in 1996, to be of assistance to members of the church at the time of a death in the family. The purpose of this committee is to coordinate an informal luncheon or dessert to be served in the Parish Hall following a funeral or memorial service. Members of the committee set up, serve and cleanup in addition to supplying coffee, tea and dessert. The family of the deceased is responsible for the main course and paper products. If in need of this service or you would like to serve on this committee, please call Faye Steinau.

## *Eco-Tips*

### *To Care for God's Creation*

- **Waste Reduction:** Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for 3 hours. Save energy and resources by recycling your glass, aluminum, plastic and paper. Check your city's recycling guide to find out what materials are recyclable in your area.
- **Waste Reduction:** Individual households receive thousands of pieces of junk mail each year, most of which is printed on virgin paper and is not recycled. Reduce your junk mail by 90% in one easy step: <http://mailstopper.tonic.com/>. For a small fee, Mail Stopper will remove you from junk mailing lists and plant 5 trees.
- **Water:** Only 1% of the water on Earth is drinkable, with more and more water sources drying up each day (UN Environment Programme). Reduce your water usage and your water bill immediately by installing a low-flow showerhead and aerators on all water faucets. Look for devices that are EPA Water Sense labeled:  
<http://www.epa.gov/WaterSense/>
- **Water:** Fill a plastic water bottle ¼ of the way full with oil—this is how much oil is required to make the typical bottle of water. The numbers are staggering— adding up the plastic used, the energy required to collect and clean the water, and the fuel it takes to ship the bottles to stores, equates to millions of barrels of oil each year (Sierra Club). Kick the bottled water habit by installing a water filter on your faucet and purchasing a reusable water bottle. Aim for a water bottle that does not leach chemicals, by looking for 'BPA Free' labels, or by choosing stainless steel.

## ***Prayer List***

- Prayers of healing for *Lynn Lampariello* recovering from a hospital stay.
- Prayers of healing for *Bruce Gronlund*, recovering from a hospital stay.
- Prayers of healing for *Jorge Perez*, brother-in-law of Juan and Shannan Ocampo.
- Prayers of strength for *the people of Libya* and Syria.
- Prayers of healing for *Bob Hildebrandt*, recovering from surgery.
- Prayers of healing for *Estelle Kennedy*, recovering from a stroke. Estelle looks forward to cards, visits and calls: Somerset Valley Rehab. & Nursing Ctr., Room #6, 1621 Rt. 22 W., Boundbrook, 08805 (next to the "Office"). 908.581.0628.
- Prayers of healing for the *City of Plainfield* and for the end of gun violence.
- *Alberta Vosburgh*, at Arbor Glenn Continuing Care, Rm. 636.
- *Helen Miller, Ellwood Whitely & Joan Brown*, at home.
- *Henry Coates and Kori Phillips*, Our Seminary Interns.
- *Edwin Estevez, Jr.*, our Seminarian.

## ***Worship Services & Regular Meetings***

### ***Regular Sunday Schedule:***

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 a.m. Worship  
10:20 a.m. Church School  
11:00 a.m. Coffee/Fellowship

### ***Weekly***

Wednesday Bible Study 10 a.m. in Lounge  
Wednesday Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.  
Thursday Bible Study 7:30 p.m.-Lounge

### ***Monthly***

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Holy Communion  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday FISH (Food Bank) Collection  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Healing Service  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday Session meets at 7:30 p.m.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday Trustee's Meeting at 7:30 p.m.  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Youth Group 11:30-1p.m.  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Men's Breakfast  
4<sup>th</sup> Monday CHATS - 7:15 p.m. in Library

## ***Key Cards***

We have a new policy for replacement of key cards. Due to the cost of the cards we will need to collect a fee of \$10.00 for replacement of lost key cards.

## ***WAPC Schedule of Regular Events***

### **Sunday Schedule:**

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 am Worship  
10:20 am Church School  
10:55 am Coffee/Fellowship  
7-10 pm Iglesia Cristo Mi Rey  
Parish Hall & classroom

### **Monday Schedule**

8:15 am Head Start  
2:30 pm ASP  
7:15 pm CHATS (4th Monday)  
7:30 pm Boy Scouts Parish Hall

### **Tuesday Schedule**

8:15 am Head Start  
9:30 am WIC (Tuesday)  
2:30 pm ASP  
7-10 pm Iglesia Cristo Mi Rey  
Parish Hall & classroom

### **Wednesday Schedule**

8:15 am Head Start  
10:00 am Bible Study  
2:30 pm ASP  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

### **Thursday Schedule**

8:15 am Head Start  
2:30 pm ASP  
7:30 pm Bible Study

### **Friday Schedule**

8:15 am Head Start  
2:30 pm ASP  
6-8 pm Girl Scouts Parish Hall

### **Saturday Schedule**

9-11 am Heritage Choir Parish Hall  
7-10 pm - Iglesia Cristo Mi Rey  
Parish Hall & classroom

***Visions*** is published monthly.

The due date for articles for the **June** newsletter is: ***Monday, May 23, 2011***

Pastor: *Shannan Vance-Ocampo*

Pastor Emeritus: *Brooks Smith*

Director of Music: *Sam Chapin*

WAPC After School Program – 908-755-8202

ASP Director: *James Winston*

Visions Editor: *Kathleen Golmont*

**The Festival/La Fiesta**  
**Sunday, May 1, 2011**  
**10:30am**  
**United Presbyterian Church**

**PLAINFIELD AREA MINISTRY GROUP**

The five Presbyterian congregations in the Plainfield area will be gathering for worship on Sunday, May 1, 2011 at 10:00 am for a Festival! Come and enjoy a multicultural celebration!

Lunch will be provided after worship!

*Afternoon Diversity Awareness Seminars for everyone!*

**Congregations**

United Presbyterian Church  
Crescent Presbyterian Church  
Iglesia Presbiteriana Nuevas Fronteras  
Bethel Presbyterian Church  
Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church



**Celebremos  
El Señor!**

▶ **FELLOWSHIP**

▶ **ADORACION**

**Ven y celebremos la realidad de la Unidad en Cristo!**

**Lunch & Cultural  
Sensitivity Seminars  
in the afternoon at  
United PC!**

**525 E. Front St.  
Plainfield, NJ  
908.756.2666**



# Presbyterian Women

*Present*

## **“Everybody’s Birthday”**

**Sunday, May 15, 2010—12:00 Noon**

**WAPC Parish Hall**

*Hostesses: Circle of Grace*

*Devotions: Circle of Hope*

Health and School Kits will be collected.

Please bring a covered dish to share and a small wrapped gift—perhaps something you have received that you are unable to use and would like to pass on to someone else.

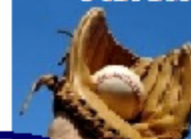
After lunch, members of the Scrapbooking Group will be available to help everyone make 6 cards that can be taken home with you.

For planning purposes, please reserve your place through Circle Chairpersons or by calling the church office at 908 755-2781 by **Tuesday, May 10, 2011**

**Express  
Yourself!**

## **The Presbytery of Elizabeth Mission Study Feedback Meetings**

**Catch  
the  
Vision**





<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Sunday May 1, 2011	2:00 pm	The Presbyterian Church at New Providence	1307 Springfield Ave. New Providence, NJ 07974 <a href="http://pcnp.org/church">http://pcnp.org/church</a>
Sunday May 15, 2011	2:00 pm	First Presbyterian Church	111 W. Fifth Ave. Roselle, NJ 07203 <a href="http://firstpresbyterian.squarespace.com">http://firstpresbyterian.squarespace.com</a>
Sunday May 22, 2011	2:00 pm	Community Presbyterian Church	75 Glenville Rd. Edison, NJ 08817 <a href="http://www.cpcedison.org">http://www.cpcedison.org</a>
Sunday June 5, 2011	2:00 pm	Christ Presbyterian Church	1600 Washington Valley Rd. Martinsville, NJ 08836 <a href="http://www.cpcmj.org">http://www.cpcmj.org</a>
Sunday June 12, 2011	2:00 pm	Clinton Presbyterian Church	91 Center St. Clinton, NJ 08809 <a href="http://www.clintonpresbyterian.net">http://www.clintonpresbyterian.net</a>

**Purpose: To gather feedback on the 2010 Mission Study and the  
Mission Design for the future of the Presbytery of Elizabeth.**

**All Presbytery and Church Leaders are Welcome!**



## MAY 2011 CHURCH SCHOOL CALENDAR

	<b>Sunday May 1</b>	<b>Sunday May 8</b>	<b>Sunday May 15</b>	<b>Sunday May 22</b>	<b>Sunday May 29</b>
<b>Bible Lesson and Teacher</b>	<i>All Day Event at United Presbyterian Church</i>  <i>Worship 10:30AM with Childcare and Church School at same hour</i>	Luke 24: 13- 35 The Road to Emmaus  Rachel Weissenburger	Acts 2: 42-47 The Early Church  	Ephesians 2: 14- 22 Jesus is our Peace  	<b>Memorial Day Weekend</b>  <b>No Church School</b>
<b>Activity Information</b>	<i>Lunch@Noon</i>  <i>Anti-Racism Training: 12:45-3PM</i> <i>Free Childcare Provided, RSVP to Kathleen the number and ages of your children!!!</i>	<b>Craft Sunday!</b>	Making a meal of love (Agape Meal) to share with each other	Peace Sunday Making symbols of Peace and Doing Peaceful Acts	<b>Children in Worship with Parents, Childcare Rooms Open!</b>
<b>Special Information for Families</b>					

## Vacation Bible School Registration Form

### Child Registration: (July 11 - July 15, 2011)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Last school grade completed: \_\_\_\_\_ Home telephone number:  
(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Home e-mail address:

The cost of this week of Vacation Bible School is \$25 per child if registered by May 31 and \$30 afterwards. Scholarship money is available. Please indicate below if you would like to take advantage of one of these gifts.

I would like to use one of the scholarships for my child. YES NO

T-Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_

### Adult Registration: (July 12 - July 14)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Telephone Number:  
(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

The cost is \$15 before May 31 and \$20 afterwards. Each session includes an evening meal.

Would you like to help in this ministry, either by volunteering or donating scholarship money so that all can attend? Contact the church office at (908) 755-2781 for a list of opportunities.

**Program will take place at  
Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church.**



SOMERSET COUNTY OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES  
Presents a Parenting Connection Workshop  
Featuring  
Cole Baker of the Compo Group

# “No More Stress”

The Compo Group “**No More Stress**” 2-Hr. workshop helps to reduce the symptoms and suffering from Stress, Loss and/or Burnout. The workshop does not dwell on the past but focuses on NOW. It’s a “safe mode” educational approach that provides in-program “walk-a-way” tools for *immediate emotional relief*. These mental tools help to:

- Create an inner calm during times of emotional upheavals
  - Handle worry, fear and anxiety
  - Reduce insomnia
  - Stop angry outbursts
- Become more up-beat and pro-active
  - Raise self-confidence
  - End feeling like a victim
  - Improve relationships

While significant in impact, the tools provided can be quickly learned. The program is helpful for parents facing major worries, uncertainties and/or traumatic events involving children or siblings. This workshop accelerates **positive results** for all to experience less stress, improved relationships and greater happiness.

**Thursday May 12, 2011**  
**7:00pm-9:00pm**  
**Somerset County Vocational and**  
**Technical High School**  
**North Bridge Street and Vogt Drive**  
**Bridgewater, New Jersey**  
**Performing Arts & Tech Center**  
**Room D 226**  
**6th driveway on the right once you turn onto**  
**Vogt Drive**  
Please contact Cindy Britt to make reservations  
**908-704-6352**  
**britt@co.somerset.nj.us**  
**Cost is \$5.00**

**Make checks payable to**  
**Friends of Somerset County Youth**

# VISIONS June 2011

Finally! Summer is here! Like you I have been waiting for this for what seems like forever! I know we all keep on talking about how long and snowy the winter was, how wet and rainy the recent spring season has been. It is good to finally have the warmth of summer with us. I am also reminded that while we have only had snow and rain and cold weather here in our part of New Jersey that our friends to the north in our State have endured flooding and our friends around our country, and even around the world have endured ferocious and deadly floods, tornados and droughts. It has been scary and heartbreaking to watch, and so many times we find ourselves as we watch the news saying to ourselves, "Why?" We even question God.

It is normal to ask these sorts of questions about human suffering, about God's role in it, and where God is for each of us in the midst of fear and suffering. We are at the end of the Easter Season in the church calendar, about to celebrate Pentecost in just a few Sundays. The Easter Season isn't just Easter Sunday, it goes on for weeks after Easter, a reminder to us that the Good News is Jesus Christ is that we are called to not be fearful, but joyful—that



we are called not to dwell on sin (because it ended in the Resurrection) but to live as people with hopeful expectations. It all sounds good on paper, maybe even when you hear it in worship, but I know that for many of you these can seem like false expectations, especially as you watch the news, see so much suffering, or even as you think about the individual pain of people in your life or in our congregation. It can be a challenge day after day to live as people of the Resurrection, people who follow Jesus. We need to keep on coming back and recharging our faith—we need communities like the one we have here to keep and sustain us in times like this.

We have a lot of new things going on in our community all the time—so that we can all recharge and renew!!! Read on in the newsletter about an **exciting new partnership** with the Plainfield Area YMCA for our After School Program, **events** that Presbyterian Women is planning, our youth group partnering with the youth from Crescent Avenue for a **mission trip** later this month, a **book study** I am leading this month and into July that I hope you will participate in, and read on about our partnership with St. Joseph's Catholic Church across the street for another year of **community gardening** to help **feed the hungry** in our community.

Lots going on. Easter living. Hopeful expectation even in a time of worry and of sorrow. Being Easter people means we do not stay stuck but we keep on moving forward—one foot in front of another—doing the things that we know God is calling us to do! Being the church—being a witness to the community we live in, and telling others that we look forward, and not back!

Blessings to you as you begin summer! I look forward to seeing you in and around Watchung Avenue!!!

Peace,



Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo

Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church  
170 Watchung Avenue  
North Plainfield, NJ 07060



Telephone: 908-755-2781 / 2775  
Email: [wapc@verizon.net](mailto:wapc@verizon.net)  
Web: [www.wapc.net](http://www.wapc.net)  
Fax: 908-756-7981



May 23, 2011

Dear WAPC Members and Friends,

We are writing to let you know about some important and exciting developments in the administration of the After School Program. We invite you to read this letter and the information attached to it carefully.

As you know, for many years the program that our church has hosted has been provided as an outreach to the North Plainfield community by the Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church. The program first began with a small group of volunteer leaders, and has grown over the years into the program that it is today. However, the program has struggled over the last few years as the economy has taken its toll on our families and program. Costs have been increasing—utilities, gas, insurance, salaries, and State fees. Yet, despite a nominal tuition increase over the last year, we have not been able to keep up with costs. We strongly feel that the families who we serve cannot bear additional fee increases. The program has been operating at a near break-even, some months at a deficit, for the last two years. While it has been a long-term commitment of the Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church to house such a program, the congregation has also struggled deeply with its finances over the last five years due to the downturn in the economy and is also operating at a significant deficit. All of these factors together are making it difficult for the congregation to sustain long-term funding assistance to the After School Program. We have been carefully evaluating these difficulties we face over this year and attempting to discern which path to take: continue our program as it is with ever-increasing deficits and looming costs or to make the painful decision to end the program. Neither was a good decision, and so we have struggled throughout the year to discern which path would be the most faithful one to go down.

Thankfully, a third way has come to us, one which we are very excited about, and that will allow our core principals of the After School Program to stay in place:

- That safe, quality, and affordable After School care is available to the children of North Plainfield
- That our congregation remains a place of welcome and support for such a program
- That a program exists in North Plainfield that provides financial support and assistance to families who need it so that their children have all services needed available to them
- That an After School Program include academic assistance to students, recreation, nutrition, and character development

Beginning in the Fall of 2011, the Plainfield Area YMCA will be taking over the administration of the After School Program at the Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church. The Plainfield Y operates After School Programs in the Plainfield/North Plainfield area, but does not have a location in North Plainfield. We will become an extension site for the YMCA and they will become responsible for the administration of the program which will include all of the features we already have in place: transportation, staff, and programming. As we have entered into conversation this year with the Plainfield Y we have discovered that their day-to-day programming is nearly identical to the one we have here at Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church and that their fee structure is comparable to the one we currently have, actually \$20 less a month. More services will be available to the children we serve, including weekly swim lessons, additional recreational activities, a new computer lab at the church for the 2011-2012 academic year, and year-round usage of the YMCA in Plainfield and its facilities.

The Session of the Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church voted at their May 9, 2011 meeting to implement this change for the After School Program and to enter into a contractual relationship with the Plainfield YMCA. The After School Program staff and parents were notified the same week and our staff will be able to apply for employment with the Plainfield YMCA for the 2011-2012 year.

We are so excited about this new development in the life of the After School Program and that it will be able to continue and serve the children and youth of North Plainfield. We see this as a win-win for everyone, especially for you and your children!

We will be celebrating the ministry of our After School Program in worship on Sunday June 12<sup>th</sup> and we invite the entire congregation to join us at that special worship service and reception. Please join us in prayer for the After School Program during its next exciting chapter of service to the children of our community!

Sincerely,

Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo

Elder Tom Ledder, Trustees

Elder Wayne Fabricius, Session



Hello dear friends and family, today marks one month since I left the United States for my three week sojourn/class to southern India, and one week since I landed here in South Africa on my 26th birthday. The past month has been a whirlwind of amazing experiences.

In India, I and about thirty other Princeton Theological Seminary students had the privilege to study at the feet of a trio of remarkable professors for a course entitled "Preaching in a Global Context" that took place at the India Sunday School Union located at Coornoor, India, high up in the Nilgiris mountain range in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Professor of Preaching at Princeton, Cleo LaRue nominally led the course, and while he lectured a handful of times, the main focus was for us to study under two Indian professors, one Ajit Prasad, PHD in practical theology and the moderator of the Indian Sunday School Union, and Dyanchad Carr, an Indian theologian of some repute who specializes in Dalit theology, theology directed towards and emerging from the context of the out-castes of Indian society, the Untouchables as they are known in English. While perhaps I do not not agree theologically with everything Dr. Carr taught, through his powerfully passionate lectures he forced me to open my eyes to engage with those who exist on the margins of Christian scripture and our globalized world society, and see how Christ empowers, speaks, and works through them. I think I will be reflecting on my Indian experiences for a long time to come, but to be honest, I really did not have much time to do any serious reflection at all while in India. I was constantly on the move, from one place to another, sleeping either on short plane rides, long train rides, or even longer bus rides as I traveled across the subcontinent. Over the summer, I'll be sure to share more of my time in India with you all, but right now, I'm trying to recover from it all.

Getting to South Africa from Capetown was a bit of an adventure, a total of about thirty hours of travel, and a stop in Abu Dhabi on the way, where I swam in the Persian Gulf, earned me a mean sun-burn, and saw the movie Thor with four Bedouin men in full regalia. I arrived to Cape Town on the 18th, election day, and the city swirled with democratic (if you can call it that) passions. I have since begun to try and settle a bit, battling jet-lag all the way but throwing myself head first into the activities and ministries of the Church I am serving at. I have to make the best of the time I have here, and to do so it doesn't really give me much breathing room. I'm

not complaining. I enjoy the church, Mowbray Presbyterian. It had about 175 in attendance last sunday, and it seems to be one of those rare churches in South Africa that is multi-racial, to the extent that it has a substantial white, black, and "coloured" population (coloured being a term that has hung-over from the bad old times of Apartheid, that refers to mixed race or folks of Indian backgrounds). The services are in English, but the singing is in many different languages. I think I am going to grow to love this church, but right now I do miss the congregation I served over the course of middle year at PTS, Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church. Watchung helped me discover the gifts for pastoral ministry that are now being put to the test in South Africa, and for that, I'm grateful.

The contrast between southern India and Capetown is remarkable. India, when glanced at with western eyes, is absolutely insane. The hustle and bustle of society there truly is an impressive thing, and in all my life I've never really encountered anything you like it. Wherever you are, there a mass of people, heading to and fro on their business, zipping around on fast motorbikes (the preferred way of traveling I gathered, and by far the most fun. I had a blast being ferried around on the back of a bike through the mountains) or driving in cars and trucks in what I perceived to be a reckless manner (even more reckless than Kenya), drivers having full and detailed conversations with those that pass through their car horns. I swear, I have never heard more tricked out car horns in my life. There was no such thing as an ordinary beep--think clown horns, but syncopate the beats and make them ten times louder. Capetown, in contrast, is on the surface orderly, with smooth roads and very little horn beeping. I rarely see people on the side of the roads like I saw in India and Kenya, but I know they must be there somewhere, in some part of the city I haven't seen yet. The economic disparity is profound, and the difference between middle class white and black existence in the city and poor black experience in the Townships, is hard to describe. Maybe in time I'll find the words.

A highlight from India: when cars went in reverse, they would play a song. I heard all sorts of catchy back up tunes, hymns, bollywood anthems, muslim calls to prayer. I hope this catches on in the States.

I've only been in South Africa for a week, and I really can't report back much. That will change.

Your thoughts and prayers are readily appreciated, and any notes you would like to send my way via email or post. I am not without work here to keep me busy--I'll be preaching about five or times over the course of the two and a half months I am here, leading Bible studies and workshops, and doing all manner of things that my supervisors here in Mowbray ask me to do. But notes from all of you back at home will do my soul some good.

You can reach me on skype at hcoates2, and send me mail at

Henry Coates  
Mowbray Presbyterian Church  
8 Highbury Road  
Mowbray 7700  
Cape Town, South Africa

I'm thinking I'm going to aim to send out a weekly missive. Let me know if you'd like to be taken off my email list, and I'll remove you no problem=)

Hope all is well with you all, wherever in the world you may be. You are in my thoughts and my prayers.

all my best,

Henry

ps

right now I'm listening to some Bruce Springsteen. If you ever find yourself on the Jersey Turnpike before too long, give her my best.

## *June Worship*

June 5<sup>th</sup>: **Choir Appreciation**

Sacrament: Communion

Scripture: Acts 1: 6-14 &  
John 17:1-11

Sermon: "Don't Look Up!  
Look Around!"

June 12<sup>th</sup>: **Pentecost**

**Celebrating After School Program**

Scripture: Acts 2: 1-21 &  
John 7: 37-39

Sermon: "Life Giving Water, Life Giving  
Fire"

June 19<sup>th</sup>: **Trinity Sunday & Father's Day**

**Church School/Youth Group Sunday**

June 26<sup>th</sup>: **Commissioning of Youth for  
Mission Trip**

Scripture: Psalm 12 &  
Matthew 10: 40-42

Sermon: "The Welcome Mat"

## *WAPC Online*

Don't forget to visit our church online!

The website is updated weekly with new blog posts,  
news articles, worship recordings and other  
updates! [www.wapc.net](http://www.wapc.net)

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook (click the links at  
the top of the WAPC website to join us on Social  
Media!)

### *Dollars Destroying the Deficit!*

If every WAPC member gave an additional  
\$1/day all year-we would eliminate 100% of the  
church deficit! We would have more funds for  
mission & ministry. Put your \$ in the DDD  
envelope found in your pew rack and then the  
offering plate each week.

## *Circle Of Hope*

**June 7<sup>th</sup>**, 5:30 pm., at Giovanna's. Please call Faye  
Steinau to rsvp.

## *Circle Of Joy*

**June 12<sup>th</sup>**, 12:30 pm, at Giovanna's.

## *Presbyterian Women Planning Meeting*

The PW in WAPC coordinating team members and  
any other women interested in seeing PW meet its  
goals:

nurturing faith, supporting the mission of the church  
world wide, working for justice and peace, building  
an inclusive and caring community of women,  
strengthening the Presbyterian Church(USA) and  
witnessing to the promise of God's Kingdom are  
urged to come to a **breakfast meeting June 25<sup>th</sup> at  
9:30 am** at:

Diane Ledder's  
6 Ravine Court  
Scotch Plains, NJ  
908.232.2119

All PW Coordinating team members are expected  
and all other women are welcome. Please call to  
confirm.

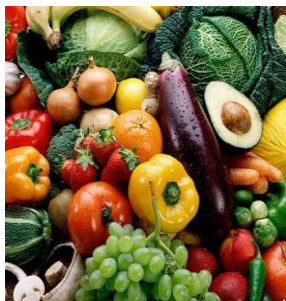
The meeting will focus on:

1. Leaders for 2011-2013
  2. Budget
  3. Ideas for forwarding PW's goals
- PW co-coordinators, Bev Krausse, Pat Roselli and  
Dianne Ledder.

## *June Youth Group Activities*

June 12<sup>th</sup>—Youth Group Meeting and Fun Activities

June 26-July 1—Youth Group Mission Trip to Stony  
Point Center, NY



### *Community Garden*

Once again we will be growing veggies this summer for the needy in our community. A big thank you to Organigaya Café in North Plainfield for the wonderful organic plants to get us started! The garden this summer is moving. We will be meeting on Saturday June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2PM at Church of the Holy Cross to take down the old garden, pack it up, and move it over to St. Joseph's (across the street from us!). We are looking for many helping hands, wheelbarrows, shovels, a few people with trucks/SUVS willing to help. Please let Shannan know if you can help out that day! If you would like to grow extra food at your home too this summer, that is also an excellent way to participate. Please let Shannan know if you are doing this so we can add you to our list of home-helpers! We look forward to having you garden with us this summer!

### *Flowers For The Sanctuary*

There are many opportunities to provide flowers for the sanctuary. **The 2011 Flower Chart** is posted through **August** on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Please sign the chart for the Sunday of your choice and complete all required information on the signup sheet. It is the responsibility of the donor to contact a florist (or bring flowers from your garden) If you do not have a florist, **Gray's**, Rte. 22, in Watchung has been a good source (908 757-0400). If you want Grays' to deliver, make sure you instruct them to do so.

**Leslie Hansen** is also interested in doing flower arrangements; she may be called at 908 604-0337. Leslie will place your flowers in the Sanctuary on Sunday morning when she comes for choir.

Gail Smith, PW Flower Chairperson  
(908-753-1249)

## *Mission Opportunities*

LOCAL MISSION: June 16<sup>th</sup>!

WAPC has been partnering with Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church on the third Thursday of each month to serve meals at the Plainfield YMCA shelter. You can be a cook (who prepares food ahead of time and drops it off), a server, a helper, or all three! This is a great way for families to participate in mission together. **Join us: Meet at 5:30pm at Crescent Ave. or 6pm at the Plainfield YMCA, June 16<sup>th</sup>.** If you are interested in helping out, contact Gwyn Gronlund of the Mission Committee for details.

### *Disaster Assistance*

Our partners have been hard at work around the United States and world over the last month to help all of those affected by the recent onslaught of natural disasters in the United States and around the world. Presbyterian Women, Deacons, and Church School Children at WAPC banded together in May to send clean-up buckets to Church World Service. You can visit their website for more information.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance:

<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/pda/us-spring-storms-2011/>

Church World Service: [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org)

### *New PC(USA) Ordination Standards*

Beginning on July 10, 2011 the Presbyterian Church (USA) will have new standards for ordinations of Deacons, Elders, and Ministers of Word and Sacrament. Pastor Shannan sent a pastoral letter to the Congregation via email and hand-outs in worship in mid-May. Copies of her letter are available for pick-up at the church in the Mission Room. It is still posted on the church website and in the blog section of the website is a video about these changes from the national church offices. If you would like a copy of the letter mailed to your home or resent to you via email, please contact Kathleen at the church office.

## ***Prayer Shawl Ministry Summer Meetings***

**Hearts, Hands & Stitches**, the Prayer Shawl Ministry of WAPC, continues to meet monthly. We stitch at our meetings and on our own time to create comforting shawls. Our Summer meetings are scheduled as follows:

*Tuesday, June 21*, at the home of Gail Smith

*Tuesday, July 19*, location to be decided

*Tuesday, August 16*, location to be decided

All evening meetings are held from 7:15 pm to 9:30 pm.

We have a time of quiet, prayerful stitching, plan our projects, and have refreshments, of course. All are welcome to join.

Call Gwyn Gronlund for more information  
(908) 754-1251

## ***Women's Craft Group***

Bring your scrapbooking, knitting, or other projects and come enjoy each other's company, plus get a break from your busy week. We meet on Friday evenings from 7:30 – 9:30 PM - sometimes in the church library and sometimes at someone's house. We even go on field trips occasionally! Come join us whenever you can – just call Gwyn Gronlund (908-754-1251) or Marilyn Cortright (home: 908-753-2859, cell: 908-295-4754) to find out where we will be meeting that week!

## ***Eco-Tips***

### ***To Care for God's Creation***

• ***Grounds Maintenance:*** Did you ever notice those small white warning flags on nearby lawns? Those warnings indicate that a lawn has been sprayed with pesticides that are harmful to children and pets. Reduce your exposure, and improve the environment, by eliminating chemicals on your lawn and encouraging your neighbors to do the same. See [www.safelawns.org](http://www.safelawns.org) for more information. If you use a lawn care provider, choose one that specializes in natural lawn care, such as NaturaLawn:  
<http://www.nl-amer.com/>

• ***Grounds Maintenance:*** One of the biggest threats to local wildlife is development—as homes go up, habitat is destroyed, and wildlife is unable to find places to feed, live, and raise young. Make your property as wildlife-friendly as possible by certifying your backyard as a wildlife habitat. See National Wildlife Federation's Certified Wildlife Habitat™ program: <http://www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife>

## ***Did You Know!***

***The Bereavement Hospitality Committee*** was set up by Dot Fenz in 1996, to be of assistance to members of the church at the time of a death in the family. The purpose of this committee is to coordinate an informal luncheon or dessert to be served in the Parish Hall following a funeral or memorial service. Members of the committee set up, serve and cleanup in addition to supplying coffee, tea and dessert. The family of the deceased is responsible for the main course and paper products. If in need of this service or you would like to serve on this committee, please call Faye Steinau.

## ***Coupons***

Anyone having Bed Bath & Beyond coupons they do not need please save and give to Faye Steinau or Peggy Bunnell.

## ***Looking for Apt.***

I have a neighbor-single woman looking for a 2 bedroom apt. in a private home a.s.a.p. Please contact Alice Lester with and leads. 908.754.6412.

## ***Corrections/Additions To Directory***

### **BARTON, KAREN**

94 Heath Village

Hackettstown, NJ 07840

### **BARTON, WILLIAM & (GERALDINE)**

228 Heath Village

908-684-5046

Hackettstown, NJ 07840

## ***Office Help Needed***

Kathleen will be out of the office for a few weeks this summer. We need substitute office helpers during those weeks from 9-12 Tuesday-Thursday. Job duties are: checking the mail and answering the phone/door. Please call or email Kathleen if interested at the church office.

Week of June 6<sup>th</sup>

Week of July 4<sup>th</sup>

Week of July 25<sup>th</sup>

## ***Worship Services & Regular Meetings***

### ***Regular Sunday Schedule:***

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 a.m. Worship  
10:20 a.m. Church School  
11:00 a.m. Coffee/Fellowship

### ***Weekly***

Wednesday Bible Study 10 a.m. in Lounge  
Wednesday Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.  
Thursday Bible Study 7:30 p.m.-Lounge

### ***Monthly***

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Holy Communion  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday FISH (Food Bank) Collection  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Healing Service  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday Session meets at 7:30 p.m.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday Trustee's Meeting at 7:30 p.m.  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Youth Group 11:30-1p.m.  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Men's Breakfast  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday Prayer Shawl Meeting 7:15 p.m.

## ***WAPC Schedule of Regular Events***

### Sunday Schedule:

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 am Worship  
10:20 am Church School  
10:55 am Coffee/Fellowship  
7-10 pm Iglesia Cristo Mi Rey  
Parish Hall & classroom

### Monday Schedule

8:15 am Head Start  
2:30 pm ASP  
7:30 pm Boy Scouts Parish Hall

### Tuesday Schedule

8:15 am Head Start  
9:30 am WIC (Tuesday)  
2:30 pm ASP  
7-10 pm Iglesia Cristo Mi Rey  
Parish Hall & classroom

### Wednesday Schedule

8:15 am Head Start  
10:00 am Bible Study  
2:30 pm ASP  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

### Thursday Schedule

8:15 am Head Start  
2:30 pm ASP  
7:30 pm Bible Study

### Friday Schedule

8:15 am Head Start  
2:30 pm ASP  
6-8 pm Girl Scouts Parish Hall

### Saturday Schedule

9-11 am Heritage Choir Parish Hall  
7-10 pm - Iglesia Cristo Mi Rey  
Parish Hall & classroom

## ***Summer Birthdays***

John Langan, Sr.	7-Jul
Amanda Weiss	8-Jul
Kelsey Hoppe	9-Jul
Karen Krausse Polera	9-Jul
Alayna Langan	10-Jul
David Lyttle	13-Jul
Lee Taylor	13-Jul
Brooks Smith	15-Jul
Bojana Blagojevic	15-Jul
Nancy Squier	17-Jul
Erin Slattery	19-Jul
Shawn Watters	21-Jul
Kate Kennedy	24-Jul
George Parlman	24-Jul
Jamie Langan	27-Jul
Cori Peloso	28-Jul
Alexa Rocco	30-Jul

Dorothy Hooker	2-Aug
Andrew Taylor	4-Aug
Stephanie Rocco	5-Aug
Wolfgang Gerhard	6-Aug
Summer Thomas	6-Aug
Garrett Hansen	7-Aug
Heidi Boleyn Rapach	11-Aug
Katie Ronk	13-Aug
Danny Imperato	14-Aug
Nancy Higgins	14-Aug
Bunny Dow	14-Aug
Ryan Thomas	17-Aug
Kevin Hernandez	19-Aug
Mary Imperato	29-Aug
Joey Seinau	29-Aug
Judy Langan	31-Aug

## *Prayer List*

- Prayers of comfort for *Bob Hildebrandt*, in hospice care, and for his family and friends.
- Prayers of healing for the *Thomas Family* on the passing of Jim's father, Dr. Lewis Clayton Thomas this past Tuesday.
- Prayers of healing for *Rev. Ken Gorman*, Church of the Holy Cross, recovering from surgery.
- Continued prayers of healing for *Judith Botzan*, recovery from surgery.
- Prayers of healing for *Colleen Parlman*.
- Prayers of healing for all of those throughout the United States who are victims of natural disaster, especially those in the South.
- Prayers of strength for the *Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*
- Prayers of strength for *the people of Libya*.
- Prayers of healing for *all of those affected in Japan*.
- Prayers of healing for the *City of Plainfield* and for the end of gun violence.
- *Alberta Vosburgh*, at Arbor Glenn Continuing Care, Rm. 636.
- *Helen Miller, Ellwood Whitely, Joan Brown & Estelle Kennedy*, at home.

## *Key Cards*

We have a new policy for replacement of key cards. Due to the cost of the cards we will need to collect a fee of \$10.00 for replacement of lost key cards.

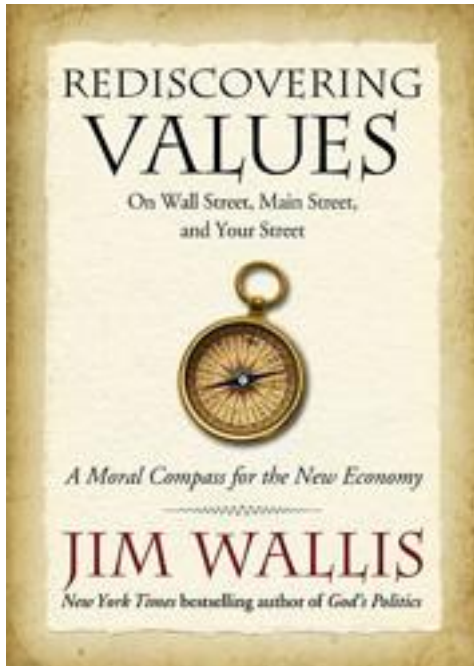
***Visions*** is published monthly.  
The due date for articles for the  
***Summer July/August*** newsletter is:  
**Monday, June 20, 2011**

Pastor: *Shannan Vance-Ocampo*  
Pastor Emeritus: *Brooks Smith*  
Director of Music: *Sam Chapin*  
WAPC After School Program – 908-755-8202  
ASP Director: *James Winston*  
Visions Editor: *Kathleen Golmont*

# PASTOR SHANNAN'S SUMMER BOOK STUDY

*Rediscovering Values: On Main Street, Wall Street, and Your Street*

by Jim Wallis of Sojourners ([www.sojo.net](http://www.sojo.net))



Excerpted from the book....“When we start with the wrong question, no matter how good an answer we get, it won’t give us the results we want. Rather than joining the throngs who are asking, *When will this economic crisis be over?* Jim Wallis says the right question to ask is *How will this crisis change us?*”

The worst thing we can do now, Wallis tells us, is to go back to normal. Normal is what got us into this situation. We need a new normal, and this economic crisis is an invitation to discover what that means. Some of the principles Wallis unpacks for our new normal are . . .

- Spending money we don’t have for things we don’t need is a bad foundation for an economy or a family.
- It’s time to stop keeping up with the Joneses and start making sure the Joneses are okay.
- The values of commercials and billboards are not the things we want to teach our children.
- Care for the poor is not just a moral duty but is critical for the common good.
- A healthy society is a balanced society in which markets, the

government, and our communities all play a role.

- The operating principle of God’s economy says that there *is* enough if we *share* it.
- And much, much more . . .

In the pages of this book, Wallis provides us with a moral compass for this new economy—one that will guide us on Wall Street, Main Street, and Your Street.”

We will use the study guide from Sojourners and also look at the Accra Confession from the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (of which we are a part) as we talk about God, the Bible, and the economic times we are in.

**Meets ½ hour after worship every Sunday in June and July in the downstairs lounge. Class will go for one hour each week and participants will read one chapter in the book weekly.**

**Yes! I will be participating in the book study!**

\_\_\_\_\_Name

\_\_\_\_\_Email/Phone

*Cost of the study is \$15/person. This covers a book, study guide, and materials. Make a check payable to WAPC and put “Summer Book Study” in the subject line!*

# *What is a Family?*

## Film series

CRESCENT AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
716 WATCHUNG AVENUE  
PLAINFIELD, NJ 07060  
[WWW.CRESCENTONLINE.ORG](http://WWW.CRESCENTONLINE.ORG)



### Mark Your Calendar

#### FILMS

**5.29**  
**PARENTHOOD**

**6.5**  
**THE STATION AGENT**

**6.19**  
**THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES**

### What makes us a family?

Most Christians believe that the Bible holds the answers to our questions about daily living, and that reading the Scriptures will show us good examples to follow for our own lives. Think for a moment and try to list a few examples of healthy families in the Bible..... who are ideals worth emulating. Having trouble? The families of the Bible were far from perfect, and not so different in that regard from our imperfect families today. These films about what it means to be family will inspire and encourage you with their focus on hope and grace for families, showing that it is in the "imperfect places" that we catch glimpses of God's grace. We trust these movies will open wide our eyes--and our hearts even more--as we see both the pain and the promise of family life.

Our movie nights begin with a light supper at 6:00 pm, movie at 6:30 pm, and discussion to follow. For more information contact the church office at (908) 756-2468.



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your interest in our Vacation Bible School. It is a great week of making new friends and fun Bible learning. This summer, our CBS will meet for 5 evenings, from Monday, July 11 to Friday, July 15.

Each session begins at 5:00 p.m. with games, music and a puppet show. Later, we will break up into smaller groups for crafts, storytelling, science experiments, and our cooking lessons. Each evening includes a delicious, healthy meal of kid-friendly food. If the weather cooperates, we end the day with some water play in the sprinkler.

Vacation Bible School is for everyone! Children from preschool (age 4 by 7/1/11) through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to attend as students. Older children can be part of our service team, helping the teachers or being group guides. Adults can volunteer to teach, lead small groups, or be part of our kitchen crew. Rev. Martin will lead a class for adults that meets Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, July 12-14.

The theme for this year is Shake-It-Up Café. We will meet Chef Basil and his sou chef. We will celebrate a different festival every day.

The cost for the week is \$25 per child and \$15 for adults if you register by June 10, 2011. Later registrants must pay \$30 per child and \$20 per adult. Please fill out the enclosed registration form and send it, along with your check, to the church office at 716 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield 07060.

I look forward to our time together. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [barbaramartin729@msn.com](mailto:barbaramartin729@msn.com) or through the church office (908-756-2468).

See you this summer!

Barbara Martin

Director of Christian Education



**Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church  
Vacation Bible School **Child** Registration**

**July 11 - July 15, 2011**

**5:00 - 7:30 p.m.**

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

Parent or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday \_\_\_\_\_ Grade This Fall \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Restrictions \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name and Contact Information for Pick-up \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \$30 per child, \$25 if paid by June 10, 2011

Do you want financial assistance? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

Additional Items That Can Be Purchased:

Student CD \$4.00

Scrap the Raccoon Stuffed Animal \$3.00

Would someone in your family like to volunteer to help?



Celebrating over 60 years and still growing  
Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church  
**PETALS FOR PROFIT FUNDRAISER**

*We grow the plants to help your organization grow  
their funds!*

Shop at Parker Gardens between  
March 15<sup>th</sup> and June 15<sup>th</sup> and  
we will donate **10%** of all the proceeds directly to  
Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church

Just in time for all your spring plantings.  
Whether you're looking for annuals, perennials, trees or  
shrubs, water gardens, furniture and accessories, or landscaping  
service, Parker's 14 acres of greenhouses & garden center  
presents the area's **largest** selection of top quality plants and  
services with **expert advice** that is second to none!  
Voted Top 100 Revolutionary Garden Center 5 years in a row.

**Just mention that you are from Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church at the time of sale  
and we will log the sale into your organization's account. At the end of the fundraiser,  
10% of the total proceeds will be forwarded to your organization.**

*Parker Gardens*  
1325 Terrill Road Scotch Plains, NJ  
(908) 322-5552  
[www.parkergardens.com](http://www.parkergardens.com)  
Offer cannot be combined with other offers or sales.

# VISIONS September 2011

After the last two weeks we've had here in New Jersey it seems only appropriate to write about the world around us. A rare earthquake just outside of Washington D.C. that shook us up this far north. Cracks in the Washington Monmument, spires falling off the National Cathedral. And then of course, the much bigger event of Hurricane Irene. Luckily, some of the steam ran out before she got to us, but the affects of this huge and monster storm have been devastating for many and the responsibility now falls to those of us who were spared the worst to help out our neighbors as we can. We seem to be at the mercy of the whims of nature these days.

I will admit to being very shaken up by Hurricane Irene. Our town had a mandatory evacuation, and we were told to expect the bay to inundate the town (and our home is only a block off the bay!). Juan and I packed up our most valued possessions, Sofia packed up her pet rabbit, and we headed away from our home. I spent most of the night of the Hurricane tossing and turning in my sleep, worrying about our home and neighborhood. I am sure I wasn't alone—and that countless other people had very sleepless nights too! We were very lucky to have been spared the worst (only water in the basement), but many around us, even those in our own congregation, have much more signifigant problems in their homes. Like everyone else, I do not enjoy those feelings of being out of control, and not able to protect my own home.

Even though I love all of it, the truth is, my home is just full of stuff. The most important things we were able to get out—Juan, Sofia, her rabbit, Juan's paintings, and our photos. Most of what we "own" in this life, at the end of the day, isn't terribly valuable. The real "things of value" if you get down to it, are really a small percentage of what makes up our accumulated life. There is that verse in the Matthew's gospel: *"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* Perhaps one of the benefits of the last few weeks is that we are reminded to think more clearly about what our

true possessions of value are—and where our true treasures in this life and the next life.



As you all know, I am an avid gardener, and love growing all sorts of flowers and plants in the summer. One of the things that upset me the most when we were leaving our house was the prospect that the brackish bay water was going to inundate our neighborhood and kill my plants. That is one "possession" I'm very tied to! My friend Mieke Vandersall, who many of you have met, was visiting us last weekend when we

Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church  
170 Watchung Avenue  
North Plainfield, NJ 07060



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Web: [www.wapc.net](http://www.wapc.net)  
Fax: 908-756-7981

had to pack up the house. Mieke and Sofia set out to cut all of the flowers and arrange them in vases while Juan and I packed up the house. At least we could enjoy them cut! One of the things we couldn't cut were our rose bushes. They were full of buds but not yet blooms. When we returned home late the next day, grateful our part of town did not flood, our rose bush was in bloom. A reminder that I need to trust a bit more, and that even when things look stormy and gloomy—beautiful new things can emerge. My roses bloomed in the middle of the hurricane!

The other thing that is very much on my mind these days is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of September 11<sup>th</sup>. It is a day that is seared into my memory, as I know it is for each of us. We live just outside of New York City, and all of our communities were so deeply affected. Many of us remember friends, neighbors, family who were lost on that day. Others of us mourn the violence of that day and the violence that it has spawned. It changed us. I find myself in a very reflective mood as the anniversary approaches.

When I served the Rumson Church we participated in quite a few funerals post-9/11. One of those was for a man who left behind his wife (a member of the Session) and his two children, one in high school, the other in college. The experience of that funeral, walking the journey of grief with that family made an impression on me that will last forever.

About a year before I left Rumson, the widow of the man who died in the Towers called me. She had begun rebuilding her life and was dating someone. They wanted to get married, would I marry them? Her children and his were in attendance at the wedding, along with her former husband's supportive parents—celebrating her new chapter in life, and also honoring what had been in the past. New life, new beginnings rose out of the ashes and the rubble of life.

A good friend of mine in ministry in this Presbytery wrote a few days ago that the Hurricane is a “reminder that the universe doesn't center around us.” As Juan likes to remind me more often than I like to hear it, “we are not in control.” But there are enough reminders around us to see that even in the midst of destruction, sadness, anniversaries, and all those things out there in the world that terrify us—that God is in control, making a way, and always in the business of Resurrection, New Life, and Beauty....

Peace,



Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo

### ***Disaster Assistance/Hurricane Irene***

Was your home affected by Hurricane Irene? NJ has been declared a federal disaster area, and so if your home/apartment was affected, you need help beyond your normal insurance policies, or you were flooded and do not live in a flood zone, you are now eligible for aid from FEMA. Please go to [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov) or call 800-621-FEMA.

Please contact Pastor Shannan if you need help accessing aid or help putting your home back in order. We want to organize work crews from our congregation to help those in church and community in need.

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North Plainfield, NJ 07060



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Email: [wapc@verizon.net](mailto:wapc@verizon.net)  
Web: [www.wapc.net](http://www.wapc.net)  
Fax: 908-756-7981

**WAPC is very pleased to announce our new Director of Music, Jeremy Messmer.**



Jeremy Messmer

Jeremy Messmer holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from Roberts Wesleyan College, and a Master of Arts in Vocal Performance from New York University. He has been leading music in congregations on both coasts since he was 15 years old. He got an early start at his father's church, Caledonia Assembly of God, in Caledonia, NY. There he served as music director for just over ten years. While in that community, Jeremy also led the choir for the Caledonia-Mumford Church Council Choir. Jeremy most recently served as music director at St. John's Lutheran Church in Antioch, CA for the past three years. While in Antioch, Jeremy also music directed and guest directed for the Hapgood Theatre Company, and served as a founding faculty member at Delta Academy for the Performing Arts. Jeremy has also spent time teaching in high school vocal music programs and colleges, and guest conducting for various choirs in Western New York. He has performed in musicals, solo concerts, as well as with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra Chorale. He is featured on several recordings of new American composers with the Roberts Wesleyan College Chorale. A composer himself, Jeremy has produced and performed on a recording of his Oratorio: *Adam & Eve*.

The Music Director Search Committee was Wayne Fabricius (Chair of Personnel/Session), Leslie Hansen (Choir), John Sullivan (Choir), and Monica Boleyn (Handbells). After face-to-face candidate interviews, the committee brought our top two candidates during the week of July 20<sup>th</sup> to audition with our adult voice and handbell choirs. After each audition, the committee met with the choirs to solicit their feedback and help guide our recommendation to the Session. The Session voted unanimously to engage Jeremy Messmer as our new Director of Music on Sunday July 26<sup>th</sup> and to dismiss the Search Committee with their thanks for a job well done. The search committee will continue to work with Jeremy during his transition to WAPC over the next few months.

**We welcome Jeremy to the WAPC Family and  
pray for God's blessings to be with Jeremy and  
our congregation as we begin a new chapter of ministry together!**

## *September Worship*

September 4<sup>th</sup>: **Labor Day/Christian Vocation Sunday**

Sacrament: Communion

Scripture: Ezekiel 33: 1-11 &  
Matthew 18: 15-20

Sermon: "Agreeing to Disagree"

September 11: **Church School Kick-Off Sunday  
September 11<sup>th</sup> Remembrance  
North Plainfield Community 9/11 Service 3pm  
(Vermule Mansion)**

Sacrament: Communion

Scripture: Psalm 114, Romans 14: 1-12 &  
Matthew 18: 21-35

Sermon: "Remembering, Release, and  
Resurrection"

September 18<sup>th</sup>: **Blessing of Prayer Shawls,  
Student Pastor, Chris Bailey, first Sunday**

Scripture: Exodus 16: 2-15 &  
Philippians 1: 21-30

Sermon: "Real Food and Fuel for the  
Journey"

September 25<sup>th</sup>:

Scripture: Exodus 17: 1-7 &  
Matthew 21: 23-32

Sermon: "No Whining Allowed"

Mission: Visitors from El Centro  
Hispanomerica in Plainfield

## *September 11<sup>th</sup>*

This month we mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of September 11<sup>th</sup>. For so many of us it is a solemn day of remembrance. The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary also falls on a Sunday, and so we will be having a special worship service at 10AM to commemorate the day. Please also join the entire North Plainfield community at 3PM at Vermule Mansion (see initiation in Visions for more information for a service led by clergy in town. Pastor Shannan will be participating in this service.

## *WAPC Online*

Don't forget to visit our church online!

The website is updated weekly with new blog posts, news articles, worship recordings and other updates! [www.wapc.net](http://www.wapc.net)

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook (click the links at the top of the WAPC website to join us on Social Media!)

## *Changes at WAPC this Fall*

We have many things that are new at the church this fall!

- We welcome Jeremy Messmer, our new Director of Music!!!
- We celebrate the new life for our After School Program as the [Plainfield YMCA](#) takes over operations. You will see their new sign on our front lawn. We are very excited about our partnership with the YMCA!
- The Session and Trustees have also negotiated an exciting contract with the help of [GreenFaith](#) for solar panels on the roof of our building which will begin in November to supply at least 1/3 of our electric energy needs. We will be putting out more information about this project over the next month, but we are very excited to be saving \$\$\$ for WAPC, to be the very first congregation to "go solar" in North Plainfield, and to be a small part of the larger movement to care for the Creation with renewable energy sources.

**Lots of changes—but change is good—and together we're moving in some great new directions!**

## *Circle Of Hope*

Circle of Hope will meet **September 11<sup>th</sup>**, 7:30pm, at the home of Cathy Lyttle.

## *Circle Of Joy*

Circle of Joy will meet **September 8<sup>th</sup>**, 7:30pm, at the home of Beverly Krausse.

## *PW Meeting*

There will be a brief **PW meeting Sunday September 25<sup>th</sup>**, after worship in the sanctuary.

## *Dollars Destroying the Deficit!*

If every WAPC member gave an additional \$1/day all year-we would eliminate 100% of the church deficit! We would have more funds for mission & ministry. Put your \$ in the DDD envelope found in your pew rack and then the offering plate each week.

## *Mission Project—Help a Child*

School Kits are desperately needed in many parts of the world. School Kits give children in impoverished schools, refugee camps, or other difficult settings some of the basic tools for learning. As you buy school supplies for your children or grandchildren this fall, please pick up a few extra items to donate.

PW will be collecting the following items to be assembled into School Kits for Church World Service.

Blunt scissors (rounded tip)  
70-count spiral notebooks  
30-centimeter (12") rulers  
Hand-held pencil sharpeners  
New pencils with erasers (not sharpened)  
Large erasers  
24 count boxes of crayons.

Baskets will be placed at the Sanctuary doors all four Sundays in September for collection of school items. Thank you for helping a child to learn.

## *Mission Opportunities*

### *Local Mission*

WAPC has been partnering with Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church on the third Thursday of each month to serve meals at the Plainfield YMCA shelter. Members of CAPC prepare the meals, and Pastor Rob and Barbara Martin transport and serve the meals. They can use help to load the food and drive it to the Y and to serve the dinner. This is a great way for families to participate in mission together. Upcoming dates are: **September 15th and October 20th**. If you are interested in helping out, contact Gwyn Gronlund of the Mission Committee for details at 908-754-1251.

## *Women's Craft Group*

Bring your scrapbooking, knitting, or other projects and come enjoy each other's company, plus get a break from your busy week. We meet on Friday evenings from 7:30 – 9:30 PM - sometimes in the church library and sometimes at someone's house. We even go on field trips occasionally! Come join us whenever you can – just call Gwyn Gronlund (908-754-1251) or Marilyn Cortright (home: 908-753-2859, cell: 908-295-4754) to find out where we will be meeting that week!

## *Ship Needs Your Help*

We at SHIP hope that you all made it through the hurricane safely with minimal damage and inconvenience.

SHIP (Samaritan Homeless Interim Program) HQ in Somerville was flooded during the hurricane and lost all of the supplies they store in the basement (everything contaminated) as well as some of their food pantry on the first floor (first 4 feet high totally destroyed). We are in need of new clothing: socks, underwear, pants, shirts; and also canned goods and toiletries that we hand out to the needy that come to SHIP for assistance on a daily basis. If you can help call us at 908-393-9545 and leave a message as the phone system was also knocked out. I can retrieve the messages from my computer and return your call by cell. Let me know if you can help in any way or have questions.

I pray that you and your families are safe and make it through this difficult time.

Tom O'Leary, SHIP's Captain

## *Prayer Shawl Ministry Fall Meetings*

**Hearts, Hands & Stitches**, the Prayer Shawl Ministry of WAPC, continues to meet monthly. We stitch at our meetings and on our own time to create comforting shawls. Our Fall meetings are scheduled as follows:

**Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**, at the home of Fran Young

**Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>**, at the home of Cathy Boleyn

**Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>**, at the home of Gail Smith

We will not hold an evening meeting in December.

All evening meetings are held from 7:15 to 9:30 pm.

We have a time of quiet, prayerful stitching, plan our projects, and have refreshments, of course. All are welcome to join.

**On Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>**, we will have a Blessing of Shawls in the worship service.

Call Gwyn Gronlund for more information: (908) 754-1251.

## *The Abbott Society (The WAPC Legacy Leaders League)*

The Abbott Society, formed by a Session vote in 2007, is now the permanent name for the organization of folks who have named WAPC in their will and/or who have already left a bequest.

It is a pleasure to report that the roster of members has grown significantly as more members have been added.

The current members are:

- Alice Abbott
- Doris Abbot
- Wayne Fabricius
- Dorothy Fenz
- Robert Goellner
- Harry & Beverly Krausse
- Al Smith
- Dick & Gail McKenna
- Brooks & Gail Smith
- Al Christ
- Dot Gannon

These folks have mentioned WAPC in their Wills and WAPC wants to make sure that they receive every one's thanks and appreciation for their long range planning and their generosity!

If **YOU** know of anyone else that has done this, or left WAPC a legacy please contact Shannan or Bob Goellner... **Bob's number is 908-510-5458** and his email is mr.bobg@yahoo.com. Shannan can of course be reached through the office.

## *Flowers For The Sanctuary*

There are many opportunities to provide flowers for the sanctuary. **The 2011 Flower Chart** is posted through **December** on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Please sign the chart for the Sunday of your choice and complete all required information on the sign-up sheet. It is the responsibility of the donor to contact a florist (or bring flowers from your garden)

If you do not have a florist, **Gray's**, Rte. 22, in Watchung has been a good source (908 757-0400). If you want Grays' to deliver, make sure you instruct them to do so.

**Leslie Hansen** is also interested in doing flower arrangements; she may be called at 908 604-0337. Leslie will place your flowers in the Sanctuary on Sunday morning when she comes for choir. Gail Smith, PW Flower Chairperson (908-753-1249)

## *Upcoming Events for Presbyterian Women*

All women of the church, of all ages, and their guests are always invited!

### **Sunday, September 25, 2011**

Meeting to elect officers and approve 2011-2012 budget, in sanctuary following worship.

### **Saturday, October 15, 2011**

WAPC hosts Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery for continental breakfast and program, 9:30 a.m. until about noon.

### **Tuesday, December 13, 2011**

Women's Christmas covered dish dinner and worship service, beginning with punch bowl at 6:15 p.m.

### **Sunday, December 18, 2011**

Annual Cookie Walk, in Parish Hall, following worship. Everyone invited!

### **Saturday, January 28, 2012**

Day Retreat at Mount St. Mary House of Prayer, 9 am to 3 pm

### **Sunday, March 4, 2012**

Annual Soup Luncheon, in Parish Hall, beginning about noon. Everyone invited!

### **Sunday, March 18, 2012**

Basket weaving learning experience, all ages welcome, after worship, Bring bag lunch; dessert and beverages provided

### **Friday, April 13 to Saturday, April 14, 2012**

Spring Retreat at Stony Point:

"How to be a Caring Congregation"

Stay overnight in a beautiful Victorian mansion and enjoy delicious meals.

### **Sunday, May 20, 2012**

Tea for women and their children, grandchildren or young friends, In Parish Hall after worship

### **Sunday, June 3, 2012**

Old Fashioned Strawberry Festival

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR AS MANY EVENTS AS YOU CAN!**

## **WORKSHOP ON THE NEW FORM OF GOVERNMENT!**

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Many of you have been asking for guidance about implementing the new Form of Government. In response,

I will be leading a workshop during the Consultation Hour at the Stated Meeting of presbytery on **September 27, 2011.**

This will be at 4:00 pm at the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, 716 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield.

Please come with your questions!

In Christ,  
Paul F. Rack  
Stated Clerk

### ***September Birthdays***

Monica Boleyn	1-Sep
JoAnn Hoppe	1-Sep
Justin Lake	2-Sep
Joseph Steinau	9-Sep
Gary Young	12-Sep
Deborah Hooker	13-Sep
Shannan Vance-Ocampo	16-Sep
Larry Griffin	17-Sep
Jeanine Burke	17-Sep
Brian Burke	19-Sep
Sarellen Hogan	21-Sep
Tom Imperato	23-Sep
Tom Mullen	23-Sep
Sofia Ocampo-Vance	23-Sep
David Krausse	25-Sep
Nancy Burke	25-Sep
Julie Mullen	30-Sep
Christopher Piel	30-Sep
Ellen Velasquez Billard	30-Sep

## ***Prayer List***

- Prayers of guidance and thanksgiving for *Jeremy Messmer* as he begins his ministry at WAPC

Prayers of healing for *Tom Ledder*, having shoulder surgery this week.

Prayers of thanksgiving for *Gail Brown* who received word that she is now cancer free after surgery.

- Prayers of healing for *Mateo Pua*, 7-years old with leukemia. Mateo is the son of a Presbyterian pastor in Colombia.

- Prayers for those facing famine and hunger in the Horn of Africa and for the relief agencies working to save them.

- Prayers of healing for *Colleen Parlman*, recovering from surgery.

Prayers of healing for *Luis Lugo*.

- Prayers of strength for *the people of Libya, Syria, and Bahrain*.

- Prayers of healing for *all of those affected by natural disasters*.

- Prayers of healing for the *City of Plainfield* and for the end of gun violence.

- *Alberta Vosburgh*, at Arbor Glenn Continuing Care, Rm. 636.

- *Helen Miller, Joan Brown & Estelle Kennedy*, at home.

## ***Did You Know!***

***The Bereavement Hospitality Committee*** was set up by Dot Fenz in 1996, to be of assistance to members of the church at the time of a death in the family. The purpose of this committee is to coordinate an informal luncheon or dessert to be served in the Parish Hall following a funeral or memorial service. Members of the committee set up, serve and cleanup in addition to supplying coffee, tea and dessert. The family of the deceased is responsible for the main course and paper products. If in need of this service or you would like to serve on this committee, please call Faye Steinau.

## ***Worship Services & Regular Meetings***

### ***Regular Sunday Schedule:***

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 a.m. Worship  
10:20 a.m. Church School  
11:00 a.m. Coffee/Fellowship

### ***Monthly***

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Holy Communion  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday FISH (Food Bank) Collection  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Healing Service  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday Session meets at 7:30 p.m.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday Trustee's Meeting at 7:30 p.m.  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Youth Group 11:30-1p.m.  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Men's Breakfast  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday Prayer Shawl Meeting 7:15 p.m.

## ***WAPC Schedule of Regular Events***

### **Sunday Schedule:**

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 am Worship  
10:20 am Church School  
10:55 am Coffee/Fellowship  
7-10 pm Iglesia Cristo Mi Rey  
Parish Hall

### **Monday Schedule**

8:15 am Head Start  
2:30 pm ASP  
7:30 pm Boy Scouts Parish Hall

### **Tuesday Schedule**

8:15 am Head Start  
9:30 am WIC (Tuesday)  
2:30 pm ASP  
7-10 pm Iglesia Cristo Mi Rey  
Parish Hall & classroom

### **Wednesday Schedule**

8:15 am Head Start  
10:00 am Bible Study  
2:30 pm ASP  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

### **Thursday Schedule**

8:15 am Head Start  
2:30 pm ASP  
7:30 pm Bible Study

### **Friday Schedule**

8:15 am Head Start  
2:30 pm ASP  
6-8 pm Girl Scouts Parish Hall

### **Saturday Schedule**

7-10 pm - Iglesia Cristo Mi Rey  
Parish Hall & classroom

***Visions*** is published monthly.

The due date for articles for the  
***October*** newsletter is:

**Monday, September 26, 2011**

Pastor: *Shannan Vance-Ocampo*

Pastor Emeritus: *Brooks Smith*

Director of Music: *Jeremy Messmer*

Visions Editor: *Kathleen Golmont*

## ***Key Cards***

We have a new policy for replacement of key cards.  
Due to the cost of the cards we will need to collect a  
fee of \$10.00 for replacement of lost key cards.

## ***Save The Date***



### ***Blessing of the Pets Sunday October 9<sup>th</sup>***

Pets on leashes/cages welcome to join us for  
worship, and then blessing outside the church on  
the front lawn after worship!  
Treats for pets will be served during the blessing!



## CHURCH SCHOOL

Calling all parents and friends of children at WAPC! Please reach out to Elder Cori Peloso at [coriandsteve@hotmail.com](mailto:coriandsteve@hotmail.com) to sign up to be a part of church school and the crib room this year. We have an exciting new curriculum for our children, [Feasting on the Word](#), which we are very excited about—we need everyone to sign up to be a part of leading our children in learning about God this year!

<b>Sunday September 4, 2011</b>	No Church School, Childcare Room open		
<b>Sunday September 11, 2011</b>	Rachel Weissenburger	Craft Sunday	
<b>Sunday September 18, 2011</b>		Matthew 20: 1-6	Rejoicing in God's Generous Love
<b>Sunday September 25, 2011</b>		Matthew 21: 23- 32	The Parable of the Two Sons

**North Plainfield Remembers**

**September 11<sup>th</sup>...**



**Mayor Michael Giordano, Jr.**

**North Plainfield Borough Council**

**North Plainfield Clergy**

**Members of the North Plainfield Forum**

**Invite the Residents of North Plainfield**

**to attend an**

**Interfaith Community Service**

**In Commemoration of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**of the Tragic Events of 9/11/01**

**On**

**Sunday, September 11, 2011**

**At 3 o'clock PM**

**The service will take place on the Community Center Lawn  
located on Vermeule Place.**

*In the event of bad weather, the service will be conducted in Saint  
Luke's Church, directly across the street from the Community Center.*

## PEACEWORKS' WORK DAY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Please help PeaceWorks  
prepare for our October 15 aid shipment to Nicaragua — Our 60th!  
Sunday, September 11 from 1 to 6pm  
United Presbyterian Church, 525 East Front Street, Plainfield, NJ



*No, Jim  
this is no time  
to do laundry!*

It's time to  
inventory, sort, pack,  
and clean-up the  
items that have been  
collecting with each  
passing shipment in  
the two storage  
rooms at the United  
Presbyterian Church  
in Plainfield.

PeaceWorks has been deeply grateful to the United Presbyterian Church in Plainfield for hosting our biannual aid shipments to the people of Nicaragua. They have even allowed us to use two rooms in which to store items that don't make it into the 45 foot cargo containers into which we pack over 1100 items each shipment. At times our leap of faith jumps a bit too far, but our last shipment on May 7 broke the record as we had to fill each room with materials that did not get aboard for the container.

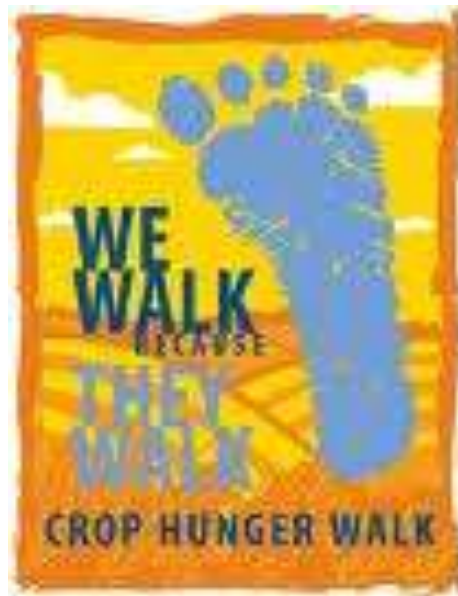
So now we need to assess just what we have in those rooms in order to determine how hard we have to press to gather enough materials to fill our October 15 cargo container.

We need enough volunteers so we can have two teams of 6 to 7 people who will remove, inventory, inspect, and repack all the stuff crammed into those two rooms. We plan to start at 1pm and work until 6 at the latest. We'll take volunteers out for Salvadoran food at Tia Rosa's afterwards. We need people of all sizes but especially those who will work hard and doggedly until the task is done.

***Please let PeaceWorks' Jim Burchell know asap if you can help on Sept. 11. Call Jim at (973) 765-9102, send him an email to [jburchell@peaceworks.org](mailto:jburchell@peaceworks.org), or send up smoke signals under appropriate weather conditions.***

# **WAPC HOSTS THE ANNUAL CROP WALK-- SUNDAY OCTOBER 23, 2011**

## **12:45PM--Rain or Shine!!!**



Join us for our annual CROP walk where we will walk to end hunger, bring awareness to the needs in our community, and support our Church World Service partners.

The walk kicks off on the front steps of Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church. ([Click here for directions](#)). We begin with a little bit of music and a prayer, and then head out for the walk. This is a great time to get to know others in the Plainfield/North Plainfield community and to be a part of the solution to hunger!

All ages and abilities are welcome, the walk also ends at Watchung Avenue where we will have some goodies, photographic memories from walks in years past, more music, and fellowship.

Money raised in the walk supports the ministry of [Church World Service](#) and projects directly in our home community. Want to help out? Contact Tom Ledder or Al Smith via the church office (908-755-2781 or [wapc@verizon.net](mailto:wapc@verizon.net))

[Sign up for the walk here](#)

[Download the form for walk here\)](#)

## Latin American Protestant leaders criticize U.S. budget decisions

*Presbyterian News Service  
by Jerry L. Van Marter*

**LOUISVILLE** — More than 100 Protestant leaders from 12 countries in Latin America, representing diverse denominations and ministries, have written an open letter expressing their concern over the economic crisis in the United States and the decisions being made by the U.S. Congress to address it.

In their letter addressed to Christians in the United States, the Latin American leaders urge them to “lift up the voice of the millions of people who do not have a part in the major economic decisions being made in Washington, D.C.”

They call upon U.S. government officials to recognize that the actions they take have consequences not only in the U.S. but also on the economies of other nations, and therefore in both the short and long terms, they will be affect millions of people in the countries of the global south.

Congress recently raised the debt limit of the U.S. by \$2 billion in exchange for budget cuts that will affect social programs that benefit the poor, not only in the U.S., but also in other countries, the letter states.

Expressing solidarity with the poor in the U.S., the Latin American leaders express their surprise and indignation at how the economic crisis has been addressed, and criticize politicians who “only embrace the interests of the rich, while preferring cuts to social programs that serve those in greatest need.”

“Paying more taxes will not bankrupt the rich. Cutting social benefits for retired people, the sick, and others puts the lives of such persons at risk. Is this not brutally unjust?” they exclaim.

The Latin American evangelical leaders encourage U.S. Christians to join the efforts already undertaken by various churches and Christian organizations, such as those leading the “Circle of Protection” movement, among others.

“Do not falter in your efforts, even though these may be lonely times for those whose prophetic voice does not appear to be heard by the politicians,” the letter concludes.

The letter is signed by a broad array of Latin American Protestant leaders: the presidents of the Protestant Councils and Alliances in countries such as Peru, Ecuador, Honduras, Argentina, Brasil and Uruguay, as well as directors of humanitarian aid and social action organizations.

It is also signed by such international bodies as the Latin American Council of Churches (CLAI), Fellowship of Evangelical Churches (CONELA), the Association of Reformed and Presbyterian Churches of Latin America (AIPRAL), the Micah Network, Red del Camino (the Network of the Way) , the Movement Together for Children and others.

Denominational leaders who are signers include the Assembly of God, Baptists, Church of God, Free Brothers, Pentecostals, Presbyterians, Methodists, Lutherans, Reformed, Episcopalians. Other signers include seminary rectors and presidents, directors of national Bible societies, professors of theology, and leaders of other professional Christian networks.

The full text of the letter, dated Aug. 18:

*Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,*

*We are fellow believers with you in the God who has never ceased reaching out to defend the poor and the excluded. We view with deep concern recent decisions in the United States that will add to the suffering of the most vulnerable members of U.S. society.*

*As people of faith who have ourselves lived through economic and political turbulence in recent decades, we join with U.S. religious leaders from all Christian faith traditions who are fulfilling their prophetic role by standing in solidarity with the poor. In such times, faith leaders must be true to their vocation and amplify the voices of the vulnerable millions that have been excluded from the heated political debates that have raged in Washington.*

*Those who govern should know that the decisions made in your country have consequences for the economies of other nations around the world. In the medium and long term, they will affect the lives of millions of people in the countries of the Global South. It seems to us immoral that politicians, with some exceptions, embrace only the interests of the wealthy, preferring to cut social assistance to those in greatest need.*

*We know the generosity and solidarity of the American people and the assistance programs to the poor that operate through churches and civil society organizations in Latin America.*

*It is therefore inconceivable to us that the wealthy make no effort to take responsibility for the debt generated by the country as a whole. Paying more taxes will not bankrupt them. Cutting social benefits jeopardizes the lives of the retired, the sick and others who are in need. Is this not brutally unjust?*

*Therefore we, the undersigned Christian leaders of Latin America, write to express our solidarity with the people of the United States, especially those who embrace Christianity, who call for a true and just resolution to this crisis — a crisis that is not only economic, but also, and above all, moral.*

*We encourage you to join the efforts of various churches, including those called "Circle of Protection." Our prayers are with you, dear brothers and sisters in the faith. Do not falter in your efforts, although these may be lonely times for people whose prophetic voice the politicians seem not to want to hear.*

*God is watching the politicians and will not stop telling them: "Give justice to the poor!" (Psalm 82:3)*

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### **El Centro Hispanoamericano**

Announces:

#### **English as a Second Language (ESL)**

Courses for 2011-2012

#### **Four levels of English as a Second Language (ESL) Instruction:**

**Beginner to Advanced**

**Plus -**

#### **An English Conversation Class**

In 2011-2012, El Centro Hispanoamericano will offer ESL instruction geared to students' English-language skills. Whether you are just beginning or you are well along in developing your skills, classes will be presented at your proficiency level.

Our brand-new English Conversation Class will also give students an opportunity to practice what they learn in class in an informal and relaxed setting.

Classes begin:

**September 10, 2100**

10:00am for registration

Each course is 18 weeks long

Courses offered during the Fall and Spring

**Be sure to sign up today to reserve your place in class**

\$25 for each 18 week course

The English Conversation Class is free to all those who register for an ESL course

**For more information or to sign up, please call:**

**(908) 753-8730**

Classes will be held at:

**El Centro Hispanoamericano**

525 East Front St.

Plainfield, NJ

We are located in the

**United Presbyterian Church of Plainfield**

*Our entrance is at the rear of the church.*

*Look for our blue and white sign just off the parking lot*

# NORTH PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY GARDEN

A Joint Mission Project of Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church and  
the Catholic Community of St. Joseph's

Cucumbers	109
Rutgers Jersey Tomatoes	40
Summer Squash	9
Zucchini	21
Broccoli	54
Cabbage	5
Eggplant (Italian)	28
Eggplant (Japanese)	11
Peppers (Bell)	29
Peppers (Jalapeño)	171

Our garden has gone crazy (in a good way!) this summer! We'll let the pictures speak for themselves, but the harvest has been plentiful, many of our sisters and brothers in



our community have been fed, and everyone has loved spending time in the garden. Here's the data on the garden as of August 31, 2011 (and remember, these numbers only represent what we remembered to count!). We are still harvesting into the fall, and then the plans are on for more expansion next summer! Thank you to all our wonderful gardeners!!!!





## North Plainfield

# Health & Wellness Information Expo!!!

This is a **FREE** community event for all ages

**DATE:** September 21, 2011

**VENUE:** North Plainfield Library, 6 Rockview Avenue

**TIME:** 5:00p.m. to 6:30p.m.

### Exhibitors:

- Somerset County Department of Health
- Somerset County Office on Aging & Disability Services
- EmPoWER Somerset

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*A wide range of information will be available; Examples include:*

- Nutrition
  - Substance abuse prevention
  - Cancer awareness
  - Emergency/Disaster preparedness
  - Other health and wellness programs available for FREE through the participating agencies
- 

The event will offer something for the entire family with activity booklets for kids on hand healthy habits, preparing for emergencies etc

**All members of the community are encouraged to be there!!!!**



Celebrating over 60 years and still growing

Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church  
**PETALS FOR PROFIT FUNDRAISER**

*We grow the plants to help your organization grow  
their funds!*

Shop at Parker Gardens between  
September 1st and December 30th and  
we will donate **10%** of all the proceeds directly to  
Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church

Just in time for all your fall plantings.  
Whether you're looking for annuals, perennials, trees or  
shrubs, water gardens, furniture and accessories, or landscaping  
service, Parker's 14 acres of greenhouses & garden center  
presents the area's **largest** selection of top quality plants and  
services with **expert advice** that is second to none!  
Voted Top 100 Revolutionary Garden Center 5 years in a row.

Just mention that you are from **Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church** at the time of sale and  
we will log the sale into your organization's account. At the end of the fundraiser, **10%** of the total  
proceeds will be forwarded to your organization.

***Parker Gardens***

1325 Terrill Road Scotch Plains, NJ

(908) 322-5552

[www.parkergardens.com](http://www.parkergardens.com)

Offer cannot be combined with other offers or sales.

# VISIONS October 2011

Most of the people I know will not join organizations. The concept of “membership” is a foreign one to most people today. I know many of us value and prize membership. We join, our names are on the rolls of members, we pay our dues, and we participate in activities.

But that’s not where many people are anymore in how they relate to organizations and membership. One of the reasons so many people I know my generation won’t join as “members” is because the idea has become empty to them. They have experienced organizations where they have been treated as just a name on a list, a number, and worst of all: someone to solicit for money without any tangible benefit.

People want to **be** more than that, and they want to **do** more than that. They want to be a part of groups and movements that invite them into leadership, encourage them to share their gifts, and help them grow and develop. I believe that people are looking for new ways of forming community.

Unfortunately, this “anti-membership-organization attitude” affects long-term congregations like ours that are membership-based. People who do not know anything about congregations, who have not had the joy of participating in them, can assume that we are like other groups out there that they have had bad relationships with. And as you and I also know, many people have had or heard about very painful experiences others have had with religious groups. These things stack up against us and we have little control over them. Until people experience who we are and what we are like, it’s hard for them to come in the doors and give us a try. It’s a real challenge for congregations today, because there are no easy answers on how to encourage people to give us that first try, and then to engage them in ways that allow them to use their gifts in ways that make sense to them, not to us.

Bob Goellner, Jeanne Fedoryk, and I are tasked with the jobs of long-range planning and church growth for the Session. We’ve been working on a variety of things, but we want to begin this fall with having regularly-scheduled Sundays where every single member of WAPC (no matter your age) to invite a friend to come and worship with us. We want you to reach out and invite someone who is not part of a church, who maybe doesn’t even know what “church” is, or who you think is looking for something more in their lives. **Invite them to join you on a Sunday at WAPC. You are our best advertisers and evangelists about WAPC because you love the church, you are here week in and week out, and you know the joys of being a part of this community.**

We are not asking anyone to join the church. We do not want to push membership on people, that’s not the point and we know that pushing membership will turn many people off and be counterproductive. Just an open invitation, no pressure, no strings attached. I believe if we live into an attitude like this we can grow our congregation and create an atmosphere of welcome for all people.

Just this past Tuesday night Doug Boylen, Bob Goellner, Mary Anne Ronk, and I went to a presentation of the Presbytery on our new Form of Government in the Presbyterian Church. A lot of it is technical, and can be a bit boring, but there is also some beautiful new language in the Church about who we are and what we do. Some of the best language in it

Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church  
170 Watchung Avenue  
North Plainfield, NJ 07060



Telephone: 908-755-2781 / 2775  
Email: [wapc@verizon.net](mailto:wapc@verizon.net)  
Web: [www.wapc.net](http://www.wapc.net)  
Fax: 908-756-7981

is about membership. I encourage you to read it and contemplate its meaning in your life. Just because we are members, part of the church, does not mean we stay in one place emotionally or spiritually! ***God does not call us to be stuck in our ways—but to be about personal and community transformation every single day of our lives!***

***Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ's mission. A faithful member bears witness to God's love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ's Church. Such involvement includes:***

- ***proclaiming the Good News in word and deed,***
- ***taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation,***
- ***lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support,***
- ***studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life,***
- ***supporting the ministry of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents,***
- ***demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church,***
- ***responding to God's activity in the world through service to others,***
- ***living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life,***
- ***working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment,***
- ***participating in the governing responsibilities of the church, and***
- ***reviewing and evaluating regularly the integrity of one's membership, and considering ways in which one's participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful.***

"Membership" in the church isn't about our name on a roster or the rolls. It's not about numbers. It's about the character and the quality of our witness as people who follow Jesus Christ. It's about transformed lives and transformed communities. It's about a radical choice to follow and lead. I am always much more excited about these things than counting heads, and filling out membership demographic forms.

Jesus was into a Way of Life—not numbers, and not statistics. Jesus was about transformation and about actively engaging the world. We have really, really Good News to tell our friends, family members, neighbors, and co-workers. We have something substantial and engaging to invite them into.

**So mark Sunday October 23, 2011 on your calendar. Make the commitment whether you are an adult, a child, working, retired—no matter who you are to invite someone to our church on that day.**

**The responsibility is for every single one of us. We want everyone to participate and to extend the hand of welcome and invitation in the name of Christ to someone you know.**

**And we'll let the Spirit do the rest.**

Peace,



Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo

Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church  
170 Watchung Avenue  
North Plainfield, NJ 07060



Telephone: 908-755-2781 / 2775  
Email: [wapc@verizon.net](mailto:wapc@verizon.net)  
Web: [www.wapc.net](http://www.wapc.net)  
Fax: 908-756-7981



Do you want to help grow the church?  
Not sure how to do this?  
Have a friend who isn't doing anything on Sunday morning?

**THEN THIS SUNDAY IS FOR YOU.**

We're not asking them to join.  
We're not asking them make a commitment.  
We're only asking them to visit us.  
Give us a try.  
See how God might speak to them.

So invite a friend.  
Someone who might be looking for something.  
That they might just find here.  
At Watchung Avenue.  
Where we

**Welcome Everyone**  
**Celebrate Diversity**  
**Follow Jesus**

**Reach Out**  
**Invite Someone**  
**Bring a Friend**  
**Sunday October 23, 2011**  
**10AM**  
**wapc.net**

# October Worship and Church Information

## October Worship

October 2<sup>nd</sup> **World Communion/Peacemaking Sunday**

**Guest: Rev. Milton Mejia from the Iglesia Presbiteriana de Colombia will co-celebrate communion.**

Sacrament: Communion

Scripture: Exodus 20: 1-20 &  
Mathew 21: 33-46

Sermon: "World Communion Sunday:  
We all Sit at One Table"

Interment of the Ashes of WAPC  
Member Robert Hildebrandt in the  
Memorial Garden following worship.

October 9<sup>th</sup>: **Pet Sunday/Blessing of the Pets  
11:15 on Lawn**

Scripture: Genesis 1: 24-31,  
Psalm 148: 1-5, 7-13 &  
Matthew 6: 25-33

Sermon: "Giving Thanks for the Gift of  
all Living Creatures"

October 16<sup>th</sup>:

Sacrament: Communion

Scripture: Exodus 33: 12-33 &  
Matthew 22: 15-22

Sermon: "Does God Want us to Pay  
Taxes?"

October 23<sup>rd</sup>: **Invite A Friend to Church  
Sunday/Crop Walk 12:45pm**

Scripture: Deuteronomy 34: 1-12  
Matthew 22: 34-46

Sermon: "Nothing to be Afraid Of"

October 30<sup>th</sup>: **Reformation Sunday  
Children wear Halloween Costumes to church**

Scripture: Micah 3: 5-12  
Matthew 23: 1-12

Sermon: "Remembering Where We  
Came From"

## Key Cards

We have a new policy for replacement of key cards.  
Due to the cost of the cards we will need to collect a  
fee of \$10.00 for replacement of lost key cards.

## Flowers For The Sanctuary

There are many opportunities to provide flowers for the sanctuary. **The 2011 Flower Chart** is posted through **December** on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Please sign the chart for the Sunday of your choice and complete all required information on the signup sheet. It is the responsibility of the donor to contact a florist (or bring flowers from your garden)

If you do not have a florist, **Gray's**, Rte. 22, in Watchung has been a good source (908 757-0400). If you want Grays' to deliver, make sure you instruct them to do so.

**Leslie Hansen** is also interested in doing flower arrangements; she may be called at 908 604-0337. Leslie will place your flowers in the Sanctuary on Sunday morning when she comes for choir.  
Gail Smith, PW Flower Chairperson  
(908-753-1249)

## WAPC Online

Don't forget to visit our church online!

The website is updated weekly with new blog posts, news articles, worship recordings and other updates! [www.wapc.net](http://www.wapc.net)

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook (click the links at the top of the WAPC website to join us on Social Media!)

## Dollars Destroying the Deficit!

If every WAPC member gave an additional \$1/day all year-we would eliminate 100% of the church deficit! We would have more funds for mission & ministry. Put your \$ in the DDD envelope found in your pew rack and then the offering plate each week.

**Visions** is published monthly.

The due date for articles for the

**November** newsletter is:

**Monday, October 24, 2011**

Pastor: *Shannan Vance-Ocampo*

Student Pastor: *Christopher Bailey*

Pastor Emeritus: *Brooks Smith*

Director of Music: *Jeremy Messmer*

Visions Editor: *Kathleen Golmont*

# Mission Opportunities

## *Mission Project—Help a Child*

School Kits are desperately needed in many parts of the world. School Kits give children in impoverished schools, refugee camps, or other difficult settings some of the basic tools for learning. As you buy school supplies for your children or grandchildren this fall, please pick up a few extra items to donate.

PW will be collecting the following items to be assembled into School Kits for Church World Service.

Blunt scissors (rounded tip)  
70-count spiral notebooks  
30-centimeter (12") rulers  
Hand-held pencil sharpeners  
New pencils with erasers (not sharpened)  
Large erasers  
24 count boxes of crayons.

Baskets will be placed at the Sanctuary doors all four Sundays in September for collection of school items. Thank you for helping a child to learn.

## *Local Mission*

WAPC partners with Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church on the **third Thursday of each month** to serve meals at the Plainfield YMCA shelter. Members of CAPC prepare the meals, and Pastor Rob and Barbara Martin transport and serve the meals. We volunteer to help to load the food, drive it to the Y and to serve the dinner. This is a great way for families to participate in mission together. Our next date to serve at the YMCA is **October 20th**. If you are interested in helping out, contact Gwyn Gronlund of the Mission Committee for details at 908-754-1251.

## *SHIP Needs Your Help*

SHIP (Samaritan Homeless Interim Program) HQ in Somerville was flooded during the hurricane and lost all of the supplies they store as well as their food pantry on the first floor. We are in need of new clothing and also canned goods and toiletries that we hand out to the needy that come to SHIP for assistance on a daily basis. If you can help call us at 908-393-. Let me know if you can help in any way or have questions. I pray that you and your families are safe and make it through this difficult time. **Tom O'Leary, SHIP's Captain**

## *Want to Help Out with a Local Mission Here in our Building!?!?*

The HeadStart Program needs volunteers during the day, 9AM-2PM!

- Classroom Helpers
- Read to the Children
- Arts and Crafts Leaders



Please contact Ms. Freda Oferi to sign up to help at 732-846-8888. A short background check is required, HeadStart pays for the expense.

**A great way to volunteer and be a positive force in the lives of the children of the North Plainfield Community!**



### ***El Centro-Hispanoamericano***

525 E Front St, Plainfield, NJ

Contact: Silvia Hernández, 908-753-8730

E-mail: [shernandez@elcentronj.org](mailto:shernandez@elcentronj.org)

The mission of El Centro is to assist immigrants from Latin American and elsewhere; particularly those who do not have access to publicly funded services. The center provides immigration and related free or subsidized low cost legal services, social services, education and advocacy regarding immigration issues. El Centro is housed in the lower level of the United Presbyterian Church in Plainfield since 1984.

### Volunteer Wish List:

Teach English as a Second Language

Conduct citizenship classes (training provided)

Help with research, grant writing, or non-profit administration skills

Clothes: winter coats and clothing for infants and toddlers

**Donations of unwrapped toys for Annual Christmas Toy Drive**

**Monetary donations for the purchase of non perishable food.**

# Presbyterian Women

## *Circle Of Hope*

Circle of Hope will meet **October 4**, 7:30pm, at the home of Peggy Bunnell.

## *Circle Of Joy*

Circle of Joy will meet **October 6<sup>th</sup>**, 7:30pm, at the home of Beverly Krausse.

## *Circle Of Grace*

Circle of Grace will meet **October 7<sup>th</sup>**, 7 pm, at the home of Judith Botzan.

## *Upcoming Events for Presbyterian Women*

All women of the church, of all ages, and their guests are always invited!

### **Saturday, October 15, 2011**

WAPC hosts Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery for continental breakfast and program, 9:30 a.m. until about noon.

### **Tuesday, December 13, 2011**

Women's Christmas covered dish dinner and worship service, beginning with punch bowl at 6:15 p.m.

### **Sunday, December 18, 2011**

Annual Cookie Walk, in Parish Hall, following worship. Everyone invited!

### **Saturday, January 28, 2012**

Day Retreat at Mount St. Mary House of Prayer, 9 am to 3 pm

### **Sunday, March 4, 2012**

Annual Soup Luncheon, in Parish Hall, beginning about noon. Everyone invited!

### **Sunday, March 18, 2012**

Basket weaving learning experience, all ages welcome, after worship, Bring bag lunch; dessert and beverages provided  
comforting shawls. Our Fall meetings are scheduled as follows:

**Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>**, at the home of Cathy Boleyn

**Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>**, at the home of Gail Smith

We will not hold an evening meeting in December.

### **Friday, April 13 to Saturday, April 14, 2012**

Spring Retreat at Stony Point:  
"How to be a Caring Congregation"

Stay overnight in a beautiful Victorian mansion and enjoy delicious meals.

### **Sunday, May 20, 2012**

Tea for women and their children, grandchildren or young friends, In Parish Hall after worship

### **Sunday, June 3, 2012**

Old Fashioned Strawberry Festival

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR AS MANY EVENTS AS YOU CAN!**

## *Women's Craft Group*

Bring your scrapbooking, knitting, or other projects and come enjoy each other's company, plus get a break from your busy week. We meet on Friday evenings from 7:30 – 9:30 PM - sometimes in the church library and sometimes at someone's house. We even go on field trips occasionally! Come join us whenever you can – just call Gwyn Gronlund (908-754-1251) or Marilyn Cortright (home: 908-753-2859, cell: 908-295-4754) to find out where we will be meeting that week!

## *Prayer Shawl Ministry Fall Meetings*



**Hearts, Hands & Stitches**, the Prayer Shawl Ministry of WAPC, continues to meet monthly. We stitch at our meetings and on our own time to create  
All evening meetings are held from 7:15 to 9:30 pm. We have a time of quiet, prayerful stitching, plan our projects, and have refreshments, of course. All are welcome to join.

Call Gwyn Gronlund for more information:  
(908) 754-1251.

# WAPC PEOPLE, BIRTHDAYS, AND PRAYERS

## October Birthdays

Ellen Lake	1-Oct
Kathryn Proffitt	2-Oct
Amy Cortright	3-Oct
Nancy Krausse Rackham	5-Oct
Michael Slattery	5-Oct
Mary Anne Ronk	6-Oct
Tom McCann IV	7-Oct
Joshua Ralston	10-Oct
Steve Peloso	12-Oct
Juan Gabriel Ocampo	
Valle	12-Oct
Shirley Ferri	13-Oct
Zamea Smith	15-Oct
Ethan Proffitt	16-Oct
Tim Young	18-Oct
Lance Proffitt	20-Oct
Steven Smith	22-Oct
Christy Thomas	28-Oct
Susan Langan	29-Oct

## Change of Address

Grace Hughes  
Cadbury at Cherry Hill, Apt. #355  
2150 Route 38  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

## Prayer List

- Prayers of comfort for the family of *Joseph Carmichael*, who passed away this week. Cards to Jeanne Carmichael can be sent to 333 E. 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Apt. 12J, NY, NY, 10016.
- Prayers of healing for *Jeff Marsh and his family*, he is recovering from a severe head injury, friend of Joe & Faye Steinau.
- Prayers for *Amanda Lake* who is incarcerated at Somerset Detention Center and for her family.
- Prayers of comfort for the family of *Manny Ferri* who passed away. Cards to Shirley can be sent to 445 Oakridge Avenue North Plainfield, NJ 07060.
- Prayers of healing for *Tom Ledder* recovering from shoulder surgery.

- Prayers of healing for *Mateo Pua*, 7-years old with leukemia. Mateo is the son of a Presbyterian pastor in Colombia.
- Prayers for those facing famine and hunger in the Horn of Africa and for the relief agencies working to save them.
- Continued prayers of healing for *Colleen Parlman* and *Luis Lugo*.
- Prayers of strength for *the people of Libya, Syria, and Bahrain*.
- Prayers of healing for *all of those affected by natural disasters*.
- Prayers of healing for the *City of Plainfield* and for the end of gun violence.
- *Shirley Ferri*, at Sunrise Assisted Living, Basking Ridge, NJ.
- *Alberta Vosburgh*, at Arbor Glenn Continuing Care, Rm. 636.
- *Helen Miller, Joan Brown, Helen Bradley & Estelle Kennedy*, at home. 1-Sep
- *Christopher Bailey*, Our Seminary Intern.
- *Edwin Estevez*, Our Seminarian.



**The Bereavement Hospitality Committee** was set up by Dot Fenz in 1996, to be of assistance to members of the church at the time of a death in the family. The purpose of this committee is to coordinate an informal luncheon or dessert to be served in the Parish Hall following a funeral or memorial service. Members of the committee set up, serve and cleanup in addition to supplying coffee, tea and dessert. The family of the deceased is responsible for the main course and paper products. If in need of this service or you would like to serve on this committee, please call Faye Steinau.

## *Worship Services & Regular Meetings*

### *Regular Sunday Schedule:*

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 a.m. Worship  
10:20 a.m. Church School  
11:00 a.m. Coffee/Fellowship

### *Monthly*

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Holy Communion  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday FISH (Food Bank) Collection  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Healing Service  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday Session meets at 7:30 p.m.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday Trustee's Meeting at 7:30 p.m.  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Youth Group 11:30-1p.m.  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Men's Breakfast  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday Prayer Shawl Meeting 7:15 p.m.

## *WAPC Schedule of Regular Events*

### Sunday Schedule:

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 am Worship  
10:20 am Church School  
10:55 am Coffee/Fellowship  
7-10 pm Iglesia Cristo Mi Rey  
Parish Hall

### Monday Schedule

8:15 am Head Start  
2:30 pm ASP  
7:30 pm Boy Scouts Parish Hall

### Tuesday Schedule

8:15 am Head Start  
9:30 am WIC (Tuesday)  
2:30 pm ASP  
7-10 pm Iglesia Cristo Mi Rey  
Parish Hall & classroom

### Wednesday Schedule

8:15 am Head Start  
2:30 pm ASP  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

### Thursday Schedule

8:15 am Head Start  
2:30 pm ASP  
7:30 pm Bible Study

### Friday Schedule

8:15 am Head Start  
2:30 pm ASP  
6-8 pm Girl Scouts Parish Hall

### Saturday Schedule

7-10 pm - Iglesia Cristo Mi Rey  
Parish Hall & classroom

## *The Abbott Society* *(The WAPC Legacy Leaders League)*

# Planned Giving

It is a pleasure to again report that the roster of members is growing significantly as more members have been added. We have now added **THREE NEW MEMBERS!**

The current members are NOW:

- Alice Abbott
- Doris Abbot
- Wayne Fabricius
- Dorothy Fenz
- Robert Foster
- Robert Goellner
- Robert Hildebrandt
- Harry & Beverly Krausse
- Fred Landsperger
- Al Smith
- Dick & Gail McKenna
- Brooks & Gail Smith
- Al Christ
- Dot Gannon

These folks have mentioned WAPC in their Wills and WAPC wants to make sure that they receive the recognition they deserve.

**If YOU** know of anyone else that has done this, or left WAPC a legacy, please contact Pastor Shannan or Bob Goellner, his email is [mr.bobg@yahoo.com](mailto:mr.bobg@yahoo.com) Shannan can, of course, be reached through the office.

If you would like information about how to remember WAPC in your Will or Estate Giving, please reach out to Bob Goellner who will be happy to speak with you.

# A Blessing of the Pets Ceremony

For any of your furry, feathery, or scaly friends

11:15am Sunday October 9<sup>th</sup>

Front Lawn of the  
Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church  
North Plainfield, NJ

(corner of Watchung and Fairview Avenues)

Human and Pet Refreshments will be served

†

All pets and their humans are welcome to worship with us in the Church Sanctuary at 10am and then join us for the Public Blessing following Worship! Yes, Pets can come to church this Sunday!!!

Please bring your pet in their appropriate leash, carrier, or cage

Questions/Directions: 908.755.2781 [www.wapc.net](http://www.wapc.net)



# WAPC HOSTS THE ANNUAL CROP WALK--SUNDAY OCTOBER 23, 2011

## 12:45PM--Rain or Shine!!!



Join us for our annual CROP walk where we will walk to end hunger, bring awareness to the needs in our community, and support our Church World Service partners.

The walk kicks off on the front steps of Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church. [\(Click here for directions\)](#). We begin with a little bit of music and a prayer, and then head out for the walk. This is a great time to get to know others in the Plainfield/North Plainfield community and to be a part of the solution to hunger!

All ages and abilities are welcome, the walk also ends at Watchung Avenue where we will have some goodies, photographic memories from walks in years past, more music, and fellowship.

Money raised in the walk supports the ministry of [Church World Service](#) and projects directly in our home community. Want to help out? Contact Tom Ledder or Al Smith via the church office (908-755-2781 or [wapc@verizon.net](mailto:wapc@verizon.net))

You can sign up for the walk and download forms at [www.wapc.net](http://www.wapc.net) or pick them up from Tom Ledder or Al Smith during coffee hour every Sunday after worship!



Celebrating over 60 years and still growing

WATCHUNG AVE. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
PETALS FOR PROFIT FUNDRAISER

*We grow the plants to help your organization grow its funds!*

Shop at Parker Gardens between  
SEPTEMBER 1st and DECEMBER 30th and  
we will donate **10%** of all the proceeds directly to  
Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church

Just in time for all your fall plantings.

Whether you're looking for annuals, perennials, trees or shrubs, water gardens, furniture and accessories, or landscaping service, Parker's 14 acres of greenhouses & garden center presents the area's **largest** selection of top quality plants and services with **expert advice** that is second to none!

Voted Top 100 Revolutionary Garden Center 6 years in a row.

**Just mention that you are from Watchung Ave Presbyterian Church at the time of sale and we will log the sale into your organization's account. At the end of the fundraiser, 10% of the total proceeds will be forwarded to your organization.**

*Parker Gardens*

1325 Terrill Road Scotch Plains, NJ

(908) 322-5552




[www.parkergardens.com](http://www.parkergardens.com)

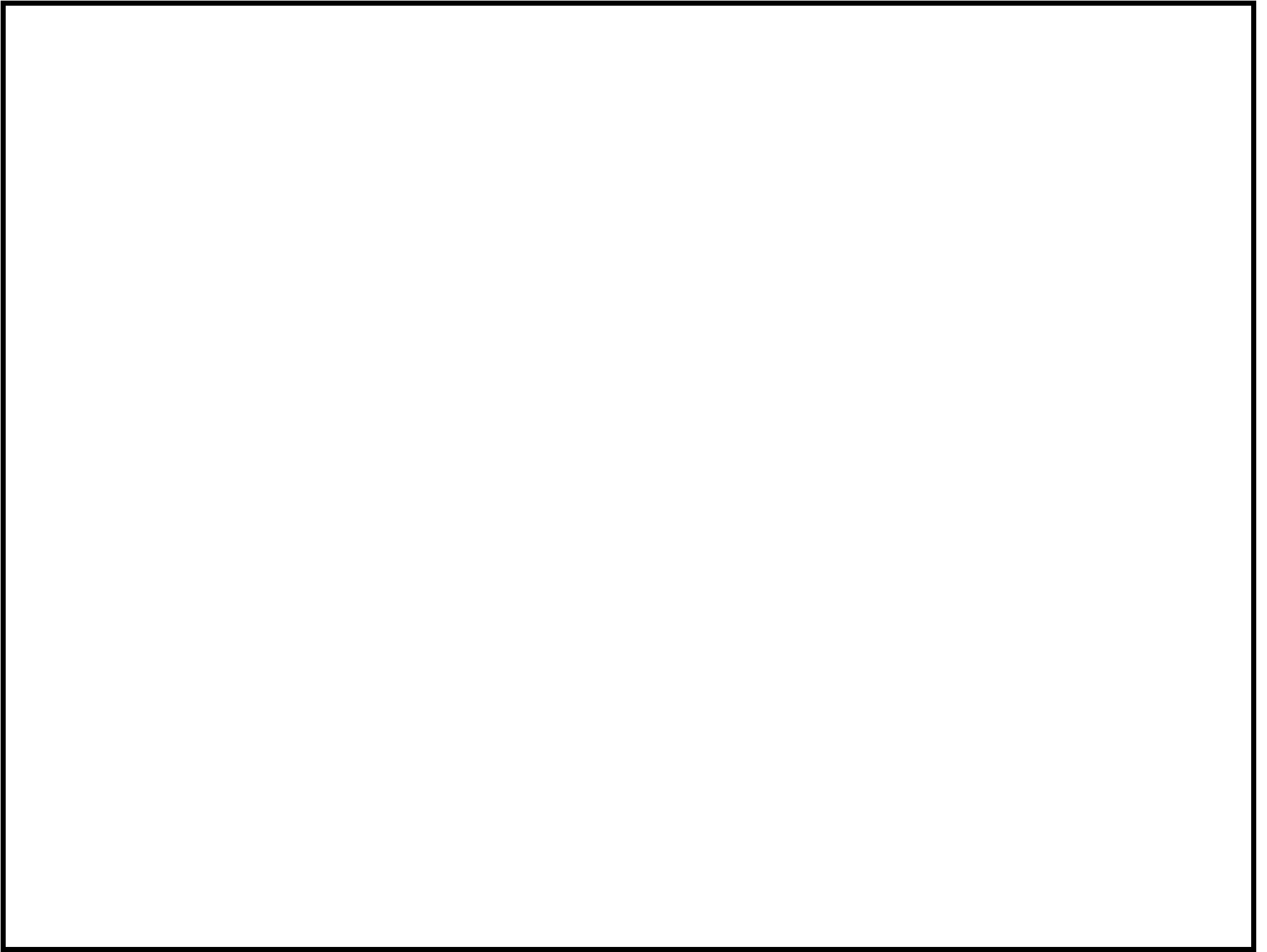
Offer cannot be combined with other offers or sales.



# October Church School and Youth Group Activities



	Church School Teacher	Church School Bible Lesson	Church School Theme of the Day	Special Activities	Youth Group Activity
<b>Sunday October 2, 2011</b>	Still Needed!	Matthew 21: 33-46	Learning Ways to Serve God	Communion Sunday	
<b>Sunday October 9, 2011</b>	Rachel Weissenburger Craft Sunday			Blessing of Pets After Worship, Pets Welcome in  Worship	Youth Group, Pizza and Movie Parent's Meeting (Youth) during movie All After Pet Blessing in Youth Lounge
<b>Sunday October 16, 2011</b>	Still Needed!	1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10	Thanking God for the Gift of our Congregation	Communion Sunday <b>Children's Choir with Jeremy—After Church</b> Teacher Training for Church School with Pastor Shannan in Library after Worship	Youth from Mission Trip (Summer 2011) helping lead worship
<b>Sunday October 23, 2011</b>	Joann and Kurt Hoppe	Matthew 22: 34-46	The Greatest Commandment and Hebrew Scripture	CROP Walk After Church  Bring a Friend to Church Sunday (all ages!) <b>Children's Choir with Jeremy—After Church</b>	Youth Group participating in CROP Walk 12 noon  Info and forms at: <a href="http://wapc.net/news/article.aspx?id=21">http://wapc.net/news/article.aspx?id=21</a>
<b>Sunday October 30, 2011</b>	Juan Gabriel Ocampo Valle	Matthew 23: 1-12	Jesus talks to religious leaders and we learn how to serve God	Wear your Halloween Costume to Church!  <b>Children's Choir with Jeremy—After Church</b>	



# VISIONS November 2011



There is so much going on these days around the church! October was filled with activity: World Communion Sunday, CROP Walk, Blessing of the Pets, Children's Choir, and Bring a Friend to Church Sunday! We closed down our garden with St. Joseph's, celebrating a wonderful harvest this summer to feed the hungry in our community. Some of us served at the Plainfield YMCA homeless shelter. And our usual activities continued.

November feels like it will be over before we know it. We are already beginning to plan and prepare for Advent and Christmas—and so part of me feels like November is just sandwiched in-between two very busy months, and that any moments in November to catch our breath will be well worth it later!

But there are also many wonderful things going on this month—ways for you to connect up with the life of our congregation! The youth group is going on a weekend retreat to Stony Point Center to continue with their building project. Wednesday morning Bible Study is restarting in a new format—and I want to especially invite those of you who are around on Wednesday mornings and do not normally come to Bible Study to come and give us a try—read through what we are going to be doing in the pages of this newsletter and come to join us! Brooks Smith is starting up a Toddler Play Group at the church on Tuesday mornings which should be lots of fun. And we are the host-congregation this year for the North Plainfield Community Thanksgiving Service on Monday November 21<sup>st</sup>. Father George Farrell who many of you know from St. Joseph's will be preaching.

And of course, there is stewardship. All of you have received information about stewardship for 2012. This is the time of the year when our Session is putting together the budget for next year, making plans, thinking about where to cut and where to grow. This is an important part of the life of our congregation, and I hope and pray that each of you will continue in your strong support in so many ways of this community of faith.

Take a look around at all the life and energy in our midst!

See you in church!

Peace,

Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo

# YOUR STEWARDSHIP GIFT AT WORK IN THE MINISTRY OF WATCHUNG AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Worship

Your gift enables us to engage in weekly uplifting worship where we draw closer to God in the community of faith. Worship is the touchstone event in our congregation. It is a time for praise, for renewal, for connections, and for fellowship. It is a time when we grow in our faith and are sent out into God's world as disciples of the Risen Christ. **Did you know that worship in a church is one of the few places in our culture today where the generations are together?** Worship is when we let go of our fragmented lives and are gathered together by the Spirit of God.

## Education

Your gift enables us to continue to offer Christian educational opportunities for all ages. In 2011 our families enjoyed the gift of Christian education in our crib room, church school, confirmation class, and youth group. We have a new curriculum this year for our church school children, and children's and youth choirs have restarted! Adults engage in study about their faith at WAPC through Bible Study, topical studies, PW, and classes led by our Seminary student and Pastor. **Study is a cornerstone of what it means to be a Presbyterian, and alongside worship and mission is next most important way we can grow in our faith.** We believe that the more we learn, the more we **grow** in our faith.

## Mission

Your gift enables us to continue to expand our mission. We support a variety of local, national, and international mission projects. We partner with other organizations to serve our community and beyond. Our congregation continues to support and welcome our After School Program partnership with the Plainfield YMCA, WIC, and HeadStart which share space in our building. In 2011 our youth had a wonderful mission experience to the Stony Point Center, they are planning mission retreats for Fall 2011, Spring 2012 and Summer 2012. We continue to expand local opportunities for adult outreach through CROP, Blanket Sunday, the homeless community in Plainfield at the YMCA, The Giving Tree, FISH, and our very successful gardening project to feed the hungry in our community. **Mission is expanding at Watchung Avenue, where we share the love of Christ with others, while growing our faith as disciples of Jesus!**

## Fellowship

Your gift enables us to expand our opportunities for fellowship. From coffee hour to groups such as Presbyterian Women, youth group, and other gatherings **we come to know each other, ourselves and God through our time of fellowship.** In fellowship we extend hospitality to our visits and guests—it is an opportunity to tell about the love of Jesus through how we care for each other.

## Church Growth

Your gift enables us to continue with our efforts towards church growth. We continue to attract new members and visitors to WAPC with our message of welcome and inclusion for all. In 2011 we are finalizing a major upgrade to our church website to tell our story to those who are seeking a church home, and we are expanding our ways of reaching out to current members through technology and local partnerships through the Plainfield Mission Group. **Our mandate as Christians is to always grow—telling all people the Good News!**

## Staff

Your gift enables us to continue to support our church staff which includes our Pastor, Music Director, Office Administrator, and Custodian. This year we welcomed Jeremy Messmer, our new Director of Music who is our newest addition to the church staff! In addition, we are a training location for Seminary Interns every year, and your gift enables us to continue our mission of helping to **train and send** new people into ministry every year—an important part of being the connectional church. We are one of the few congregations in our part of New Jersey with such a long and sustained commitment to this sort of training and leadership development!

## **CROP WALK 2011**

Thank you everyone who participated in our CROP Walk this year! 59 People walked—



from six congregations in Plainfield/North Plainfield!





## A CALL TO GARDEN

### N. Plainfield congregations grow fresh food for the needy



6:37 PM, Oct. 18, 2011 |

Written by [Mark Spivey | Staff Writer](#) for the Courier News, NJ

**NORTH PLAINFIELD** — The Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo couldn't help but notice a unifying theme at just about every food pantry she ever visited.

"Usually," the pastor of Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church remarked, "everything is canned."

Not around here, though — not anymore. The borough church has teamed up with the nearby Catholic Community of Saint Joseph to launch a community garden to feed the hungry, having grown more than 1,000 fresh vegetables since the start of the summer.

"People have really loved having fresh stuff," Vance-Ocampo said. "I think it's been a great project."

The bounty has included cucumbers, tomatoes, squash, broccoli, cabbage, eggplants, green bell peppers and even jalapenos. The idea for the garden was sparked when the owner of a local restaurant, Organigaya Cafe, held an organic plant sale this spring but found himself with a surplus when sales didn't go quite as well as expected, Vance-Ocampo explained.

"He had a lot that didn't get sold, so he just donated them to us," she said.

The garden quickly started drawing attention from both congregations, with about 20 people regularly chipping in by planting, tending to and harvesting crops. Members of Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church's youth group even got in on the act, using techniques they learned on a summer trip to a farm in upstate New York.

Many of the first season's vegetables have been harvested and prepared for donation alongside recipe suggestions, Vance-Ocampo said — noting that her congregation has taken the lead on managing the garden, while Saint Joseph handles the distribution end of things.

"They're across the street from us, so I think it makes it easier," she said.

The concept even has drawn the attention of other local religious leaders, some of whom called it a good example of a low-cost, high-reward, hands-on method of reaching out to the less fortunate.

"Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church's and St. Joseph's Church's efforts connect the dots between the health of the earth and the health of the community," said the Rev. Fletcher Harper, executive director of GreenFaith, a Highland Park-based interfaith coalition supporting environmental conscientiousness.

"It's been exciting to watch the growth of this ecumenical effort, and it is a real model for others around the country," he said.

And with the project's first year winding down, leaders already are starting to think about how to grow even more in the future.

"As a leader of a congregation, I know that the call of God is to feed those who are hungry, care for creation and build up the community. This garden gave our two congregations the opportunity to do all three, while also having a really great time," Vance-Ocampo said. "We look forward to continuing and expanding this mission and ecumenical partnership in the years to come."

Mark Spivey; 908-243-6607 ; [mspivey@njpressmedia.com](mailto:mspivey@njpressmedia.com)

# Blessing of the Pets

Thank you to everyone who brought your animals to join us for our special day of Blessing in October! We had a great time!!!



**Psalm 104:24-30** O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great. There go the ships, and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it. These all look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.

# November Worship and Church Information

## November Worship

- Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>: **All Saints Sunday/  
Daylight Savings Ends (fall back)**  
Sacrament: Communion  
Scripture: Wisdom of Solomon 6: 12-16 &  
John 14: 1-7  
Sermon: "Celebrating the Beloved  
Saints"
- Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>: **Stewardship Sunday**  
Scripture: Psalm 123: &  
1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11  
Sermon: "Offerings and Gifts for God"
- Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>: **Christ the King Sunday  
Rev. Brooks Smith Preaching**  
Sacrament: Communion
- Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>: **Community Thanksgiving Service,  
7pm. at WAPC/  
Father George Preaching**
- Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>: **First Sunday of Advent**  
Scripture: Isaiah 64: 1-9 &  
Mark 13: 24-37  
Sermon: "The Gospel of Mark in Advent  
and Beyond"

## Key Cards

We have a new policy for replacement of key cards. Due to the cost of the cards we will need to collect a fee of \$10.00 for replacement of lost key cards.

## F.I.S.H.

We are collecting tuna, small containers of mayonnaise, cereal, canned vegetables. Please no more PASTA, the basket is located in the Mission Room. The donations are collected and taken to the Food Bank every Sunday. The Food Bank serves North Plainfield residents in need.  
*Please give as generously as you are able.*

**Daylight Saving Time November  
6<sup>th</sup> fall back an hour!**

## Flowers For The Sanctuary

There are many opportunities to provide flowers for the sanctuary. **The 2011 Flower Chart** is posted through **December** on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Please sign the chart for the Sunday of your choice and complete all required information on the signup sheet. It is the responsibility of the donor to contact a florist (or bring flowers from your garden)

If you do not have a florist, **Gray's**, Rte. 22, in Watchung has been a good source (908 757-0400). If you want Grays' to deliver, make sure you instruct them to do so.

**Leslie Hansen** is also interested in doing flower arrangements; she may be called at 908 604-0337. Leslie will place your flowers in the Sanctuary on Sunday morning when she comes for choir.  
Gail Smith, PW Flower Chairperson  
(908-753-1249)

## WAPC Online

There are lots of ways to keep in touch with WAPC online!

- Our church website: [www.wapc.net](http://www.wapc.net) is updated all the time with new photos and information.
- Did you know we have a church blog? Oftentimes there is something on it to complement the Sunday morning sermon with more "food for thought" at home—and many times this is in video format! [www.wapc.net/blog](http://www.wapc.net/blog)
- We're on Facebook and Twitter too! Just go to the church website and follow the links in the top right hand corner of the main page of our website to connect with us on Social Media!

## Dollars Destroying the Deficit!

If every WAPC member gave an additional \$1/day all year—we would eliminate 100% of the church deficit! We would have more funds for mission & ministry. Put your \$ in the DDD envelope found in your pew rack and then the offering plate each week.



## Wednesday Morning Bible Study Is Back!

Bible Study is back and all brand new on Wednesday mornings!

We are going to begin our time together with video rather than with the Bible—using the series *Living the Questions*

Every week we'll watch a new, short video and talk about it. These video presentations bring together over thirty different and highly acclaimed scholars, writers, and other "experts" on open, broad-minded, and inclusive Christian faith. We'll hear their ideas about Christian faith in the world today—talk about it, and think together about what this has to do with our life as people who are seeking to follow Jesus. So come to Bible Study on Wednesday mornings! It's all brand new—and we'd really love to have you with us!



## Communion Help Needed

As we are celebrating Holy Communion two times a month, the Worship Committee is looking for 3 people to help with Communion on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month. This is a simple task that it is a big help with worship. Please speak to or call Beverly Krausse (908.757.6654) to sign up!



Pastor Emeritus Brooks Smith will be leading a Toddler and Parent Play Group  
Tuesdays @ WAPC  
11:45AM  
Parish Hall

Join us for fun, games, singing, playing, and fellowship with each other!



**The Bereavement Hospitality Committee** was set up by Dot Fenz in 1996, to be of assistance to members of the church at the time of a death in the family. The purpose of this committee is to coordinate an informal luncheon or dessert to be served in the Parish Hall following a funeral or memorial service. Members of the committee set up, serve and cleanup in addition to supplying coffee, tea and dessert. The family of the deceased is responsible for the main course and paper products. If in need of this service or you would like to serve on this committee, please call Faye Steinau.



## Coming In 2012: Family Opportunity

In our busy lives it can be difficult for a family to find a time to work together in service of others.

### **FACT:**

*The church enjoys coffee hour every Sunday.*

*The hour is important to our community:*

*a time for catching up with each other,  
a time for our youth to enjoy their youth room,  
a time for the little ones to enjoy the big kids,  
a time for the big kids to take care of the little ones.*

It seems a small mission. But we know it is not. We begin in January. We'll be asking. Better yet tell us to put your family on our list. [wapc@verizon.net](mailto:wapc@verizon.net).

**Visions** is published monthly.

The due date for articles for the

**December** newsletter is:

**Monday, November 21, 2011**

Pastor: Shannan Vance-Ocampo

Student Pastor: Christopher Bailey

Pastor Emeritus: Brooks Smith

Director of Music: Jeremy Messmer

Visions Editor: Kathleen Golmont

# Mission Opportunities

## *Mission Project—Help a Child*

School Kits are desperately needed in many parts of the world. School Kits give children in impoverished schools, refugee camps, or other difficult settings some of the basic tools for learning. As you buy school supplies for your children or grandchildren this fall, please pick up a few extra items to donate.

PW will be collecting the following items to be assembled into School Kits for Church World Service.

Blunt scissors (rounded tip)  
70-count spiral notebooks  
30-centimeter (12") rulers  
Hand-held pencil sharpeners  
New pencils with erasers (not sharpened)  
Large erasers  
24 count boxes of crayons.

Baskets will be placed at the Sanctuary doors all four Sundays in September for collection of school items. Thank you for helping a child to learn.

## *Local Mission*

WAPC partners with Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church on the **third Thursday of each month** to serve meals at the Plainfield YMCA shelter.

Members of CAPC prepare the meals, and Pastor Rob and Barbara Martin transport and serve the meals. We volunteer to help to load the food, drive it to the Y and to serve the dinner. This is a great way for families to participate in mission together. Our next date to serve at the YMCA is

**November 17** If you are interested in helping out, contact Gwyn Gronlund of the Mission Committee for details at 908-754-1251.

## *SHIP Needs Your Help*

SHIP (Samaritan Homeless Interim Program) HQ in Somerville was flooded during the hurricane and lost all of the supplies they store as well as their food pantry on the first floor. We are in need of new clothing and also canned goods and toiletries that we hand out to the needy that come to SHIP for assistance on a daily basis. If you can help call us at 908-393-. Let me know if you can help in any way or have questions. I pray that you and your families are safe and make it through this difficult time. **Tom O'Leary, SHIP's Captain**

## *Want to Help Out with a Local Mission Here in our Building!?!?*

The HeadStart Program needs volunteers during the day, 9AM-2PM!

- Classroom Helpers
- Read to the Children
- Arts and Crafts Leaders



Please contact Ms. Freda Oferi to sign up to help at 732-846-8888. A short background check is required, HeadStart pays for the expense.

**A great way to volunteer and be a positive force in the lives of the children of the North Plainfield Community!**



### ***El Centro-Hispanoamericano***

525 E Front St, Plainfield, NJ

Contact: Silvia Hernández, 908-753-8730

E-mail: [shernandez@elcentronj.org](mailto:shernandez@elcentronj.org)

The mission of El Centro is to assist immigrants from Latin American and elsewhere; particularly those who do not have access to publicly funded services. The center provides immigration and related free or subsidized low cost legal services, social services, education and advocacy regarding immigration issues. El Centro is housed in the lower level of the United Presbyterian Church in Plainfield since 1984.

### Volunteer Wish List:

Teach English as a Second Language

Conduct citizenship classes (training provided)

Help with research, grant writing, or non-profit administration skills

Clothes: winter coats and clothing for infants and toddlers

**Donations of unwrapped toys for Annual Christmas Toy Drive**

**Monetary donations for the purchase of non perishable food.**

# Presbyterian Women

## *Circle Of Hope*

Circle of Hope will meet **November 1**, 7:30pm, at the home of **Faye Steinau**.  
AND December 6, 5:30pm at **Giovanna's**

## *Circle Of Joy*

Circle of Joy will meet **November 6<sup>th</sup>**, 7:30pm.

## *Circle Of Grace*

Circle of Grace will meet **November 7<sup>th</sup>**.

## *Upcoming Events for Presbyterian Women*

All women of the church, of all ages, and their guests are always invited!

### **Tuesday, December 13, 2011**

Women's Christmas covered dish dinner and worship service, beginning with punch bowl at 6:15 p.m.

### **Sunday, December 18, 2011**

Annual Cookie Walk, in Parish Hall, following worship. Everyone invited!

### **Saturday, January 28, 2012**

Day Retreat at Mount St. Mary House of Prayer, 9 am to 3 p.m.

### **Sunday, March 4, 2012**

Annual Soup Luncheon, in Parish Hall, beginning about noon. Everyone invited!

### **Sunday, March 18, 2012**

Basket weaving learning experience, all ages welcome, after worship, Bring bag lunch; dessert and beverages provided.

### **Sunday, May 20, 2012**

Tea for women and their children, grandchildren or young friends, In Parish Hall after worship

### **Sunday, June 3, 2012**

Old Fashioned Strawberry Festival

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR AS MANY EVENTS AS YOU CAN!**

## *Women's Craft Group*

Bring your scrapbooking, knitting, or other projects and come enjoy each other's company, plus get a break from your busy week. We meet on Friday evenings from 7:30 – 9:30 PM - sometimes in the church library and sometimes at someone's house. We even go on field trips occasionally! Come join us whenever you can – just call Gwyn Gronlund (908-754-1251) or Marilyn Cortright (home: 908-753-2859, cell: 908-295-4754) to find out where we will be meeting that week!

## *Prayer Shawl Ministry Fall Meetings*



**Hearts, Hands & Stitches**, the Prayer Shawl Ministry of WAPC, continues to meet monthly. We stitch at our meetings and on our own time to create comforting shawls. Our next fall meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>**, at the home of Gail Smith.

We will not hold an evening meeting in December.

All evening meetings are held from 7:15 to 9:30 pm.

We have a time of quiet, prayerful stitching, plan our projects, and have refreshments, of course.

All are welcome to join.

Call Gwyn Gronlund for more information: (908) 754-1251.

Our two most recent shawls went to Shirley Ferri and Helen Bradley who look beautiful in their new shawls knitted with love!!!



# ***CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS AT WAPC***



## ***Christmas Gift Program***

Our wonderful tradition of giving to those in need is in its 28<sup>th</sup> year! Please pick up your gift tag on Sunday November 20<sup>th</sup> in the Parish Hall! Gifts will be due back by Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup>! Any questions, please contact Peggy Bunnell or Faye Steinau.



## ***“In Lieu Of Christmas Cards”***

An annual tradition at WAPC is making a donation to the church “in lieu” of sending Christmas Cards to fellow members.

The donations are used to assist our Christmas gift program. Send your donations to the church office by **December 11<sup>th</sup>**.

Givers will be listed in the church bulletin.



## ***COOKIES, COOKIES, COOKIES***

**We all love cookies!**

PW will have their annual **Cookie Walk on Sunday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>** at 11am in the Parish Hall. Cans of cookies will be \$4.00 each/\$1 extra for special cans. Think about cans of cookies as gifts.

Cookie Bakers are needed. Won't you prepare a batch of cookies 2-2 ½ inches in diameter? Label cookies for nuts, diabetic, etc. Bring your cookies to the Parish Hall before church on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Thanks everyone for supporting PW.



***Poinsettias***

***See flyer***



***Merry Christmas Advent Celebration***

***See flyer***



## ***Poinsettias***

We are beautifying our Sanctuary with poinsettias for the Christmas season. Come, worship and enjoy the display December 18, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

All who wish to share in this way of celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior are invited to fill out this form and place it in the offering plate or leave it in the church office.

All orders **must** be received with cash or a check.

Please make checks payable to: **PW in WAPC.**

***Orders with payments must be in by Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>.***

-----  
Given by \_\_\_\_\_

Please write in how many of each you would like to order:

\_\_\_\_\_ Red Poinsettias @ \$11.00 each

\_\_\_\_\_ White Poinsettias @ \$11.00 each

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up my plant(s) ***after*** the Christmas Day service.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up my plant(s) ***after*** the late Christmas Eve service.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like the committee to deliver my plant(s) to a member at home.

***My plant is given:***

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ To God's Glory for \_\_\_\_\_

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## ***Merry Christmas Advent Celebration***

All invited – 1 day to 100 years – everyone!

**Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

5:30 pm – Punch Bowl

6:15 pm - Covered Dish Dinner

***Reservations a must!***

**Christmas Program Fun for the Kids**

**Free-will offering to help cover costs**

---

Please fill out this form and place it in the offering plate or leave it in the church office by, ***November 27<sup>th</sup>***.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ # Adults: \_\_\_\_ # Children: \_\_\_\_

Please specify what you will bring:

Main Dish \_\_\_\_\_

Salad \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetable \_\_\_\_\_

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# WAPC PEOPLE, BIRTHDAYS, AND PRAYERS

## *November Birthdays*

Alyce Jenkins	3-Nov
Jim Roselli	4-Nov
Janet McCann	12-Nov
Robert Monteith	14-Nov
Louise Griffin	15-Nov
Nicholas Proffitt	16-Nov
Courtney Thomas	16-Nov
Marilyn Cortright	23-Nov
Sarah Kendall	28-Nov
Chase Michael Rapach	28-Nov
Lyla Anne Rapach	28-Nov
Catherine Lyttle	29-Nov
Wayne Young	30-Nov

## *Change of Address*

Grace Landsperger (Nov 5<sup>th</sup>)  
1129 Boynton Avenue, # 2004  
Westfield, NJ 07090

Grace Hughes  
Cadbury at Cherry Hill, Apt. #355  
2150 Route 38  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

Shirley Ferri  
Sunrise Assisted Living  
Basking Ridge,  
Cards to Shirley may be sent in care of  
Dana Miller: 3 Laomatong Way  
Bedminster, NJ 07921

## *Prayer List*

- Prayers for *Elizabeth Quintero*, recovering from surgery.
- Prayers for *Pastor Emeritus Brooks Smith* and his delegation's return from Haiti.
- Prayers of comfort for *Louise Thul* whose sister Barbara Spiegel passed away.
- Prayers of healing for *Marilyn Maier*, daughter of Helen Miller who has breast cancer.
- Prayers of healing for *Jeff Marsh and his family*, he is recovering from a severe head injury, friend of Joe & Faye Steinau.
- Prayers for *Amanda Lopez*, who is incarcerated at Somerset Detention Center and for her family.
- Prayers for those facing famine and hunger in the Horn of Africa and for the relief agencies working to save them.
- Continued prayers of healing for *Colleen Parlman* and *Luis Lugo*.
- Prayers of strength for *the people of Libya, Syria, and Bahrain*.
- Prayers of healing for *all of those affected by natural disasters*.
- Prayers of healing for the *City of Plainfield* and for the end of gun violence.
- *Shirley Ferri*, at Sunrise Assisted Living, Basking Ridge, NJ.
- *Alberta Vosburgh*, at Arbor Glenn Continuing Care, Rm. 636.
- *Helen Miller, Joan Brown, Helen Bradley & Estelle Kennedy*, at home.
- *Christopher Bailey*, Our Seminary Intern.
- *Edwin Estevez*, Our Seminarian.
- *Rev. Mamie Broadhurst & Rev. Richard Williams*, our mission co-workers in Colombia.

## ***Worship Services & Regular Meetings***

### ***Regular Sunday Schedule:***

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 a.m. Worship  
10:20 a.m. Church School  
11:00 a.m. Coffee/Fellowship

### ***Monthly***

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday FISH (Food Bank) Collection  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Healing Service  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday Session meets at 7:30 p.m.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday Trustee's Meeting at 7:30 p.m.  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Youth Group 11:30-1p.m.  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Men's Breakfast  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday Prayer Shawl Meeting 7:15 p.m.

### ***WAPC Schedule of Regular Events***

#### **Sunday Schedule:**

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 am Worship  
10:20 am Church School  
10:55 am Coffee/Fellowship  
7-10 pm Iglesia Cristo Mi Rey  
Parish Hall

#### **Monday Schedule**

8:15 am Head Start  
2:30 pm ASP  
7:30 pm Boy Scouts Parish Hall

#### **Tuesday Schedule**

8:15 am Head Start  
9:30 am WIC (Tuesday)  
2:30 pm ASP  
7-10 pm Iglesia Cristo Mi Rey  
Parish Hall & classroom

#### **Wednesday Schedule**

8:15 am Head Start  
10:00 am Bible Study  
2:30 pm ASP  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

#### **Thursday Schedule**

8:15 am Head Start  
2:30 pm ASP  
7:30 pm Bible Study

#### **Friday Schedule**

8:15 am Head Start  
2:30 pm ASP  
6-8 pm Girl Scouts Parish Hall

#### **Saturday Schedule**

7-10 pm - Iglesia Cristo Mi Rey  
Parish Hall & classroom

## ***The Abbott Society (The WAPC Legacy Leaders League)***

# **Planned Giving**

It is a pleasure to again report the roster of members!

Holy Communion

The current members are NOW:

- Alice Abbott
- Doris Abbot
- Wayne Fabricius
- Dorothy Fenz
- Robert Foster
- Robert Goellner
- Robert Hildebrandt
- Harry & Beverly Krausse
- Fred Landsperger
- Al Smith
- Dick & Gail McKenna
- Brooks & Gail Smith
- Al Christ
- Dot Gannon




These folks have mentioned WAPC in their Wills and WAPC wants to make sure that they receive the recognition they deserve.

**If YOU** know of anyone else that has done this, or left WAPC a legacy, please contact Pastor Shannan or Bob Goellner, his email is [mr.bobg@yahoo.com](mailto:mr.bobg@yahoo.com) Shannan can, of course, be reached through the office.

If you would like information about how to remember WAPC in your Will or Estate Giving, please reach out to Bob Goellner who will be happy to speak with you.

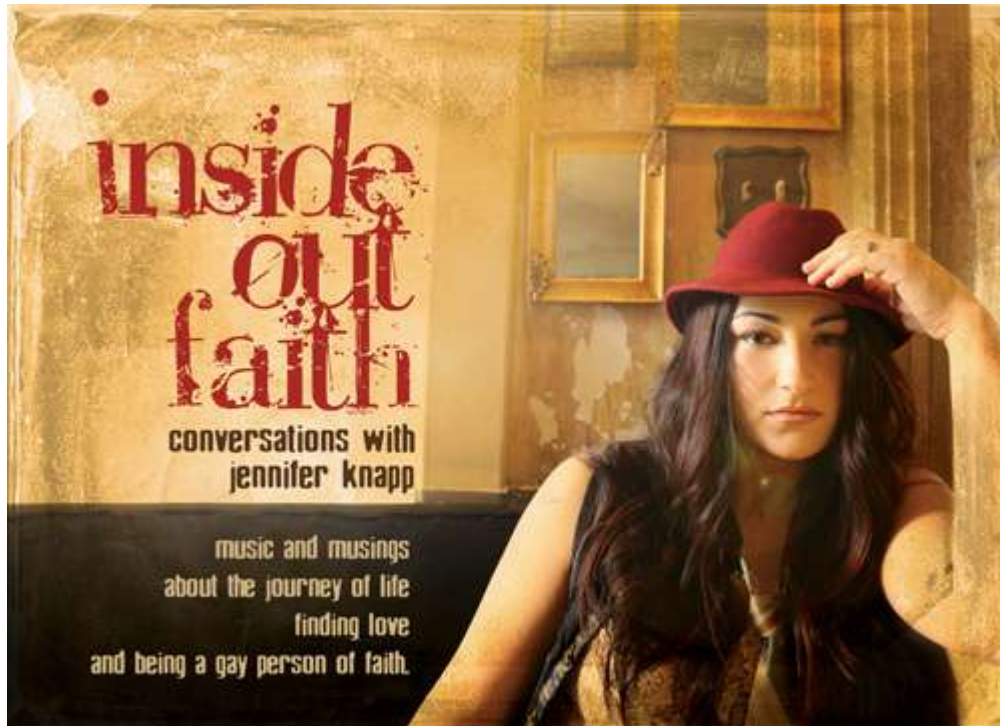
# NOVEMBER 2011 CHURCH SCHOOL/ YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES



<b>Sunday November 6, 2011</b> 	<b>Teacher Needed</b>	<b>Matthew 25: 1-113</b>	<b>How to Prepare for God Faithfully</b>	 Communion Sunday  Daylight Savings  Children's Choir with Jeremy	Youth Group Retreat Weekend at Stony Point Center, NY All Youth are Welcome, cost \$50/person, scholarships available. Sign up with Pastor Shannan at the church office, <a href="mailto:wapc@verizon.net">wapc@verizon.net</a>
<b>Sunday November 13, 2011</b>	Rachel Weissenburger Craft Sunday			Children's Choir with Jeremy	Youth Group after Church
<b>Sunday November 20, 2011</b>	<b>Teacher Needed</b>	<b>Matthew 25: 31-46</b>	<b>Parable of the Sheep and Goats</b>	 Communion Sunday  Children's Choir with Jeremy	
<b>Sunday November 27, 2011</b>	No Church School, Childcare Room Open			Thanksgiving Weekend	

**Sunday, November 6 at 7 PM**

**Bound Brook Presbyterian Church  
409 Mountain Avenue  
Bound Brook, NJ**



## **Inside Out Faith with Jennifer Knapp**

*Music and Musings about the journey of life, finding love and being a gay person of faith.*

Jennifer Knapp is a Grammy nominated and Dove Award winning artist with a successful career spanning over ten years. But there's more to Jennifer Knapp than her music. At an **Inside Out Faith** event, the songs become the key to unlocking her story.

As Jennifer takes the stage and the conversation unfolds, you will see an intimate side of the artist emerge, adding newfound depth and meaning to her music and lyrics. These are the musings of an honest, vulnerable and questioning soul, living out a journey of life, love and faith. It is unapologetic storytelling at its best.

Jennifer weaves her narrative with her music, and naturally draws participation from the audience, answering questions and sharing candid revelations of her experiences as a gay person of faith. This is unquestionably a *human* journey, one that resonates with shared expressions of love, acceptance and the challenge to embrace a more encompassing perspective for your own life's story.

<http://www.jenniferknapp.com>

**A freewill offering will be collected. Suggested donation \$20.  
All profit will benefit local flood recovery through the SADRC...  
Somerset Area Disaster Relief Committee**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**REPORT BY THE HAITI MISSION TEAM**

**First Presbyterian Church of Cranford**

**11 Springfield Ave., Cranford, NJ**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13**

**3 TO 5 p.m.**



**Friends in The Elizabeth Presbytery**

The Rev. Brooks Smith, Jack Dellipaoli of the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church and Skip Winter of the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford will be reporting on their recent mission trip to Haiti (October 24 to October 31). Through pictures and discussion, attendees will be able to hear first hand accounts about the current economic and social situation in Haiti and what is being done not only by PCUSA mission co-workers and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Aid, but also by many international relief groups that are working to improve the quality of life for the Haitian people.

The Haiti mission team will be visiting three locations during their visit. The Montessorri Teacher Training School in Liancourt was heavily damaged during the earthquake. We will observe the marvelous strides that have been accomplished in rebuilding this important center of teacher training. Our second stop will be in Leogane, the site of the St. Croix Hospital. The hospital was also badly damaged during the earthquake. Thanks to funds donated by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), families are once able to make use of the facilities. Our third stop will be in the town of Jeremie, where a health clinic is run by friends of health in Haiti and led by Dr. Katie Wolff, a Presbyterian elder from Kingston, NJ.



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time of sale and we will log the sale into your organization's account. At  
the end of the fundraiser, 10% of the total proceeds will be forwarded to  
your organization.**

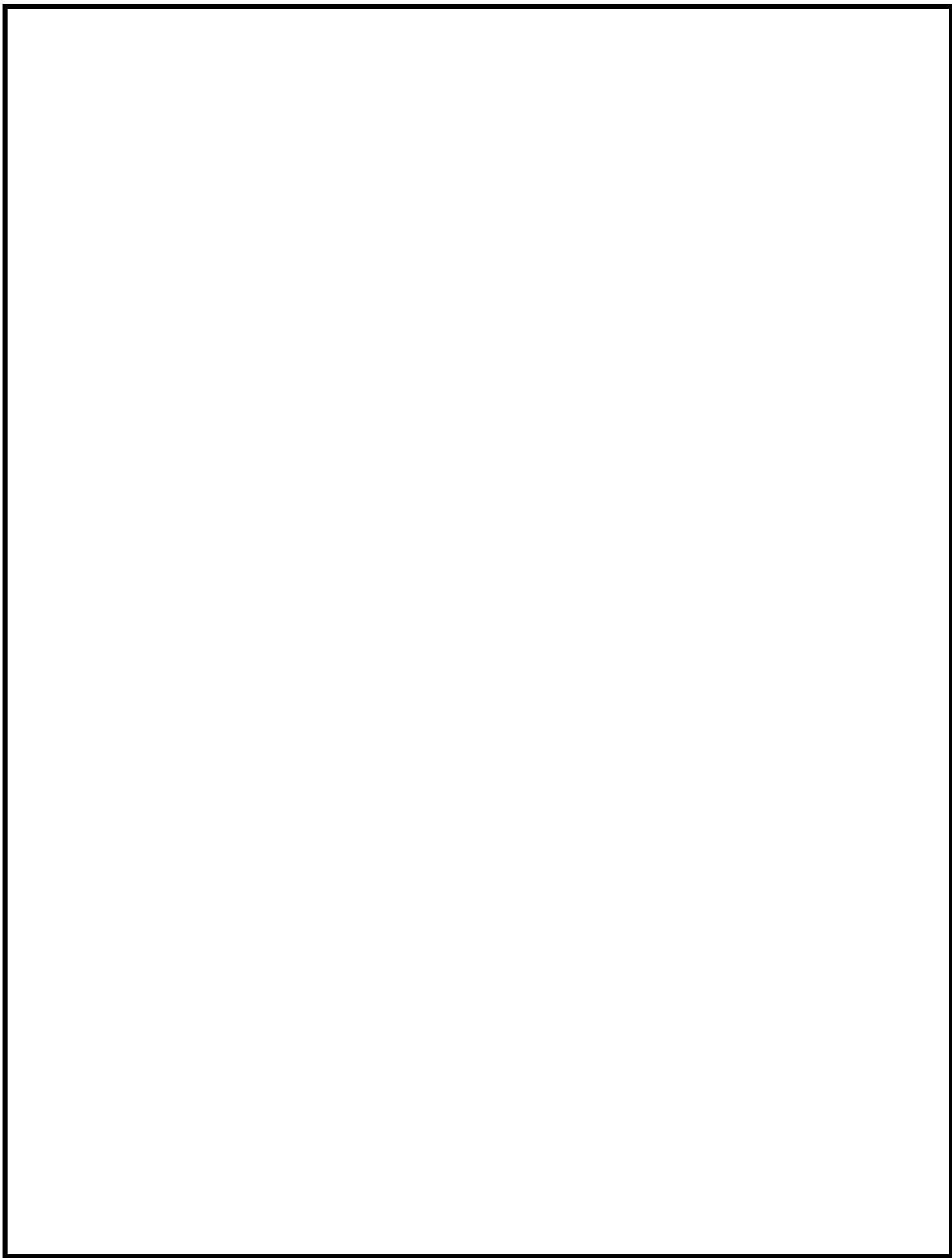
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(908) 322-5552

[www.parkergardens.com](http://www.parkergardens.com)

Offer cannot be combined with other offers or sales.





# *VISIONS December 2011*

## ***SOME IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT WORSHIP!***

Earlier this month CBS News Minnesota reported on a congregation in Minneapolis that made a daring move. The congregation was called to ministering to the many women in their community, some of them as young as 13-years old, who in desperation had turned to prostitution in order to make enough money to live on. As their ministry grew, the congregation opened up their church building to these women to help them rebuild their lives and move in new directions. But they heard something surprising from the women. The women told them that the church building where they came to find “sanctuary” also filled them with shame. As many of the women looked at the beautiful stained glass windows in the Sanctuary and were looked down upon by biblical figures, they worried about their separation from God and that no matter what they did, God would always judge them. At the same time a philanthropist from New York approached the church and offered to give the congregation a large donation in exchange for their windows. After much thought and prayer the congregation decided to take the donor up on his offer, selling the windows and replacing them with plain, clear-glass windows for their Sanctuary. “If these windows are a stumbling block to someone who wants to change their lives, the windows have to go. The gospel has to be real,” Rev. Alika Galloway, one of the pastors of the church said. She added that their “decommissioning will mean life for someone else.” The money from the sale will be used to fund the transformative ministry that this congregation is doing in their local community. The church now has windows where they can see “out” into their community during worship, and the community can see “into” the church. Clear and transparent.

I found this story very moving. The boldness and faithfulness of this congregation was inspirational to me. Their willingness to let go of something that I am sure was a beautiful and beloved part of their church building is a rarity in most congregations. Their vision for the future and willingness to dive headlong into God’s call in mission I see as a call-to-action for many congregations today.

What would it be like to be a member of a congregation that did something like this in the name of mission and service to God’s people? What would it feel like to be one of the women served by this congregation’s ministry—to know of the incredible sacrifice that others made so that you could have new life? What would it be like to live near that congregation, and know nothing of a church or how to be a Christian—but to hear about what they did—and be drawn to a story about Jesus?

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170 Watchung Avenue  
North Plainfield, NJ 07060



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Web: [www.wapc.net](http://www.wapc.net)  
Fax: 908-756-7981

**We are having conversations here in our congregation, and I can tell you that as I talk to my colleagues in ministry in our Presbytery and around our country—all their congregations are talking about the same things we are.** How can we best be faithful in God's world, today? How do we make do with less? Is there a different or a new way to live as Christians? What is more important to us, our building or our mission—is there a way to marry these things together? How I am called to live as an individual follower of Jesus—how am I called to live in a community that follows Jesus?

Our Session is talking about these things as well. In mid-November we had a retreat afternoon and talked about things we'd like to do with worship to invite greater engagement and participation. There are a few changes you should know about:

- We are going to try some interactive ways of praying with each other in worship during the season of Advent (December)
- We are thinking about ways to integrate more video and audio into worship in ways that make sense for our tradition
- We are committed to engaging more visual-artistic elements in worship starting in the New Year

**The last decision we made is a big one: we are going to try to worship at a new time once a month in the New Year for six-month as a trial period.** As we have listened to members of our congregation and community the feedback we are hearing from many (but not all) is that morning worship on Sunday does not work anymore in their lives. They want to be here, but they can't be here. For many of our younger families—coming to worship on Sunday morning means saying “no” to their children's participation in sports with their friends and it's a no-win choice to make. Some have told us that it is hard to “get up and get going” on Sunday mornings. Others find that weekends are their only opportunity to visit and take care of ailing relatives who are near but just far away enough to not be able to get back to the North Plainfield area on Sunday mornings.

So, here's the proposal: On the Second Sundays of each month (January to June) we will **not** have Sunday morning worship service. Instead we will gather for worship in the late afternoon on Sundays at 4PM. Church school will still be held during the worship hour. And instead of coffee hour, we will share a potluck meal with each other in the Parish Hall and have time for fellowship and dinner together. We'll have you out of here by 6PM so that you can get home and prepare for the week ahead.

I know that there is no perfect date or time for anything we do here at the church, (including worship) that will satisfy everyone. That's why we are having a trial period. Try this on for size, see what we think.

**The Session and I are 100% be open for your feedback throughout the process.**

What we do know is this: something has to change around here! We all know that we see less of each other on Sunday mornings for worship. We want to create the opportunity for more of us to worship together as a community—and do something new that says to those around us who are not here that we are willing to change, and we are willing to “do church” in some new ways to be responsive to the community around us.

The church in Minneapolis gives me hope. I know that they must have had a lot of give-and-take as they decided to jump into the mission that God was calling them to—which also meant letting go of something beautiful and beloved. It must have been a scary leap of faith.

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Fax: 908-756-7981

And yet they jumped.

They trusted that God was there to catch them—and then walk beside them.

I have that faith for our ministry at Watchung Avenue. I have faith that even as we take some risks and try some things that might be out of our comfort zone or even at a time that isn't usual for us that God will walk with us and that God will continue to provide for us. I have faith that God is not done with us, and that there are all sorts of new and exciting adventures in ministry ahead of us. I have faith that we can let go of some of our comforts, schedules, and tradition to make way for new life. And I have faith that we have all sorts of untapped resources just waiting to bubble to the top and be put to good use.

It is December—it is Advent. We gather in our homes around Christmas trees and crèches, we gather for worship in celebration of the Christ Child. Christmas is a reminder that our lives are not about the “stuff” we accumulate, gifts, presents—even buildings or beloved parts of buildings. Christmas is about celebrating the gift of the Christ Child—the gift of Resurrection that God offers us so that we can step into our lives with no fear—but trust, that God is with us, God is among us, and God is walking beside us. I am so grateful to our Session for their leadership and their trust, and I am looking forward with lots of joy to the Advent and Christmas Season before us and the new things that we will do together in the New Year!



P.S. If you want to watch the video about the congregation in Minneapolis and their story, it is up on the WAPC website: [www.wapc.net/blog](http://www.wapc.net/blog)

P.P.S. If you want to read more about what the Session did at our November retreat, that's also up on the church website: [www.wapc.net/blog](http://www.wapc.net/blog)

Peace,

Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo

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Web: [www.wapc.net](http://www.wapc.net)  
Fax: 908-756-7981

# YOUR STEWARDSHIP GIFT AT WORK IN THE MINISTRY OF WATCHUNG AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Worship

Your gift enables us to engage in weekly uplifting worship where we draw closer to God in the community of faith. Worship is the touchstone event in our congregation. It is a time for praise, for renewal, for connections, and for fellowship. It is a time when we grow in our faith and are sent out into God's world as disciples of the Risen Christ. **Did you know that worship in a church is one of the few places in our culture today where the generations are together?** Worship is when we let go of our fragmented lives and are gathered together by the Spirit of God.

## Education

Your gift enables us to continue to offer Christian educational opportunities for all ages. In 2011 our families enjoyed the gift of Christian education in our crib room, church school, confirmation class, and youth group. We have a new curriculum this year for our church school children, and children's and youth choirs have restarted! Adults engage in study about their faith at WAPC through Bible Study, topical studies, PW, and classes led by our Seminary student and Pastor. **Study is a cornerstone of what it means to be a Presbyterian, and alongside worship and mission is next most important way we can grow in our faith.** We believe that the more we learn, the more we **grow** in our faith.

## Mission

Your gift enables us to continue to expand our mission. We support a variety of local, national, and international mission projects. We partner with other organizations to serve our community and beyond. Our congregation continues to support and welcome our After School Program partnership with the Plainfield YMCA, WIC, and HeadStart which share space in our building. In 2011 our youth had a wonderful mission experience to the Stony Point Center, they are planning mission retreats for Fall 2011, Spring 2012 and Summer 2012. We continue to expand local opportunities for adult outreach through CROP, Blanket Sunday, the homeless community in Plainfield at the YMCA, The Giving Tree, FISH, and our very successful gardening project to feed the hungry in our community. **Mission is expanding at Watchung Avenue, where we share the love of Christ with others, while growing our faith as disciples of Jesus!**

## Fellowship

Your gift enables us to expand our opportunities for fellowship. From coffee hour to groups such as Presbyterian Women, youth group, and other gatherings **we come to know each other, ourselves and God through our time of fellowship.** In fellowship we extend hospitality to our visits and guests—it is an opportunity to tell about the love of Jesus through how we care for each other.

## Church Growth

Your gift enables us to continue with our efforts towards church growth. We continue to attract new members and visitors to WAPC with our message of welcome and inclusion for all. In 2011 we are finalizing a major upgrade to our church website to tell our story to those who are seeking a church home, and we are expanding our ways of reaching out to current members through technology and local partnerships through the Plainfield Mission Group. **Our mandate as Christians is to always grow—telling all people the Good News!**

## Staff

Your gift enables us to continue to support our church staff which includes our Pastor, Music Director, Office Administrator, and Custodian. This year we welcomed Jeremy Messmer, our new Director of Music who is our newest addition to the church staff! In addition, we are a training location for Seminary Interns every year, and your gift enables us to continue our mission of helping to **train and send** new people into ministry every year—an important part of being the connectional church. We are one of the few congregations in our part of New Jersey with such a long and sustained commitment to this sort of training and leadership development!

## ***STEWARDSHIP***

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Luke 12: 34

Thank you for your many gifts to Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church in 2011.

For 2012, please consider using the pledge form you received in the mail this week to let us know of your giving intentions.

It is very difficult to manage the Church's finances without fully understanding the expected revenue. That is why we ask you to make a commitment and pledge to the Church. No matter the amount, we appreciate your support and commitment to this Congregation.

If you need a new form, you can pick one up from the Mission Room or download one from our church website!

If you have any questions at all about the 2012 Stewardship Drive please contact the Church Office at [wapc@verizon.net](mailto:wapc@verizon.net) or 908.755.2781

Thank you for your ongoing support of the ministries of Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church.

-Stewardship Elder Mark von Bradsky

# *December Worship and Church Information*

## **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

Our Christmas Eve Services are as follows:

5:30pm – Christmas Eve Family Service and Pageant.

9:30pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

## ***December Worship***

Dec 4<sup>th</sup>: **Second Sunday of Advent**

Sacrament: Communion

Scripture: Isaiah 40: 1-11 &  
Mark 1: 1-8

Sermon: “John and Isaiah: The Prophecy!”

Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>: **Third Sunday of Advent**

Scripture: Isaiah 61: &  
Luke 1: 26-38

Sermon: “Gabriel: The Announcement”

Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>: **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Sacrament: Communion

Scripture: Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26 &  
Luke 1: 46b-55

Sermon: “Mary: The Repsonse”

Dec 24<sup>th</sup>: **5:30pm, Christmas Eve Family Service & Pageant**

Scripture: Isaiah 9: 2-7 & Psalm 96 &  
Titus 2: 11-14 &  
Luke 2: 1-14,15-20

Dec 24<sup>th</sup>: **9:30pm, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

Sacrament: Communion

Scripture: Isaiah 9: 2-7 & Psalm 96 &  
Titus 2: 11-14 &  
Luke 2: 1-14,15-20

Sermon: “The Birth of Jesus from Within”

Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>: **Christmas Day, Lessons and Carols**

Sacrament: Communion

Scripture: Isaiah 52: 7-10, & Psalm 98, &  
Hebrew 1: 1-4, 5-12 &  
John 1: 1-4

## ***December Holiday Schedule in the Church Office***

**Friday December 23-Friday December 30**  
**The Office is Closed**

**Please remember that for all gifts to the church for 2011, they must be postmarked by December 31, 2011. Anything postmarked after that date will be coded for 2012 charitable giving.**

## ***Key Cards***

We have a new policy for replacement of key cards. Due to the cost of the cards we will need to collect a fee of \$10.00 for replacement of lost key cards.

## ***F.I.S.H.***

We are collecting tuna, small containers of mayonnaise, cereal, canned vegetables. Please no more PASTA, the basket is located in the Mission Room. The donations are collected and taken to the Food Bank every Sunday. The Food Bank serves North Plainfield residents in need.

***Please give as generously as you are able.***

## ***WAPC Online***

There are lots of ways to keep in touch with WAPC online!

- Our church website: [www.wapc.net](http://www.wapc.net) is updated all the time with new photos and information.
- Did you know we have a church blog? Oftentimes there is something on it to complement the Sunday morning sermon with more “food for thought” at home—and many times this is in video format! [www.wapc.net/blog](http://www.wapc.net/blog)
- We’re on Facebook and Twitter too! Just go to the church website and follow the links in the top right hand corner of the main page of our website to connect with us on Social Media!

## ***Dollars Destroying the Deficit!***

If every WAPC member gave an additional \$1/day all year-we would eliminate 100% of the church deficit! We would have more funds for mission & ministry. Put your \$ in the DDD envelope found in your pew rack and then the offering plate each week.



## Wednesday Morning Bible Study Is Back!

Bible Study is back and all brand new on Wednesday mornings!

We are going to begin our time together with video rather than with the Bible—using the series *Living the Questions*

Every week we'll watch a new, short video and talk about it. These video presentations bring together over thirty different and highly acclaimed scholars, writers, and other "experts" on open, broad-minded, and inclusive Christian faith. We'll hear their ideas about Christian faith in the world today—talk about it, and think together about what this has to do with our life as people who are seeking to follow Jesus. So come to Bible Study on Wednesday mornings! It's all brand new—and we'd really love to have you with us!



## Communion Help Needed

As we are celebrating Holy Communion two times a month, the Worship Committee is looking for 3 people to help with Communion on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month. This is a simple task that is a big help with worship. Please speak to or call Beverly Krausse (908.757.6654) to sign up!



Pastor Emeritus Brooks Smith will be leading a Toddler and Parent Play Group  
Tuesdays @ WAPC  
11:45AM  
Parish Hall

Join us for fun, games, singing, playing, and fellowship with each other!



**The Bereavement Hospitality Committee** was set up by Dot Fenz in 1996, to be of assistance to members of the church at the time of a death in the family. The purpose of this committee is to coordinate an informal luncheon or dessert to be served in the Parish Hall following a funeral or memorial service. Members of the committee set up, serve and cleanup in addition to supplying coffee, tea and dessert. The family of the deceased is responsible for the main course and paper products. If in need of this service or you would like to serve on this committee, please call Faye Steinau.



## Coming In 2012: Family Opportunity

In our busy lives it can be difficult for a family to find a time to work together in service of others.

### **FACT:**

*The church enjoys coffee hour every Sunday.*

*The hour is important to our community:*

*a time for catching up with each other,  
a time for our youth to enjoy their youth room,  
a time for the little ones to enjoy the big kids,  
a time for the big kids to take care of the little ones.*

It seems a small mission. But we know it is not. We begin in January. We'll be asking. Better yet tell us to put your family on our list. [wapc@verizon.net](mailto:wapc@verizon.net).

***Visions*** is published monthly.

The due date for articles for the **January** newsletter is:

**Monday, December 19, 2011**

Pastor: *Shannan Vance-Ocampo*  
Student Pastor: *Christopher Bailey*  
Pastor Emeritus: *Brooks Smith*  
Director of Music: *Jeremy Messmer*  
Visions Editor: *Kathleen Golmont*

# Mission Opportunities

## *Local Mission*

WAPC partners with Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church on the **third Thursday of each month** to serve meals at the Plainfield YMCA shelter.

Members of CAPC prepare the meals, and Pastor Rob and Barbara Martin transport and serve the meals. We volunteer to help to load the food, drive it to the Y and to serve the dinner. This is a great way for families to participate in mission together.

Our next date to serve at the YMCA is

**December 15** If you are interested in helping out, contact Gwyn Gronlund of the Mission Committee for details at 908-754-1251.

## *Thank You To All Who Donated School Supplies This Fall*

Enough school supplies were collected to prepare EIGHT School Kits to send to Church World Service.

School Kits give children in impoverished schools, refugee camps, or other difficult settings some of the basic tools for learning.

A big thank you to Beverly Krausse, who always sews the colorful cloth bags for the school kits.

Thank you all for your generosity!



### ***El Centro-Hispanoamericano***

525 E Front St, Plainfield, NJ

Contact: Silvia Hernández, 908-753-8730

E-mail: [shernandez@elcentronj.org](mailto:shernandez@elcentronj.org)

The mission of El Centro is to assist immigrants from Latin American and elsewhere; particularly those who do not have access to publicly funded services. The center provides immigration and related free or subsidized low cost legal services, social services, education and advocacy regarding immigration issues. El Centro is housed in the lower level of the United Presbyterian Church in Plainfield since 1984.

### Volunteer Wish List:

Teach English as a Second Language

Conduct citizenship classes (training provided)

Help with research, grant writing, or non-profit administration skills

Clothes: winter coats and clothing for infants and toddlers

**Donations of unwrapped toys for Annual Christmas Toy Drive**

**Monetary donations for the purchase of non perishable food.**

# *Presbyterian Women*

## *Circle Of Hope*

Circle of Hope will have a Christmas Dinner on December 6, 5:30pm at **Giovanna's**

## *Circle Of Joy*

Circle of Joy will have a Christmas Dinner on Dec 4<sup>th</sup>, 2pm at the home of Beverly Krausse.

## *Circle Of Grace*

Circle of Grace will have a Christmas Dinner and Grab Bag on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm at the home of Dot Fenz.

## *Upcoming Events for Presbyterian Women*

All women of the church, of all ages, and their guests are always invited!

### **Tuesday, December 13, 2011**

Women's Christmas covered dish dinner and worship service, beginning with punch bowl at 6:15 p.m.

### **Sunday, December 18, 2011**

Annual Cookie Walk, in Parish Hall, following worship. Everyone invited!

### **Saturday, January 28, 2012**

Day Retreat at Mount St. Mary House of Prayer, 9 am to 3 p.m.

### **Sunday, March 4, 2012**

Annual Soup Luncheon, in Parish Hall, beginning about noon. Everyone invited!

### **Sunday, March 18, 2012**

Basket weaving learning experience, all ages welcome, after worship, Bring bag lunch; dessert and beverages provided.

### **Sunday, May 20, 2012**

Tea for women and their children, grandchildren or young friends, In Parish Hall after worship

### **Sunday, June 3, 2012**

Old Fashioned Strawberry Festival

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR AS MANY EVENTS AS YOU CAN!**

## *Women's Craft Group*

Bring your scrapbooking, knitting, or other projects and come enjoy each other's company, plus get a break from your busy week. We meet on Friday evenings from 7:30 – 9:30 PM - sometimes in the church library and sometimes at someone's house. We even go on field trips occasionally! Come join us whenever you can – just call Gwyn Gronlund (908-754-1251) or Marilyn Cortright (home: 908-753-2859, cell: 908-295-4754) to find out where we will be meeting that week!

## *Prayer Shawl Ministry Winter Meetings*



**Hearts, Hands & Stitches**, the Prayer Shawl Ministry of WAPC, continues to meet monthly. We stitch at our meetings and on our own time to create comforting shawls. Our winter meetings are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at the home of Fran Young

Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, at the home of Gwyn Gronlund

Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, at the home of Gail Smith

All evening meetings are held from 7:15 pm to 9:30 pm.

We have a time of quiet, prayerful stitching, plan our projects, and have refreshments, of course. All are welcome to join.

Call Gwyn Gronlund for more information (908) 754-1251

# ***CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS AT WAPC***



## ***Christmas Gift Program***

Our wonderful tradition of giving to those in need is in its 28<sup>th</sup> year! Gifts due back by Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup> ! Any questions, please contact Peggy Bunnell or Faye Steinau.



## ***"In Lieu Of Christmas Cards"***

An annual tradition at WAPC is making a donation to the church "in lieu" of sending Christmas Cards to fellow members.

The donations are used to assist our Christmas gift program. Send your donations to the church office by **December 11<sup>th</sup>**.

Givers will be listed in the church bulletin.



## ***CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE***

All women and friends are invited to our covered dish dinner and candlelight worship service on **Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**, starting at 6:15pm.

Bring a covered dish and let the Christmas Worship set your thoughts on Christmas.

Make a reservation through Circle chairpersons or the office.

An uplifting service & fellowship will help you get in the Christmas spirit. Our own Pastor Shannan will be delivering the message.

Please come to this wonderful event sponsored by P.W.



## ***COOKIES, COOKIES, COOKIES***

**We all love cookies!**

PW will have their annual **Cookie Walk on Sunday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>** at 11am in the Parish Hall. Cans of cookies will be \$4.00 each/\$1 extra for special cans. Think about cans of cookies as gifts.

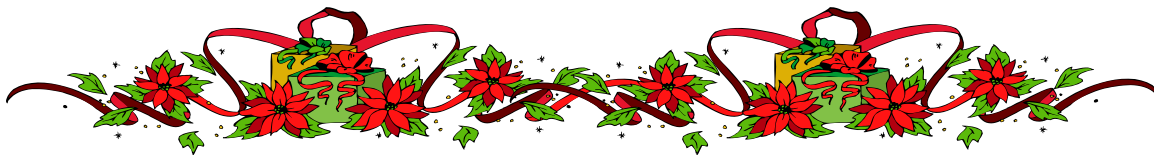
Cookie Bakers are needed. Won't you prepare a batch of cookies 2-2 ½ inches in diameter? Label cookies for nuts, diabetic, etc. Bring your cookies to the Parish Hall before church on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Thanks everyone for supporting PW.



***Poinsettias  
See flyer***



***Merry Christmas & Advent  
Celebration  
See flyer***



## ***Poinsettias***

We are beautifying our Sanctuary with poinsettias for the Christmas season. Come, worship and enjoy the display December 18, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

All who wish to share in this way of celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior are invited to fill out this form and place it in the offering plate or leave it in the church office.

All orders **must** be received with cash or a check.

Please make checks payable to: **PW in WAPC.**

***Orders with payments must be in by Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>.***

-----  
Given by \_\_\_\_\_

Please write in how many of each you would like to order:

\_\_\_\_\_ Red Poinsettias @ \$11.00 each

\_\_\_\_\_ White Poinsettias @ \$11.00 each

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up my plant(s) ***after*** the Christmas Day service.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up my plant(s) ***after*** the late Christmas Eve service.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like the committee to deliver my plant(s) to a member at home.

***My plant is given:***

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ To God's Glory for \_\_\_\_\_



## ***Merry Christmas Advent Celebration***

All invited – 1 day to 100 years – everyone!

**Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

5:30 pm – Punch Bowl

6:15 pm - Covered Dish Dinner

***Reservations a must!***

**Christmas Program Fun for the Kids**

**Free-will offering to help cover costs**

-----

Please fill out this form and place it in the offering plate or leave it in the church office by, ***November 27<sup>th</sup>***.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ # Adults: \_\_\_\_ # Children: \_\_\_\_

Please specify what you will bring:

Main Dish \_\_\_\_\_

Salad \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetable \_\_\_\_\_

# WAPC PEOPLE, BIRTHDAYS, AND PRAYERS

## *December Birthdays*

Wayne Fabricius	1-Dec
Gail Smith	5-Dec
Tom Ledder	5-Dec
Ashley Ralston	8-Dec
Liz Kendall	12-Dec
Tyler Parlman	12-Dec
Ruth Stagg	17-Dec
David Eichinger	18-Dec
Jeff Bunnell	23-Dec
Donald Triechler	24-Dec
Helen Miller	25-Dec
Michael Pollera	26-Dec
Michael Piel	31-Dec

## *Change of Address*

Grace Landsperger  
1129 Boynton Avenue, # 2004  
Westfield, NJ 07090

Grace Hughes  
Cadbury at Cherry Hill, Apt. #355  
2150 Route 38  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

Shirley Ferri  
Sunrise Assisted Living  
Basking Ridge,  
Cards to Shirley may be sent in care of  
Dana Miller: 3 Laomatong Way  
Bedminster, NJ 07921

## *Prayer List*

- Prayers for *Jeff Bunnell* recovering from surgery.
- Prayers of comfort for the family of *Arthur Metz*, who passed away, cards to Virginia may be sent to 459 Warfield Rd., North Plainfield, NJ 07063.
- Prayers of thanksgiving for the birth of *Jackson Cortright*, November 1, grandson of Tim & Marilyn Cortright.
- Prayers for *Colleen Parlman* and her family as she recovers from surgery.
- Prayers of healing for *Marilyn Maier*, daughter of Helen Miller who has breast cancer.
- Prayers of healing for *Jeff Marsh and his family*, he is recovering from a severe head injury, friend of Joe & Faye Steinau.
- Prayers for *Amanda Lake* who is incarcerated at Somerset Detention Center and for her family.
- Continued prayers of healing for *Luis Lugo*.
- Prayers of healing for *all of those affected by natural disasters*.
- Prayers of healing for the *City of Plainfield* and the end of gun violence.
- *Shirley Ferri*, at Sunrise Assisted Living, Basking Ridge, NJ.
- *Alberta Vosburgh*, at Arbor Glenn Continuing Care, Rm. 636.
- *Helen Miller, Joan Brown, Helen Bradley Elwood Whitely & Estelle Kennedy*, at home.
- *Christopher Bailey*, Our Seminary Intern.
- *Edwin Estevez*, Our Seminarian.
- *Rev. Mamie Broadhurst & Rev. Richard Williams*, our mission co-workers in Colombia.

## ***Worship Services & Regular Meetings***

### ***Regular Sunday Schedule:***

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 a.m. Worship  
10:20 a.m. Church School  
11:00 a.m. Coffee/Fellowship

### ***Monthly***

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday      Holy Communion  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday      FISH (Food Bank) Collection  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday      Healing Service  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday      Session meets at 7:30 p.m.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday      Trustee's Meeting at 7:30 p.m.  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Youth Group 11:30-1p.m.  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday      Men's Breakfast  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday      Prayer Shawl Meeting 7:15 p.m.

### ***WAPC Schedule of Regular Events***

#### **Sunday Schedule:**

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 am Worship  
10:20 am Church School  
10:55 am Coffee/Fellowship  
7-10 pm Iglesia Cristo Mi Rey  
Parish Hall

#### **Monday Schedule**

8:15 am Head Start  
2:30 pm ASP  
7:30 pm Boy Scouts Parish Hall

#### **Tuesday Schedule**

8:15 am Head Start  
9:30 am WIC (Tuesday)  
2:30 pm ASP  
7-10 pm Iglesia Cristo Mi Rey  
Parish Hall & classroom

#### **Wednesday Schedule**

8:15 am Head Start  
10:00 am Bible Study  
2:30 pm ASP  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

#### **Thursday Schedule**

8:15 am Head Start  
2:30 pm ASP  
7:30 pm Bible Study

#### **Friday Schedule**

8:15 am Head Start  
2:30 pm ASP  
6-8 pm Girl Scouts Parish Hall

#### **Saturday Schedule**

7-10 pm - Iglesia Cristo Mi Rey  
Parish Hall & classroom

## ***The Abbott Society (The WAPC Legacy Leaders League)***

# **Planned Giving**

It is a pleasure to again report the roster of members!

The current members are NOW:

- Alice Abbott
- Doris Abbot
- Wayne Fabricius
- Dorothy Fenz
- Robert Foster
- Robert Goellner
- Robert Hildebrandt
- Harry & Beverly Krausse
- Fred Landsperger
- Al Smith
- Dick & Gail McKenna
- Brooks & Gail Smith
- Al Christ
- Dot Gannon

These folks have mentioned WAPC in their Wills and WAPC wants to make sure that they receive the recognition they deserve.

**If YOU** know of anyone else that has done this, or left WAPC a legacy, please contact Pastor Shannan or Bob Goellner, his email is [mr.bobg@yahoo.com](mailto:mr.bobg@yahoo.com) Shannan can, of course, be reached through the office.

If you would like information about how to remember WAPC in your Will or Estate Giving, please reach out to Bob Goellner who will be happy to speak with you.



# DECEMBER 2012 CHURCH SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

**Calling all Animals, Shepherds, Mary's, Joseph's, Wise Men, and the Baby Jesus!**

We want all children and youth to join us in the Christmas Eve Pageant. Rehearsal is in the Choir Room each Sunday with Jeremy after worship!



<b>Saturday December 3, 2011</b>	Advent Dinner at the Church Crafts and Fun for all ages! Sign up and don't miss out on the fun, good food, fellowship, and singing!				
<b>Sunday December 4, 2011</b>	Jennifer and Walter Rodriguez	Mark 1: 1-8	Who was John the Baptizer?	Communion Sunday	
<b>Sunday December 11, 2011</b>	Rachel Weissenburger Craft Sunday				<b>Youth Group</b> with Chris Bailey Christmas Mission Project Meet in Youth Room after Worship Pizza will be served for lunch!
<b>Sunday December 18, 2011</b>	Juan Gabriel Ocampo Valle	Luke 1: 26-38	Mary waits with faith for the Baby Jesus	Communion Sunday	
<b>Saturday December 24, 2011</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Worship Services</b> 5:30PM—Children's Service, Pageant, Candlelight 9:30PM—Candlelight, Communion				
<b>Sunday December 25, 2011</b>	No Church School, Family Worship			Christmas Day	

# **My Grandfather, “Leader of The Year”**

**By Chris Piel**

**When I was in the eighth grade, I had to pick a person and write who I believed should be “Leader of The Year”. I didn’t have to think about who I would pick, I just knew. I started to ask my Grandfather so many questions and I got so many amazing answers. I talked to Grandfather for hours on end. It was the best time of my life. It was definitely better than school, no doubt. I loved my Grandfather because he was a war Veteran, a husband, and a very wise man.**

**This is what I wrote:**

**Dear Mr Stengel,**

**I am writing you today to ask that my grandfather, Arthur Metz be featured in Time Magazine as “Leader of the Year.” My grandfather possesses three traits of a great leader. He is strong, smart and determined.**

**All of these qualities were present when he served in the military during World War Two. He was the smartest man on the base. My grandfather wanted to be a pilot but he couldn’t because he wore glasses. So instead of flying he became a mechanic for the air planes and taught others. He knew every nut and bolt, screw, spark plug and wing bolt that made the plane fly.**

**Next, my grandfather was determined. He risked his life for his country. He was a teacher at heart and was determined to pass along his knowledge of air planes to others. Nothing was too big or small to teach others.**

**Lastly my grandfather was strong. He might not look physically strong but inside he had the strength of 10 strong men. Nothing was ever too hard for him to accomplish. If he wanted to do something he did it, no mater what. He looked at life as a new beginning each and every day. He values friendship and his service friendships lasted for years after he left the base. Also family is everything to him.**

**Based on the information I have provided, I would like to have my Grandfather considered for this grand honor.**

**My Grandfather in everyway was the greatest. He was my hero, he was my friend.**



## **EL CENTRO HISPANOAMERICANO**

SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES SINCE 1984

525 East Front Street, Plainfield, NJ 07060 – [www.elcentronj.org](http://www.elcentronj.org)

# **COAT DRIVE**



**For those in need in the Plainfield Area**

**El Centro Hispanoamericano needs your  
clean, reusable coats (all sizes) and  
children's clothes (ages 6 months-11 years old),  
by December 15.**

All the items collected will be given away during the Annual  
Christmas Party for needed families that will be held on  
Saturday, December 17 at the Fellowship room of United  
Presbyterian Church in Plainfield.

**For more information please call:**

**Phone: (908) 753-8730**





Celebrating over 60 years and still growing

WATCHUNG AVE.  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
PETALS FOR PROFIT FUNDRAISER

*We grow the plants to help your  
organization grow its funds!*

Shop at Parker Gardens between  
SEPTEMBER 1st and DECEMBER 30th and  
we will donate **10%** of all the proceeds directly to  
Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church

Just in time for all your fall plantings.

Whether you're looking for annuals, perennials, trees or shrubs,  
water gardens, furniture and accessories, or landscaping service,  
Parker's 14 acres of greenhouses & garden center presents the  
area's **largest** selection of top quality plants and services with  
**expert advice** that is second to none!

Voted Top 100 Revolutionary Garden Center 6 years in a row.

**Just mention that you are from Watchung Ave Presbyterian Church at the  
time of sale and we will log the sale into your organization's account. At  
the end of the fundraiser, 10% of the total proceeds will be forwarded to  
your organization.**

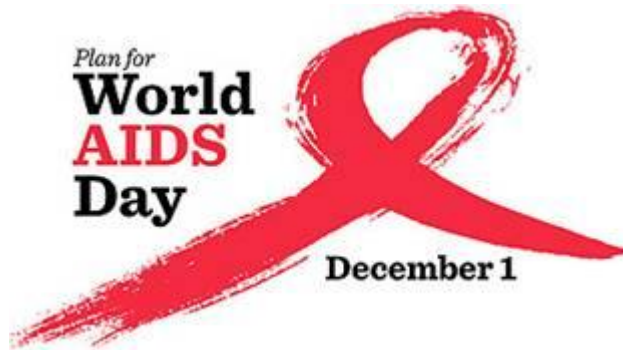
***Parker Gardens***

1325 Terrill Road Scotch Plains, NJ

(908) 322-5552

[www.parkergardens.com](http://www.parkergardens.com)

Offer cannot be combined with other offers or sales.



The Red Ribbon Fellowship and the  
First Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth  
will hold their World AIDS Day service on  
Thursday, December 1 at 7 pm.

Theme: "Getting to Zero"  
that focuses on the goals of zero new infections,  
zero discrimination,  
and zero AIDS-related deaths.

Everybody is welcome!

42 Broad St., Elizabeth, NJ 07201  
908-353-1518

ANOTHER PEACEWORKS'

# LEAP OF FAITH

*Oct. 15, 2011 — our 60th aid shipment for the people of Nicaragua*



## CELEBRATING SHARING

*Many people, many varied groups, many leaps make our aid containers possible. Here's our story . . .*

(Above: adults and students from Gill St. Bernards School and members of a North Plainfield Boy Scout troop worked through the morning to sort, pack, and label a huge assortment of aid, setting us up for a successful day.)

by Jim Burchell, PeaceWorks' Director

Inspired by our Nicaraguan partner organizations, we took on our 60th aid shipment on a perfect October day, sorting, packing, labeling, and steadily loading towards filling the cavernous 45 foot cargo container. We knew that with this aid, Inhiyambia would save more young people from the dangers of exploitation and drugs; FEDICAMP would nurture an agriculture of life through reforestation and organic gardening; and the Masaya Women's Collectives would empower through literacy and economic independence. They turn our good intentions and eleven hundred boxes and items of aid into good works, helping fulfill the dreams and hopes of individuals, organizations, and communities.

Our aid shipments take many small steps to accomplish this huge leap of faith each time we begin raising the funds and collecting the materials

necessary to make fill the container and to pay for the shipping costs, steps taken by a wide array of people from all walks of life. It especially takes the steadfastness and generosity of the United Presbyterian Church, who have hosted and sustained our aid shipments since the late 1980's.



getting it done



**The Task — Filling 45 Feet Container**  
It might take a village to raise a child but it takes an extended community of sharing and action to collect enough life-affirming materials to pack into this huge, beaten-up cargo container taking on the materials at the United Presbyterian Church. We could not do these shipments without Pioneer Freight Systems' and Michael McCabe's help with obtaining, moving and helping load the cargo container.



**A Multi-Dimensional Jig Saw Puzzle**  
Ray Monahan and Guy Talbot load the last few feet of the container, tackling the task as one would a jig-saw puzzle. Along with others, they struggle to fit in boxes of all sizes along with bicycles, wheel chairs, crutches, and other odd-shaped items, all cushioned by hundreds of small bags packed with clothing that get crammed into every nook and cranny. The loose and bagged clothes will be given to FEDICAMP to help communities affected by recent massive flooding.

(Left: Peggy Waldman, Nancy Myuka, and Maurice Devroye take a break from sorting and packing materials.)

*"we work shoulder to shoulder . . . in this task of human dignity . . . to give true meaning to our lives."*

I start collecting weeks before the loading date. We got a huge boost from a collection of school supplies from the Quest for Peace Clean Your Desk network. During shipment week, I rent a truck and gather bicycles from Jim Viroso, as well as with an assortment of crutches, walkers, and more from Naomi Theiss. This year a Drew University PeaceWorks' intern, Jason Hammond, helped me tremendously during the two weeks before the shipment day and on the day itself.

Then it's on to Pioneer Freight Systems shipping yard where we unloaded my 17ft truck, this year with the help of Guy Talbot and Jason to get a big head start on the next day's loading.

The long day at United Presbyterian Church in Plainfield starts early with me and Jason arriving with my truck, opening storage rooms, and greeting Skip Hansen, the wonderful person from United who gets the coffee and food going for volunteers. We cannot imagine a shipment without Skip and of all the people at United Presbyterian.

It's organized confusion as all the aid and volunteers come in with groups stuffing clothes into bags, others packing boxes, and some sorting.

Cleta Ciulla, Bill Paolino, and friends came in from Rockland County, NY with a truckload for San Marcos, Jinotega, and Omotepe. And our long-time shipping partners and supporters from Christ Church in Summit led by



Container diehards — the hardy ones who stayed to the door-closing of 8:53pm as well as cleaning up the loading and storage areas. Left to right: Michael McCabe, Jason Hammond, Peggy Waldman, Guy Talbot, Nancy Myrka, Dan Ocone, Maurice Devroye, Ray Monahan, and Marilyn Devroye.

Dan Ocone and Maurice Devroye, came in with lots of supplies for Inhijambia and the street children. Jim Walker came in from Vermont with a load of school supplies for Solentiname.

*Many people work throughout the day — we are deeply grateful for their help, enthusiasm, good humor, and patience — especially in the tedious, exhausting last few hours*

We were able to load all the materials donated and packed that day. We also put many items we had kept in two storage rooms onto the container. By 8:53 we shut the cargo container doors and cleaned up the loading area. Michael drove off with the container by about 9:30 and the diehards set off for a Salvadoran restaurant for a well-earned meal and home for a good night's sleep.

## Tally of Life-Affirming Aid

Here's the shipment inventory  
(made possible by hundreds of people):

Clothes and shoes	199	School Supplies	280	Household Items	136	Toys	70
Office Equipment and Supplies	43	Sewing	9	Sports	77	Tools	66
Medical Supplies and Equipment	174	Musical Instruments	9	Adult Bicycles	51		
Child Bicycles	17	Computer Components	19				
Hygiene	15	Miscellaneous	8				
Total Items						1172	

Left: Bill, Cleta, and Roger — our long-term shipping partners from Rockland Co., NY — celebrate their unloading of supplies destined for San Marcos, Jinotega, and Omotepe; boxes await loading onto the container; and two year-old Amina gets the hang of using packing tape in preparation for loading many future containers.



