Visions

Welcoming Everyone
Celebrating Diversity
Following Jesus

January 2015



Dear brothers and sisters,

Jeff and John Blackadar are in the furnace room, right at this very moment, working hard to remove the broken furnace and install the shiny new one. Today is Thursday December 18, 2014. We have been without heat in the sanctuary since Wednesday November 26st.

I have noted the timeframe because I stand in awe of how well the WAPC community has dealt with this crisis. From my perspective we have all been flexible, understanding, and loving in our exchanges with one another. The Administration Team has been supportive of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. The Buildings and Grounds Committee has been respectful and inclusive of the Administration Team. Session has taken a careful look at the financial implications and has made responsible choices about where the funds will come from. The congregation has been informed of what's going on in a timely manner, and for the most part we have not complained about the inconvenience. Nobody panicked. We trusted one another to do what is best for the entire church – even if it meant worshipping in the Parish Hall for 3 Sundays in a row.

This, my friends, is the best example of Christian Community I could ever find. God was glorified in how this crisis was handled. Thank-you one and all!

When I interviewed for this job I spoke to the committee about the perspective I would bring to this ministry as a person who had known the congregation for a long time, but in a different role. My initial comment included the fact that it had been a long time since I have been an active part of the WAPC community. There is much that has happened in the last 32 years. At the same time, one of the many things I have learned from serving such a wide variety of congregations is that every church has its own DNA, so to speak. It is a phenomenon of the Christian congregation that people can come and go and pastors can come and go, but the DNA remains.

My understanding 32 years ago was that WAPC has a strong and loving DNA with a clear call to embrace all kinds of social justice issues in the name of Christ. I told the committee I was looking forward to working with that DNA in the present moment.

The way we are all negotiating this furnace crisis is proof-positive to me about the strength of the DNA of the WAPC congregation. May our DNA serve all of us well in the New Year as we embrace our New Beginning with the same old DNA!

Alleluia, amen!

Pastor Jean

JANUARY **SAVE THE DATE** CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				NEW YEARS DAY!	2	3
4 9am Choir Rehearsal ↓ Circle of Hope after worship in Lounge	5	6 10:30am, Bible Study - call office for location	7 Circle of Joy 9pm at Giovanna's	8 7:30pm Seekers Bible Study- call office for location	9	10
11 9am Choir Rehearsal ↓ Circle of Grace at Fran Young's home	12 Session Meeting Library 7pm	13	14	15 ↓	16	17
18 9am Choir Rehearsal	19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	20 ↓	21	22 February Newsletter Deadline 7:30pm Seekers Bible Study- call office for location	23	24
25 ↓	26	27 ↓	28	29 ↓	30	31 Women's Retreat, 9am

*** Brass Quintet, 7:30pm, Thursdays

Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church 170 Watchung Avenue, North Plainfield, NJ 07060 908.755.2781 office@wapc.net; www.wapc.net

Interim Pastor Office Admin. Asst. Director of Music Sexton Reverend Jean A. F. Holmes
Greta Martin-Worthy
Jeremy Messmer jeren
David Eichenger

<u>pastor@wapc.net</u>; 845-304-9019 (cell) <u>office@wapc.net</u>; 908-755-2781

<u>jeremy.messmer@gmail.com;</u> 585-750-0842 (cell) 908-755-2781 (office)



Thank you to everyone who gave so generously to the Giving Tree this year.

PW would like to thank everyone who helped make the Cookie Walk/Christmas Sale Fundraiser a success. More than \$450. was raised which helped the PW make our \$500. semiannual gift to WAPC.

At PW's annual Christmas worship service held on Tuesday evening, December 9th, an Honorarium was presented to Susan Durick in appreciation of her dedication and service to PW and the church.

PASTOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Office Hours are on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays

Email: <u>pastor@wapc.net</u> Cell phone: 845-304-9019

And please continue to let the office know when you are scheduling meetings/gatherings in the church building. It's important that Greta is aware of who is in the building in case of emergencies. Thank you!

FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

If you would like to remember a loved one or celebrate a special event by providing flowers for a Sunday worship service, the flower sign up calendar for 2014 is located on the bulletin board in the parish hall. If you are not bringing the flowers yourself, Gray's Florist in Watchung on Rte.22 E has been a good source and delivers to the church (908-757-0400). If you want Gray's to deliver, make sure you instruct them to do so. Greta, our church administrative assistant, will call you to remind you

of flower sign up and confirm wording for the bulletin.





Presbyterian Women



CIRCLE OF GRACE

will be meeting, Sunday, January 11th after worship at the home of Fran Young. Bring a sandwich.

CIRLCE OF HOPE

will be meeting on Sunday, January 4th, after worship, in the Lounge.

CIRCLE OF JOY

will meet for a belated Christmas dinner at Giovanna's on Wednesday, January 7, 2015, at 5 p.m.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Fall Meetings

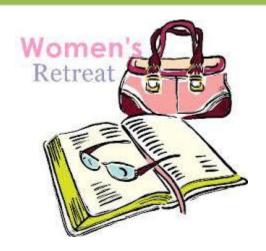
Hearts, Hands & Stitches, the Prayer Shawl Ministry of WAPC, continues to meet monthly. We create comforting shawls and lap robes at our meetings and on our own time.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 13, 2015, beginning at 7:15 p.m. at the home of Gwyn Gronlund.

Please keep this ministry of comfort in your prayers, and remember to let one of our members know if there is a need for a shawl.

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

Annual Women's Retreat
Mt. St. Mary's House of Prayer
Saturday, January 31, 2015
9:00 AM



Study Leader: Pastor Jean Holmes



"Deepening Your Relationship with God"



Just \$15.00 per person and
an ingredient for our community soup
Make reservations with Gwyn Gronlund
by Sunday, January 25, 2015



Presbyterian Welcome Has a New Name and Expanded Ministry

PARITY is the new name! "Scripture shows us – from Sarah and Abraham to Jesus and Paul – naming and renaming is a sacred process..." the Reverend John Russell Stanger recently wrote to all partnering congregations. The last two decades the group called Presbyterian Welcome has done wonderful ministry. Now **PARITY** will continue the ministry by creating spaces of healing for LGBTQ youth through outreach. **PARITY** will nurture LGBTQ persons seeking ordination in the church through the Future Pastors Program. Not So Churchy, another piece of ministry in **PARITY**, provides a place of worship that is not ordinary by any means.

As you can see, **PARITY** is the foundation for a new expansive new vision that includes:

- Creating more open spaces where all of a person's identity—race, sexuality, class, gender, nationality, and faith can find harmony and healing.
- Building bridges across denominational lines by partnering with a broader diversity of Christian communities.
- Creating connections between the sacred and secular by partnering more with non-faith-based community organizations.

Rev. Stanger wrote "More loudly and clearly than ever, we hear God's call to proclaim the gospel in the

streets to expand our ministry more broadly within the Church . Our work is leading to new possibilities."

I am grateful and proud that WAPC is a member church with **PARITY**. I see how the expanded vision reflected in the name **PARITY** is speaking directly to the church that is WAPC. I hope you do too.

Judith Botzan; Lead Elder of the Presbyterian Welcome Committee

You can find more about PARITY on Facebook, Twitter, or the website at <u>presbyterianwelcome.org</u>. Follow Rev. John Russell Stanger on Twitter or like him on Facebook.



A MOMENT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE ON OPEN SPACE

by Elder Judith Botzan for Presbyterian Welcome/Parity

Last November twenty-five members and guests gathered at WAPC with the Reverend John Russell Stanger to discuss what open space looks like and feels like. I came away from that discussion with a new perspective on the issue. I realized that the creation of open space is not an easy task. Creating open space takes a strong commitment on the part of each individual person. It means I must be open to change. I must be open and willing to study differences. I must be willing to find out about another person's life history, life style, life experiences, language; I must be willing to listen to his/her fears and needs.

I sat down to write a newsy article about this meaningful topic, but found I could not. The issue is important beyond a simple news report. This is an issue of the heart and soul. How do we insure that LBGTQ youth, or special-needs children, or persons of differing faith, or homeless persons, or any of our diverse neighbors find an open space at WAPC? Rev. Stanger began to teach us about the work that must happen. He left a list of places we can use to begin to educate ourselves about LGBTQ youth. I will place this list on the new PARITY bulletin board with the hope that you will join me in this important process towards becoming open space here at WAPC. Please feel free to take the information and use it to this end.



SAVE THE DATE!!

The Annual

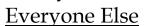
Congregational

Meeting and Luncheon

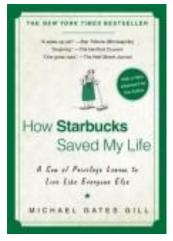
is scheduled for Sunday February 1, 2015 at 11:45AM in the Parish Hall. More details to follow.

Book Club- Sunday, February 15, 2015

How Starbucks Saved My Life: A Son of Privilege Learns to Live Like



by Michael Gates Gill



Nearing retirement, Michael Gates Gill lost it all. A Yale-educated ad exec making six figures, Gill was let go from his job (ostensibly for being old), saw his marriage disintegrate, and was diagnosed with a brain tumor. At the age of 63, desperate and without health insurance, he found redemption and a new sense of purpose where he least expected: behind the counter of a Starbucks. Gill tells

his story in <u>How Starbucks Saved My Life</u>, an instant bestseller that has struck a chord with a large segment of middle aged and older Americans -- and which will soon be a film, starring Tom Hanks.

Mark Your Calendars! Soup/Chili Luncheon Fundraiser



Sunday, March 1, 2015 11:30 am in Parish Hall

Looking For...

"Gently" used items for the "Tricky Tray" to be held in conjunction with the Soup/Chili Luncheon. Any questions,

contact Peggy Bunnell at 908-668-0051.

PRAYER LIST

Prayers of support and blessings for:

- *Dr. James V. McLaughlin,* the new Superintendent of Schools for the North Plainfield Board of Education.

Healing, supportive prayers for:

- *Josephine Herbert*, recovering at home from fluid on her lungs; Antoinette, a Prayer Shawl recipient who is struggling with sickle cell anemia as well as pneumonia; Ruth Stagg, who has been placed in hospice care; *Peggy Waldman*, recovering from a back injury; *Joyce King*, newborn granddaughter of *Sarellen Hogan*, as she recovers from surgery; *Lisa Gayle Schmeisser*, *Gail Schmeisser*'s daughter.

Prayers of healing, comfort & support for those battling cancer:

- Jeanne Norrie; Don McGinn, Faye Steinau's brother-in-law; Bea Danyo, Alice Lester's sister and Joe Steinau.

Prayers for those in the military and their families:

- PFC Jasmine Harris, currently stationed in Fort Hood, Texas;
- Jennifer Solis, daughter, Clara Elizabeth and husband, Victor, during his deployment.

Continued prayers for those people at home:

- Joan Brown, Helen and Tom Bradley, Nancy Higgins, Estelle Kennedy, Margaret L. Herman-Angely, Helen Miller, Louise Thul, Shirley Ferri, at Sunrise Assisted Living, Basking Ridge, NJ and Bob Monteith, at Green Knoll Center in Bridgewater, NJ.

Prayers for:

- *Elder Kay Hurd*, who is working with WAPC to accomplish our Mission Study during this interim period.



WATCHUNG AVENUE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
170 Watchung Avenue
North Plainfield, NJ 07060-4133

Visions Newsletter

Welcoming Everyone
Celebrating Diversity
Following Jesus

February 2015





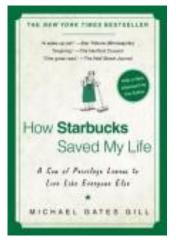
WAPC's Annual Congregational Meeting and Luncheon, Sunday February 1, 2015 at 11:45AM in the Parish Hall

MESSAGE FROM YOUR SESSION

During this transitional time, your Session is taking responsibility for the church's ministry and mission. We have planned an interactive meeting as part of the Annual Congregational meeting after worship this Sunday, February 1, so that we may receive your input. Please join us and be a part of shaping our congregation's future.

Lunch will be provided.

Gwyn Gronlund, Clerk of Session



Book Club Sunday, February 15, 2015

How Starbucks Saved My Life: A Son of Privilege Learns to Live Like Everyone Else

by Michael Gates Gill

Nearing retirement, Michael Gates Gill lost it all. A Yale-educated ad exec making six figures, Gill was let go from his job (ostensibly for being old), saw his marriage disintegrate, and was diagnosed with a brain tumor. At the age of 63, desperate and without health insurance, he found redemption and a new sense of purpose where he least expected: behind the counter of a Starbucks. Gill tells his story in How Starbucks Saved My Life, an instant bestseller that has struck a chord with a large segment of middle aged and older Americans -- and which will soon be a film, starring Tom Hanks.

UPDATE ON "NEW BEGINNINGS"

The next phase of the New Beginnings process will be starting soon. You may recall that Rev. Henry Kim visited WAPC for a church assessment on December 1st. He toured our building and our community, went over our calendar and our finances, and met with the pastor and the clerk. Many of you joined us for an Appreciative Inquiry in the evening.

Later this month, Rev. Kim's report will be received at training for facilitators. On Friday and Saturday, February 20 and 21, those who have volunteered to lead small groups will go to a training session, and will receive copies of our church assessment. Then each facilitator will lead 6 small group house meetings in March and April.

Three members have volunteered to be facilitators. Several more facilitators are needed to lead small discussion groups as an integral part of the New Beginnings journey. Training will be provided on February 20 and 21. Please see an elder if you are able to be involved.

A Member Shares

January 25th Worship Service

Did you appreciate Jeremy's beautiful, well-spoken words of faith and encouragement today? They touched my heart.

Did the words of the hymns speak to your needs? If not, review them (#'s 300, 769, 307).

Did you leave church with a different mind-set than when you arrived? I arrived with pain and confusion -- I left with a helping of joy and comfort.

Did you feel as I did, that today's service was truly one of healing? I hope so.

It takes time for heartaches to heal, but in keeping faith together we will heal.

P.S. Did you need tissues? I used many!!

Alice Lester, 1-25-15

FOR PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES

In the event of a need for pastoral care, please call Greta in the office at 908-755-2781 and she will contact by phone pastoral care committee members

Fran Young (fran.reid.young@gmail.com) and

Gwyn Gronlund (gwyndagronlund@comcast.net)

And please continue to let the office know when you are scheduling meetings/gatherings in the church building. It's important that Greta is aware of who is in the building in case of emergencies. Thank you!

FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

If you would like to remember a loved one or celebrate a special event by providing flowers for a Sunday worship service, the flower sign up calendar for **2015** is located on the bulletin board in the parish hall. If you are not bringing the flowers yourself, Gray's Florist in Watchung on Rte.22 E has been a good source and delivers to the church (908-757-0400). If you want Gray's to deliver, make sure you instruct them to do so.



Greta, our church administrative assistant, will call you to remind you of flower sign up and confirm wording for the bulletin.



Presbyterian Women



CIRCLE OF GRACE

will be meeting, Sunday, February 8th after worship at the home of Fran Young. Bring a sandwich.

CIRLCE OF HOPE

will be meeting on Sunday, February 1st, after worship, in the Lounge.

CIRCLE OF JOY

February meeting is to be determined.

Details to follow.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Winter-Spring 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-Spring meetings are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, February 10 Fran Young's home
Tuesday, March 10 Gwyn Gronlund's home
Tuesday, April 14 Cathy Boleyn's home

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. If you would like to learn to knit or crochet, please contact one of our members.

We will be happy to teach you!

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

FEBRUARY **SAVE THE DATE** CALENDAR

*** Brass Quintet, 7:30pm, Thursdays

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9am Choir Rehearsal Congregational Meeting Circle of Hope after worship in Lounge	2	3 10:30am, Bible Study - call office for location ↓	4	5 7:30pm Seekers Bible Study- call office for location ↓	6	7
8 9am Choir Rehearsal ↓ Circle of Grace at Fran Young's home	9 Session Meeting Library 7pm	10 10:30am, Bible Study - call office for location	11	12 7:30pm Seekers Bible Study- call office for location	13	14 (Tentative) 3 Church Outreach Dinner- in planning stages- watch for details
15 9am Choir Rehearsal ↓ 12 noon Book Club in Lounge	16 President's Day	17 ↓	18 Ash Wednesday	19 ↓	20	21
22 9am Choir Rehearsal ↓	23	↓ March Newsletter Deadline	25	26 ↓	27	28

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

908.755.2781 office@wapc.net; www.wapc.net

Director of Music Office Admin. Asst. Sexton Jeremy Messmer Greta Martin-Worthy David Eichenger <u>jeremy.messmer@gmail.com</u>; 585-750-0842 (cell) <u>office@wapc.net</u>; 908-755-2781 908-755-2781 (office)

Mark Your Calendars! Soup/Chili Luncheon Fundraiser



Sunday, March 1, 2015

11:30 am in Parish Hall

Looking For ...

"Gently" used items for the "Tricky Tray" to be held in conjunction with the Soup/Chili Luncheon. Any questions,

contact Peggy Bunnell at 908-668-0051.

PRAYER LIST

Prayers of support for:

- Family and friends of our good friend and long time WAPC member, *Ruth Stagg*, who passed away Wednesday morning, January 14th.

Healing, supportive prayers for:

- Lisa Gayle Schmeisser, Gail Schmeisser's daughter.

Prayers of healing, comfort & support for those battling cancer:

- Jeanne Norrie; Don McGinn, Faye Steinau's brother-in-law; Bea Danyo, Alice Lester's sister and Joe Steinau.

Prayers for those in the military and their families:

- PFC Jasmine Harris, currently stationed in Fort Hood, Texas;
- Jennifer Solis, daughter, Clara Elizabeth and husband, Victor, during his deployment.

Continued prayers for those people at home:

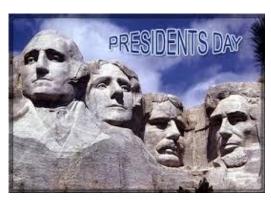
- Joan Brown, Helen and Tom Bradley, Nancy Higgins, Estelle Kennedy, Margaret L. Herman-Angely, Helen Miller, Louise Thul, Shirley Ferri, at Sunrise Assisted Living, Basking Ridge, NJ and Bob Monteith, at Green Knoll Center in Bridgewater, NJ.

Prayers for:

- *Elder Kay Hurd*, who is working with WAPC to accomplish our Mission Study during this interim period.









WATCHUNG AVENUE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
170 Watchung Avenue

North Plainfield, NJ 07060-4133

Visions Newsletter

Welcoming Everyone
Celebrating Diversity
Following Jesus

March 2015





PW of WAPC's Annual Fundraiser March 1st, 11:30am in Parish Hall



Tickets at the door- Adults \$6. Children (under 10) \$3.

Please contact Peggy Bunnell @ 908-668-0051, if you want to make dessert and/or soup and/or help. Come ready to satisfy your appetite and have a great time!!

UPDATE

Our New Beginning Starts Now!

You, the members of WAPC are the key players. March 22nd is the start date. To be ready for our New Beginning, Judy Botzan, Gwyn Gronlound, Sarellen Hogan, Dave Lyttle, and Dianne and Tom Ledder attended intense training on February 21st and 22nd.

The leader of the training, Cindy Coleman, presented critical information and suggestions for WAPC moving forward. This included an assessment of where we are and where we plan to be in the future. Everyone is needed, age and length of time being a church member doesn't matter. We need everyone!

Put it on your calendar now. March 22nd right after worship. WE TOGETHER ARE WAPC.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR SESSION

Effective immediately,

returning to session are David Lyttle and Dianne Ledder.

Installations will be on Sunday, March 8, 2015 during worship.

Thank you,

Gwyn Gronlund Clerk of Session

FOR PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES

In the event of a need for pastoral care, please call Greta in the office at 908-755-2781 and she will contact by phone pastoral care committee members

Fran Young (fran.reid.young@gmail.com) and

Gwyn Gronlund (gwyndagronlund@comcast.net)

There are pastors on call for hospital emergencies and funerals.

And please continue to let the office know when you are scheduling meetings/gatherings in the church building. It's important that Greta is aware of who is in the building in case of emergencies. Thank you!

FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

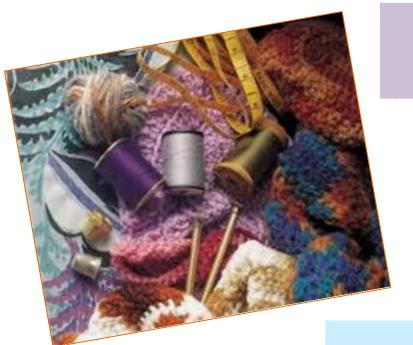
If you would like to remember a loved one or celebrate a special event by providing flowers for a Sunday worship service, the flower sign up calendar for **2015** is located on the bulletin board in the parish hall. If you are not bringing the flowers yourself, Gray's Florist in Watchung on Rte.22 E has been a good source and delivers to the church (908-757-0400). If you want Gray's to deliver, make sure you instruct them to do so.



Greta, our church administrative assistant, will call you to remind you of flower sign up and confirm wording for the bulletin.



one Great Hour of Sharing four ways to give presbyterianmission.org/give-oghs Text OGHS to 20222 to give \$10 Call 800-872-3283 Through your congregation



Presbyterian Women



CIRCLE OF GRACE

March meeting is to be determined.

Details to follow.

CIRLCE OF HOPE

will be meeting on Sunday, March 8th, after worship, in the Lounge.

CIRCLE OF JOY

will be meeting on Wednesday, March 18th, at 3:30pm at home of Estelle Kennedy.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Spring Meetings

Hearts, Hands & Stitches displayed shawls in worship on February 22. We learned of several more needs for shawls of comfort. Please keep this ministry of sharing God's love through shawls in your prayers, and remember to let one of our members know if there is a need for a shawl.

We continue to meet monthly. We create comforting shawls and lap robes at our meetings and on our own time. Our spring meetings are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, March 10, 2015, at the home of Fran Young Tuesday, April 14, 2015, at the home of Cathy Boleyn

All meetings are from 7:15 to 9:30 p.m. We share ideas and prayer requests, and have a time of quiet, prayerful stitching. All are welcome to join or visit.

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

MARCH **SAVE THE DATE** CALENDAR

*** Brass Quintet, 7:30pm, Thursdays

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9am Choir Rehearsal 11:30am Soup/Chili Fundraiser Parish Hall	2	3 10:30am, Bible Study - TBD	4	5 7:30pm Seekers Bible Study- TBD	6	7
8 9am Choir Rehearsal Circle of Hope after worship in lounge	9 Session Meeting Library 7:30pm	10 ↓	11	12	13	14
15 9am Choir Rehearsal 11:30am PW Guest speaker	16	17 Saint Patrick's Day 10:30am, Bible Study - TBD ↓	18 Circle of Joy meeting 3:30pm member's home	19	20	21
22 11:30am New Beginnings meeting 9am Choir Rehearsal ↓	23	↓	25	26 ↓ April Newsletter Deadline	27	28
29 Palm Sunday	30	31 ↓				

Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church 170 Watchung Avenue, North Plainfield, NJ 07060 908.755.2781 office@wapc.net; www.wapc.net

Director of Music Office Admin. Asst. Sexton Jeremy Messmer Greta Martin-Worthy David Eichenger <u>jeremy.messmer@gmail.com;</u> 585-750-0842 (cell) <u>office@wapc.net;</u> 908-755-2781

908-755-2781 (office)



Celebrating over 65 years and still growing

WATCHUNG AVE. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PETALS FOR PROFIT FUNDRAISER

We grow the plants to help your organization grow it's funds!
Shop at Parker Gardens between

March 1st and June 15th and

we will donate 10% of all the proceeds directly to

WATCHUNG AVE. 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!

We make gardening easy!

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

Offer cannot be combined with other offers or sales.







NP Girl Scouts Hosting Food Drive To Help Curb Hunger In Our Community!

The North Plainfield Girl Scout's annual food drive will run from March 1 through 28th. The food that is collected will be distributed to the food banks servicing our community. Please, let's join together to fight hunger, improve lives, and strengthen our community.



There will be a number of opportunities to help.

- Walmart Watchung Square Mall -Shop and Drop:
 March 21st and 22nd, 10:30am 3:00 pm
 March 28th -10:00am- 2:00pm.
 North Plainfield Girl Scouts will be collecting food donations outside the store. Please plan to shop and donate to support our efforts.
- March 2st -27th Drop off your donations at Borough Hall Address: 263 Somerset Street or the North Plainfield Public Library during normal business hours.
- Participating Churches including Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church will be participating by collecting food donations during their normal church activities the weeks of March 1-28th. Look for the Girl Scout drop box.

All food donations should be non-perishable and within the expiration date.

If you have any questions, please contact Girl Scout troop 65937 at 908-917-0775 or email us at our2girlscouttroops@gmail.com

girl scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place!

girl scouts heart of new jersey | 908-518-4400 | www.gshnj.org

PRAYER LIST

Prayers of support for:

- *Marla and Betty Miksa* and *Kathy Fortin*, along with friends and family, as they mourn the passing of *Daniel Miksa*, father & husband.
- Family and friends as they mourn the passing of our good friend and long time WAPC member, *Ruth Stagg*.

Healing, supportive prayers for:

- Josephine Baker; Delsi Mancia's infant son, Jafet; Lisa Gayle Schmeisser, Gail Schmeisser's daughter.

Prayers of healing, comfort & support for those battling cancer:

- Jeanne Norrie; Don McGinn, Faye Steinau's brother-in-law; Bea Danyo, Alice Lester's sister and Joe Steinau.

Prayers for those in the military and their families:

- PFC Jasmine Harris, currently stationed in Fort Hood, Texas;
- Jennifer Solis, daughter, Clara Elizabeth and husband, Victor, during his deployment.

Continued prayers for those people at home:

- Joan Brown, Helen and Tom Bradley, Nancy Higgins, Estelle Kennedy, Margaret L. Herman-Angely, Helen Miller, Louise Thul, Shirley Ferri, at Sunrise Assisted Living, Basking Ridge, NJ and Bob Monteith, at Green Knoll Center in Bridgewater, NJ.

Prayers for:

- *Elder Kay Hurd*, who is working with WAPC to accomplish our Mission Study during this interim period.



WATCHUNG AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

170 Watchung Avenue North Plainfield, NJ 07060-4133

Visions Newsletter Welcoming Everyone Welcoming Everyone Welcoming Everyone

Celebrating Diversity
Following Jesus

April 2015





PW of WAPC's Annual Fundraiser



On Sunday, March 1, 2015, close to 50 people attended WAPC's PW-sponsored Soup/Chili Luncheon fundraiser. Those in attendance were able to sample 12 delicious homemade soups and chilies and vote for their favorite. The lucky winners were Linda Roselli-Torres' Broccoli Cheese Soup and Buffalo Chicken Chili and Gwyn Gronlund's Ginger-Scented Apple Squash Soup. It was a time of fun and fellowship capped off with a variety of delicious homemade desserts cookies, cakes, pies, puddings, and cupcakes. Over \$350 was raised towards the PW's annual \$1,000 gift to WAPC.

GUEST PASTORS FOR APRIL

April 5th, Easter Rev. Dorothy Morris

April 12th Rev. Dorothy Morris

April 19th Elder Madelynne Lindsey

April 26th Dr. Glory Thomas

UPDATE

New Beginnings

Last Sunday about 40 of our members gathered in the Parish Hall to worship, have brunch, and join in Session 1 of the New Beginnings group meetings. Elder Lindsey's sermon set the tone, "No Partnership, No Church." We brainstormed descriptive words and feelings about our congregation. Then in small groups we discussed characteristics of Vital Congregations—community relevance, passion and energy, and mobilizing resources. We considered the Membership Model and Discipleship Model of a church. Much energy and enthusiasm for the process and WAPC was in evidence.

New Beginnings will continue with 4 small group meetings in homes or at church, followed by Session 6 after worship on Sunday, May 17, when we will all come together again. There is still space in the small groups, so please sign up on Sunday, or contact one of the facilitators: Judy Botzan, Sarellen Hogan, Gwyn Gronlund, Dave and Cathy Lyttle, Dianne and Tom Ledder. We need every voice in our congregation to be heard.

The New Beginnings Facilitators

NEW GROUP - several WAPC members are excited to get together to discuss *heaven and near-death experiences*. We are considering books to read and movies to watch and also personal stories to share. If interested, please come to an organizational meeting on Sunday, April 12, at 11:20 am in the lounge. We will discuss how to approach this topic, and schedule future meetings. We welcome WAPC members and guests. Any questions, please contact Cathy Lyttle, 732-356-5253 or clyttle29@hotmail.com.

FOR PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES

In the event of a need for pastoral care, please call Greta in the office at 908-755-2781 and she will contact by phone pastoral care committee members

Fran Young (fran.reid.young@gmail.com) and

Gwyn Gronlund (gwyndagronlund@comcast.net)

There are pastors on call for hospital emergencies and funerals.

And please continue to let the office know when you are scheduling meetings/gatherings in the church building. It's important that Greta is aware of who is in the building in case of emergencies. Thank you!

FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

If you would like to remember a loved one or celebrate a special event by providing flowers for a Sunday worship service, the flower sign up calendar for **2015** is located on the bulletin board in the parish hall. If you are not bringing the flowers yourself, Gray's Florist in Watchung on Rte.22 E has been a good source and delivers to the church (908-757-0400). If you want Gray's to deliver, make sure you instruct them to do so.



Greta, our church administrative assistant, will call you to remind you of flower sign up and confirm wording for the bulletin.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING four ways to give presbyterianmission.org/give-oghs Text OGHS to 20222 to give \$10 Call 800-872-3283 Through your congregation



Presbyterian Women



CIRCLE OF GRACE

There will not be an April meeting.

Next meeting to be held in May.

CIRLCE OF HOPE

will be meeting on Tuesday, April 7th, at 7:30 pm at the home of Cathy Lyttle.

CIRCLE OF JOY

will be meeting on Wednesday, April 8th, with time and place to be determined.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Hearts, Hands & Stitches displayed shawls in worship on February 22. We learned of several more needs for shawls of comfort. Please keep this ministry of sharing

God's love through shawls in your prayers, and remember to let one of our members know if there is a need for a shawl.

We continue to meet monthly. We create comforting shawls and lap robes at our meetings and on our own time. Our spring meetings are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, April 14, 2015, at the home of Cathy Boleyn

Tuesday, May 12, 2015, at the home of Gwyn Gronlund

All meetings are from 7:15 to 9:30 p.m. We share ideas and prayer requests, and have a time of quiet, prayerful stitching. All are welcome to join or visit.

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

APRIL **SAVE THE DATE** CALENDAR

*** Brass Quintet, 7:30pm, Thursdays

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 MAUNDY THURSDAY	GOOD FRIDAY	Josephine Herbert Funeral Service 10am
5 EASTER SUNDAY 9am Choir Rehearsal	6	7 10:30am, Bible Study - TBD Circle of HOPE meeting 7:30pm member's home	8	9 7:30pm Seekers Bible Study- TBD	10	11
9am Choir Rehearsal New Group meeting @ 11:20am - lounge	Session Meeting Library 7:00pm	10:30am, Bible Study - TBD	15	16	17	18
19 9am Choir Rehearsal 11:30am Book Club gathering inn Lounge	20	21 ↓	22	23 ↓	24	25
26 9am Choir Rehearsal	27	28 ↓ May Newsletter Deadline	29	30 ↓		

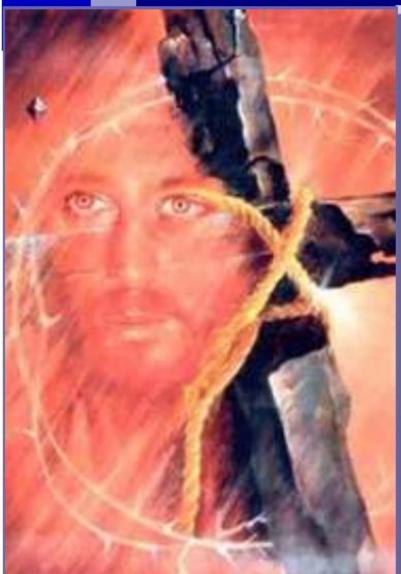
Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church 170 Watchung Avenue, North Plainfield, NJ 07060 908.755.2781

office@wapc.net; www.wapc.net

Director of Music Office Admin. Asst. Sexton Jeremy Messmer Greta Martin-Worthy David Eichenger <u>jeremy.messmer@gmail.com</u>; 585-750-0842 (cell) <u>office@wapc.net</u>; 908-755-2781 908-755-2781 (office)

In Celebration of Life Everlasting!

Holy Week Celebrations At United Presbyterian Church



Palm Sunday— March 29
Worship at 10:00am

Maundy Thursday—April 2 Lord's Supper in Church Chapel 7:00pm

Saturday—April 4
Easter Egg Hunt
10:30am

Sunday—April 5 Sunrise Service—6:00am Watchung Reservation

Fellowship Breakfast Friendship Hall at 7:30am

Easter Worship Service— 10:15am



"Where God is exalted, Everyone matters, and You belong!" The United Presbyterian Church 525 E. Front Street, Plainfield, NJ 07060 908.756.2666

Rev. Victor Aloyo, Jr., Pastor, Rev. Dottie Morris, Parish Associate

Music at Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church Watchung Avenue at East Seventh Street • Plainfield, NJ 07060 Handicap Accessible

THE SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

"...AND THERE WAS DARKNESS..."

Come, listen in the darkness
to the fierce, dark words of Passion.
The sound of the choir's a cappella singing floats down,
echoing the tale of light overcome by darkness.
The glow from the candles flickers dimly.

A bell tolls in the darkness and the light returns.

Crescent Singers

Good Friday April 3, 2015 7:30 p.m.

We invite you to share in this unique experience of music, light and darkness.

May 9, 2015 CONTAINER SHIPMENT NEEDS

Dear PeaceWorks Friends.

During its recent trip to Nicaragua, the PeaceWorks Delegation met with each of our Nicaragua Partners and discussed, among other things, our container shipments. Specifically, we discussed:

- the value to our Partners of the materials received in shipments
- items that the partners would like to receive in future shipments
- the process used in the shipments

Our Partners all said the shipments were of great value for them, both in terms of the materials received and the solidarity that the shipments represent with the PeaceWorks community. All wished that the shipments continue. The most common request was "more". It was heartwarming to see items that we sent in past shipments in active use by the people in Nicaragua: bicycles and gardening tools in use in poor villages; fabric sent sewn into costumes for the girls of Inhijambia or items for sale by the Axayacatl sewing collective, often on sewing machines we sent; school supplies being used to help educate street children; and more.

PeaceWorks will continue our tradition of two container shipments each year. The first shipment will be loaded on May 9 at the Presbyterian Church in Plainfield. The second is tentatively planned for October 10. Please continue to collect items for the shipments, using the guidance below. Also, please let us know if you can help with the container loading on May 9, or can help with the pre-loading work in the months between now and May 9 – boxing and labeling collected materials and moving them to our storage location. This pre-load help is especially needed! Let Jason Hammond, our shipment coordinator, know how you are willing to help – his email is jhammond@drew.edu

Thanks, John Keith

GENERAL ITEMS TO COLLECT

Types of items that our Partners would like in the shipment are similar to past guidance:

- Bicycles mountain, bmx, childrens (not road bikes or fancy carbon frame bikes)
- Sewing machines and supplies (needles, thread, spare parts for machines)
- Fabric for clothing and costumes
- School supplies notebooks, pens, calculators, etc.
- Art supplies for children and teens
- Sports equipment especially for baseball, soccer and basketball
- Linens, blankets, towels, table cloths
- Clothing –summer weight. Please sort and label by type women, girls, mens, boys, baby
- Shoes particularly for women and girls (sandals, sneakers, nicer shoes) but also men, boys
- Wheelchairs
- Canes, crutches particularly canes
- Medical supplies bandages, cast supplies, blood pressure cuffs, thermometers, etc.
- Kitchen items pots, implements, eating utensils, etc. No glass or ceramic items.
- Gardening tools heavy duty shovels, hoes, rakes, wheelbarrows, etc.
- Carpentry tools-screwdrivers, hammers, wrenches, chisels, saws (hack and wood), planes, etc.
- Electronics lap top computers, printers, flat screen monitors recent, with memories erased
- Simple electronic cameras (point and shoot, not SLR, recent)
- Electric fans

A few cautions:

 Please make sure that all items are in good working condition; clothing in poor condition or electrical or mechanical items that do not work only create waste that must be sorted out and disposed of either in New Jersey or by our Partners in Nicaragua.

- Send no medicines of any type not prescription, over-the-counter, vitamins, liquids, pills, whatever – neither separate or mixed in with other items. Medicines are a red flag for Nicaragua customs. Also, send no liquids of any type.
- Any electronics (computers, tablets, printers, monitors) must be of recent vintage, working and able to handle recent versions of key programs such as Microsoft Office. Clean all memories before sending. Pack well in boxes with other stuff, such as clothing.
- In general, do not sent items that look like they may be for re-sale in Nicaragua. Used items are all
 OK. Do not send commercial scale quantities of new items, such as a carton of notebooks in an
 original Staples box.
- Please do not sent electrical appliances, machines or gadgets except as listed below.

Specific Items Requested by Partners

Our partners identified some specific items they need and would like to receive. If you are able to provide any of these items, please let Jason know prior to the shipment - and thanks!

Jubilee House

- Medical examination table
- Medical lifts for disabled persons
- Eyeglasses all types and prescriptions (not badly scratched)

Inhijambia

- Zippers for costumes
- Classical (nylon string) guitars (no steel string or electric)

Los Pipitos

- Physical therapy equipment and supplies
- Simple percussion instruments tambourines, bells, etc.
- Simple toys like duplo blocks or wooden puzzles – not cheap plastic stuff

Cusmapa Association

- Electric carpentry tools drill, circular saw, polishing machine, brush, router, hand drill set, extension cords
- Electric appliances: blender, beater
- Night tables
- Televisions for dorms (flat screen only)
- Computer for office
- Small photocopy machine



Bicycle we shipped in use by Axayacatl!

Fedicamp

- "Chapin" Sprayers for (organic) fertilizers, with attachments – need 15 or so
- 5 gallon plastic pails with covers
- Gardening trays and pots for growing seedlings
- chain link fence in rolls, 4 ft. high
- 1 inch diameter hose for irrigation systems
- drip irrigation tubing lots
- Projector for presentations

Cusmapa Pine Needle Collective

Projector for presentations

El Porvenir

- 2 drawer file cabinet
- Mechanic's tool box with tools (for tractor)
- Tables for health center, with drawers



"Chapin" Sprayers needed by Fedicamp and El Porvenir

Thanks for your help in collecting items for our shipment!



Celebrating over 65 years and still growing

WATCHUNG AVE. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PETALS FOR PROFIT FUNDRAISER

We grow the plants to help your organization grow it's funds!
Shop at Parker Gardens between

March 1st and June 15th and

we will donate 10% of all the proceeds directly to

WATCHUNG AVE. 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!

We make gardening easy!

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

Offer cannot be combined with other offers or sales.



PRAYER LIST

Prayers of support for:

- *Alice Lester*, as she and her family and friends mourn the passing of her sister, *Bea Danyo*, after a long battle with cancer.
- Bethann Herbert and Jasmine Harris, along with friends and family, as they mourn the passing of *Josephine Herbert*, mother, grandmother and devoted member of our WAPC family.
- *Marla and Betty Miksa* and *Kathy Fortin*, along with friends and family, as they mourn the passing of *Daniel Miksa*, father & husband.

Healing, supportive prayers for:

- Cathy Boleyn's father, Harley Donham, in long term care; Joan Brown recovering at Foot Hill Acres from a broken hip & shoulder; Lisa Gayle Schmeisser, Gail Schmeisser's daughter.

Prayers of healing, comfort & support for those battling cancer:

- David Knotts, Cathy Boleyn's brother-in-law; Jeanne Norrie; Don McGinn, Faye Steinau's brother-in-law; and Joe Steinau.

Prayers for those in the military and their families:

- PFC Jasmine Harris, currently stationed in Fort Hood, Texas;
- Jennifer Solis, daughter, Clara Elizabeth and husband, Victor, during his deployment.

Continued prayers for those people at home:

- Helen and Tom Bradley, Nancy Higgins, Estelle Kennedy, Margaret L. Herman-Angely, Helen Miller, Louise Thul, Shirley Ferri, at Sunrise Assisted Living, Basking Ridge, NJ and Bob Monteith, at Green Knoll Center in Bridgewater, NJ.

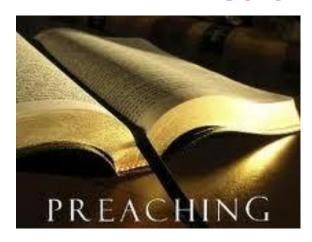
Visions

Welcoming Everyone
Celebrating Diversity
Following Jesus

MAY 2015



GUEST PASTORS FOR MAY



May 3rd Elder Ma

May 10th

May 17th

May 24th

May 31st

Elder Madelynne Lindsey

Elder Madelynne Lindsey

Reverend Byron Leasure

Elder Madelynne Lindsey

Elder Madelynne Lindsey

UPDATE

EXCITING NEWS FOR WAPC

The session has been in conversation with a retired pastor named Reverend Byron Leasure. His specialty is helping congregations work through their past and present difficulties. Within a 2 to 3 month period, he will support WAPC 's search to find out what God wants us to do in this time and place. Empowerment, honesty, and establishing trust are some keywords

describing Rev. Leasure's methods of helping congregations. We plan to bring Rev. Leasure here for 10 weeks, beginning mid-June until the end of August. During this time, he will be our guest preacher, session moderator, and also, lead adult education classes. Session members are very hopeful that our WAPC family (congregation and friends) will commit to participating in these classes on Sundays after worship. More exciting details will follow in the June Visions.



Our Home... Our Community...

Our Responsibility...

BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD 2015 CLEAN COMMUNITY DAY

Saturday, May 2nd

9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

You are invited to take part in our Ninth Annual Clean Community Day sponsored by the North Plainfield Forum and the Borough of North Plainfield. This day will be an opportunity to meet neighbors, make friends and work together to clean several areas in our community in commemoration of Earth Day.

The day will begin with registration at 8:30 AM at the North Plainfield Community Center (614 Greenbrook Road) and then move to the areas to be cleaned. Residents are welcome to organize a crew or come on their own. All civic groups and organizations are encouraged to participate! Children are welcome and encouraged to take part in Clean Community Day, but must be at least 7 years old to participate and accompanied by an adult.

Those helping are asked to wear appropriate work shoes or boots, and gloves. Bring a rake if possible! Other supplies will be provided by the borough. T-shirts will be given to volunteers at registration.

A picnic style lunch will be served to all volunteers on the Community Center Side Lawn at the end of the work day!

For more information, please call the Mayor's Office @ (908) 769-2902



MAY SMALL GROUPS SCHEDULE

(DAYS, TIMES AND LOCATIONS)

Sunday After Worship: 11 AM in Parish Hall

May 3, Session 5

Wednesday Evening: 7 PM at Gwyn Gronlund's house

May 13th, Session 5

Saturday Mornings: 9:30 AM at Dave & Cathy Lyttle's house

May 16th, Session 5

**Sunday, May 17th, Session 6

(11:30am - 1:30pm; this is a total congregational gathering after worship in Parish Hall)

COME ONE! COME ALL!

COFFEE HOUR CAPTAINS/HOSTS NEEDED

The Parish Hall on Sundays usually rings with laughter and chatter, as people gather over coffee and cookies to catch up with each other after worship.

The room was very empty and quiet on Sunday, April 26. No volunteer had stepped forward to be host for the day.

The calendars for May, June, July and August are on the Coffee Hour board.

Can you act as a:

Captain - get volunteers to host for each week of one of the months and act as their back up support?

Host - Set up the coffee hour table for one Sunday?

Please add your name to the calendar or see me.

Dianne Ledder Coffee Hour Chairperson PW in WAPC

Heaven and Near-Death Experiences Group

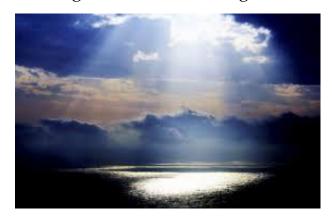
On April 12th, twelve people expressed an interest in forming a group to *explore and discuss heaven and near-death experiences*. We have decided to meet again on Sunday, May 24th, in the WAPC lounge at 11:20am.

We have a collection of books to share. We have some movies to watch. We certainly have stories to tell. This is not a book club per se. There are no set



books to read. You do not have to attend every meeting. Come when you can. We just wish to be with others who are *curious, skeptical, certain.*

One thing that was so exciting about the first meeting was the many smiles on our faces as



we began with our own memories and stories. We also know there will probably be tears in future meetings.

But we wish to take this journey with each other.

If you are interested, please come. This is open to members of WAPC and guests. Any questions, please see Cathy Lyttle, Marla Miksa or Peggy Bunnell. You may also call or email the church office at 908-755-2781 or office@wapc.net.

FOR PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES

In the event of a need for pastoral care, please call Greta in the office at 908-755-2781 and she will contact by phone pastoral care committee members

Fran Young (fran.reid.young@gmail.com) and

Gwyn Gronlund (gwyndagronlund@comcast.net)

There are pastors on call for hospital emergencies and funerals.

FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP



If you would like to remember a loved one or celebrate a special event by providing flowers for a Sunday worship service, the flower sign up calendar for **2015** is located on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. If you are not bringing the flowers yourself, Gray's Florist in Watchung on Rte.22 E has been a good source and delivers to the church (908-757-0400). If you want Gray's to deliver, make sure you instruct them to do so. Greta, our church administrative assistant, will call you to remind you of flower sign up and confirm wording for the bulletin.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FOR APRIL

- 1) Replacement of all obsolete smoke detectors at a cost of \$3,789.75 for 44 units was approved (required by Fire Dept.) Replacement of downstairs fire door also required. Type of door and cost are to be determined.
- 2) Looking into providing space in the basement for a local Thrift Shop that benefits a cancer charity.
- 3) WAPC will participate as a team in North Plainfield Cleanup Day on May 2.
- 4) Average worship attendance in March was 33.
- 5) Session is in discussion with a consultant, Rev. Byron Leasure, to provide preaching, adult education and elder training for 10 weeks, beginning in June. (see page 1)
- 6) Letters were drafted and approved to send to Pastor Emeritus Brooks and Gail Smith and Rev. Jean Holmes from Session expressing regret for the difficulties of the past months.(letters mailed April 16th)
- 7) ASP is not meeting in the Parish Hall during April due to a licensing problem of the YMCA.
- 8) The passing of beloved member Josephine Herbert was reported with regret.
- 9) Several members were transferred to other churches at their request.
 - Summary by Gwyn Gronlund, Clerk of Session

SUMMER CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Please note the hours Greta, our administrative assistant, will be in the office for the months of mid-May, June, July and August:

Office hours Beginning Thursday, May 21st:

Tuesday and Wednesday, 9am- 3pm Thursday, 12 noon - 4pm

After May 31st, Thursday extends to, 12 noon-5pm

And please continue to let the office know when you are scheduling meetings/gatherings in the church building. It's important that Greta is aware of who is in the building in case of emergencies.

Thank you!

Office will be closed Thursdays, July 16th, 30th and August 6th.

Sorry for any inconvenience, and *Thank you* for your understanding and cooperation.



Presbyterian Women



CIRCLE OF GRACE

May meeting day, time and place to be determined. More information will be announced.

CIRLCE OF HOPE

will be meeting on Tuesday, May 5th, at 7:30 pm at the home of Shawn Watters.

CIRCLE OF JOY

will be meeting on Wednesday, May 20 at 3:30 pm in the church lounge.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Hearts, Hands & Stitches has recently moved beyond our neighborhood and congregation. Our prayer shawl ministry is listed on the international website www. shawlministry.com. Several people have contacted us through the website to request shawls for loved ones, and thankfully, we were able to share with them. Check out the website for many beautiful prayers, inspiring stories, photos and patterns. Please keep this ministry of sharing God's love through shawls in your prayers, and remember to let one of our members know if there is a need for a shawl.

We continue to meet monthly. We create comforting shawls and lap robes at our meetings and on our own time. Our spring meeting is scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, May 12, 2015, at the home of Gwyn Gronlund

All meetings are from 7:15 to 9:30 p.m. We share ideas and prayer requests, and have a time of quiet, prayerful stitching. All are welcome to join or visit.

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

MAY SAVE THE DATE CALENDAR

*** Brass Quintet, 7:30pm, Thursdays

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	North Plainfield Community Clean Up Day, 9-1pm
3 9am Choir Rehearsal/ 10am Worship ↓	4	5 10:30am, Bible Study - TBD Circle of HOPE meeting 7:30pm member's home ↓	6	7 7:30pm Seekers Bible Study- TBD	8	9
10 (Mother's Day) ↓	Session Meeting Library 7:00pm	12 10:30am, Bible Study - TBD ↓	13	14	15	16
17 9am Choir Rehearsal 10 am Worship & 11:30am New Beginnings mtg. both in Parish Hall	18	19 ↓	Circle of JOY meeting 3:30pm in Lounge	21 ↓	22	23
24 9am Choir Rehearsal Heaven and Near Death Experience Group, 11:20am Lounge	25 (Memorial Day)	June Newsletter Deadline	27	28 ↓	29	30
31 9am Choir Rehearsal						

Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church 170 Watchung Avenue, North Plainfield, NJ 07060 908.755.2781

office@wapc.net; www.wapc.net

Director of Music Office Admin. Asst. Sexton Jeremy Messmer Greta Martin-Worthy David Eichenger <u>jeremy.messmer@gmail.com</u>; 585-750-0842 (cell) <u>office@wapc.net</u>; 908-755-2781 908-755-2781 (office)



Celebrating over 65 years and still growing

WATCHUNG AVE. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PETALS FOR PROFIT FUNDRAISER

We grow the plants to help your organization grow it's funds!
Shop at Parker Gardens between

March 1st and June 15th and

we will donate 10% of all the proceeds directly to

WATCHUNG AVE. 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!

We make gardening easy!

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

Offer cannot be combined with other offers or sales.



May 9, 2015 CONTAINER SHIPMENT NEEDS

Dear PeaceWorks Friends,

During its recent trip to Nicaragua, the PeaceWorks Delegation met with each of our Nicaragua Partners and discussed, among other things, our container shipments. Specifically, we discussed:

- the value to our Partners of the materials received in shipments
- items that the partners would like to receive in future shipments
- the process used in the shipments

Our Partners all said the shipments were of great value for them, both in terms of the materials received and the solidarity that the shipments represent with the PeaceWorks community. All wished that the shipments continue. The most common request was "more". It was heartwarming to see items that we sent in past shipments in active use by the people in Nicaragua: bicycles and gardening tools in use in poor villages; fabric sent sewn into costumes for the girls of Inhijambia or items for sale by the Axayacati sewing collective, often on sewing machines we sent; school supplies being used to help educate street children; and more.

PeaceWorks will continue our tradition of two container shipments each year. The first shipment will be loaded on May 9 at the Presbyterian Church in Plainfield. The second is tentatively planned for October 10. Please continue to collect items for the shipments, using the guidance below. Also, please let us know if you can help with the container loading on May 9, or can help with the pre-loading work in the months between now and May 9 – boxing and labeling collected materials and moving them to our storage location. This pre-load help is especially needed! Let Jason Hammond, our shipment coordinator, know how you are willing to help – his email is jhammond@drew.edu

Thanks, John Keith

GENERAL ITEMS TO COLLECT

Types of items that our Partners would like in the shipment are similar to past guidance:

- Bicycles mountain, bmx, childrens (not road bikes or fancy carbon frame bikes)
- Sewing machines and supplies (needles, thread, spare parts for machines)
- Fabric for clothing and costumes
- School supplies notebooks, pens, calculators, etc.
- Art supplies for children and teens
- Sports equipment especially for baseball, soccer and basketball
- Linens, blankets, towels, table cloths
- Clothing –summer weight. Please sort and label by type women, girls, mens, boys, baby
- Shoes particularly for women and girls (sandals, sneakers, nicer shoes) but also men, boys
- Wheelchairs
- Canes, crutches particularly canes
- Medical supplies bandages, cast supplies, blood pressure cuffs, thermometers, etc.
- Kitchen items pots, implements, eating utensils, etc. No glass or ceramic items.
- Gardening tools heavy duty shovels, hoes, rakes, wheelbarrows, etc.
- Carpentry tools-screwdrivers, hammers, wrenches, chisels, saws (hack and wood), planes, etc.
- Electronics lap top computers, printers, flat screen monitors recent, with memories erased
- Simple electronic cameras (point and shoot, not SLR, recent)
- Electric fans

A few cautions:

 Please make sure that all items are in good working condition; clothing in poor condition or electrical or mechanical items that do not work only create waste that must be sorted out and disposed of either in New Jersey or by our Partners in Nicaragua.

- Send no medicines of any type not prescription, over-the-counter, vitamins, liquids, pills, whatever – neither separate or mixed in with other items. Medicines are a red flag for Nicaragua customs. Also, send no liquids of any type.
- Any electronics (computers, tablets, printers, monitors) must be of recent vintage, working and able to handle recent versions of key programs such as Microsoft Office. Clean all memories before sending. Pack well in boxes with other stuff, such as clothing.
- In general, do not sent items that look like they may be for re-sale in Nicaragua. Used items are all
 OK. Do not send commercial scale quantities of new items, such as a carton of notebooks in an
 original Staples box.
- Please do not sent electrical appliances, machines or gadgets except as listed below.

Specific Items Requested by Partners

Our partners identified some specific items they need and would like to receive. If you are able to provide any of these items, please let Jason know prior to the shipment - and thanks!

Jubilee House

- Medical examination table
- Medical lifts for disabled persons
- Eyeglasses all types and prescriptions (not badly scratched)

Inhijambia

- Zippers for costumes
- Classical (nylon string) guitars (no steel string or electric)

Los Pipitos

- Physical therapy equipment and supplies
- Simple percussion instruments tambourines, bells, etc.
- Simple toys like duplo blocks or wooden puzzles – not cheap plastic stuff

Cusmapa Association

- Electric carpentry tools drill, circular saw, polishing machine, brush, router, hand drill set, extension cords
- Electric appliances: blender, beater
- Night tables
- Televisions for dorms (flat screen only)
- Computer for office
- Small photocopy machine



Bicycle we shipped in use by Axayacatl!

Fedicamp

- "Chapin" Sprayers for (organic) fertilizers, with attachments – need 15 or so
- 5 gallon plastic pails with covers
- Gardening trays and pots for growing seedlings
- chain link fence in rolls, 4 ft. high
- 1 inch diameter hose for irrigation systems
- drip irrigation tubing lots
- Projector for presentations

Cusmapa Pine Needle Collective

Projector for presentations

El Porvenir

- 2 drawer file cabinet
- Mechanic's tool box with tools (for tractor)
- Tables for health center, with drawers



"Chapin" Sprayers needed by Fedicamp and El Porvenir

Thanks for your help in collecting items for our shipment!

PRAYER LIST

Prayers of support for:

- *Alice Lester*, as she and her family and friends mourn the passing of her sister, *Bea Danyo*, after a long battle with cancer.
- Bethann Herbert and Jasmine Harris, along with friends and family, as they mourn the passing of *Josephine Herbert*, mother, grandmother and devoted member of our WAPC family.
- Marla and Betty Miksa and Kathy Fortin, along with friends and family, as they mourn the passing of Daniel Miksa, father & husband.

Healing, supportive prayers for:

- Cathy Boleyn's father, Harley Donham, in long term care; Joan Brown recovering at Foot Hill Acres from a broken hip & shoulder; Lisa Gayle Schmeisser, Gail Schmeisser's daughter.

Prayers of healing, comfort & support for those battling cancer:

- David Knotts, Cathy Boleyn's brother-in-law; Jeanne Norrie; Don McGinn, Faye Steinau's brother-in-law; and Joe Steinau.

Prayers for those in the military and their families:

- PFC Jasmine Harris, currently stationed in Fort Hood, Texas;
- Jennifer Solis, daughter, Clara Elizabeth and husband, Victor, during his deployment.

Continued prayers for those people at home:

- Helen and Tom Bradley, Nancy Higgins, Estelle Kennedy, Margaret L. Herman-Angely, Helen Miller, Louise Thul, Shirley Ferri, at Sunrise Assisted Living, Basking Ridge, NJ and Bob Monteith, at Green Knoll Center in Bridgewater, NJ.



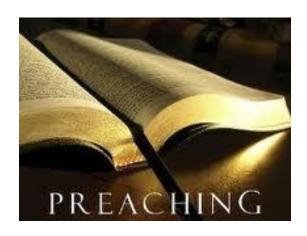
WATCHUNG AVENUE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
170 Watchung Avenue
North Plainfield, NJ 07060-4133

Visions Newsletter

Welcoming Everyone Celebrating Diversity Following Jesus

IUNE 2015





WAPC GUESTS FOR JUNE

June 7th

June 14th

June 21st

June 28th

Elder Madelynne Lindsey

Elder Madelynne Lindsey

Elder Madelynne Lindsey

Reverend Byron Leasure

WAPC to sponsor the opening of **JOSHUA'S CLOSET** a THRIFT SHOP, in June.

We will be offering our unused space under the Sanctuary for this project. Opening day and schedule will be announced soon.

WHAT IS JOSHUA'S CLOSET?

Joshua's Closet is a state recognized nonprofit organization that collects donated clothes, shoes, bags, belts, coats, stuffed animals, linens, towels, jewelry, and plastic toys. With these items, we either sell them to A&E Clothing Company, who in turn pays \$0.17 a pound, or we sell the items at yard sales that we organize. All profit from A&E Clothing Company and the yard sales are donated to The Cancer

Institute of New Jersey located in New Brunswick. The money is donated under the name Joshua James Johnson Helck.

A BRIEF HISTORY

Joshua's Closet is in memory of the founders brother, Joshua James Johnson Helck. Joshua was diagnosed with ALL

Leukemia in March 2007 and passed away in July 2007. He

was 30 years

old. The

Joshua's Cl

All Donations Support Cancer Research

Cancer

Institute of New Jersey is a research center for cancer. The money benefits all types of cancer research, not just leukemia.

FAITH GARDEN UPDATE

The Faith Garden got a late start due to the cold spring. Some spinach and kale were harvested in April and May, from plants that over-wintered. Now lots of seedlings are coming up: lettuce, spinach, kale, beets, cucumbers, zucchini and yellow squash. There is a rabbit in the garden, so plastic "collars" have been placed around tender seedlings, to try to protect them. You can save quart and half gallon plastic milk jugs to make additional collars. Some tomatoes and peppers have been planted, and more will be set out in the coming weeks. Also, beans will be planted when more collars are available. (Last spring, the rabbits ate all the bean seedlings!)

You can help by joining work mornings on Saturday, May 30 and Saturday, June 6 at 10 a.m. (subject to weather conditions) and by signing up to water for a week or two this summer. Schedule is being made up now for June through September.

Many thanks go to Andy Lake and Sarellen Hogan for donating plants for the garden.

If you want to be involved with this ministry to provide fresh produce to those in need, call Gwyn Gronlund at 908-754-1251 or email at gwyndagronlund@comcast.net.

<u>HIGHLIGHTS OF SESSION MEETING – MAY 11, 2015</u>

- 1) Replacement of all obsolete smoke detectors will be on May 15th. (Job was completed in a day's time and N.P. Fire Department dropped by and inspected, May 26th.)
- 2) Tentative approval to establishing Thrift Shop (Joshua's Closet) in basement space.
- 3) WAPC participated as a team in North Plainfield Cleanup Day on May 2.
- 4) Average worship attendance in April was 38.
- 5) Rev. Byron Leasure will provide preaching, adult education and elder training for 10 weeks, beginning with Session meeting on June 15, and worship on June 28th.
- 6) A committee was formed to work with Jeremy to come up with a solution for the sanctuary piano (which cannot be tuned again). Members of committee are Julia Lake, Dave Lyttle, and Dianne Ledder.
- 7) Announcement will be made in worship to find out if anyone would like to have a table for WAPC at the North Plainfield Street Fair on June 13th.
- 8) Sunday worship will begin promptly at 10 am. Lay readers will read the first scripture, as well as the Call to Worship and Prayer of Invocation.
- 9) Session 6 of New Beginnings will be held in Parish Hall after worship on May 17th, with lunch served. (A well attended and informative gathering! See photos provided by Jim Roselli on page 4. Thanks Jim!!)
 - Summary by Gwyn Gronlund, Clerk of Session

COFFEE HOUR CAPTAINS/HOSTS

After worship, Sundays in the Parish Hall during May were filled with people gathering over coffee and cookies and catching up with each other and with the happenings at WAPC. Good times . . . So let's keep it up!

The calendars for June, July and August are on the Coffee Hour board. Can you act as a: Captain - get volunteers to host for each week of one of the months and act as their back up support?

Host - Set up the coffee hour table for one Sunday?
Please add your name to the calendar or see me.
Dianne Ledder
Coffee Hour Chairperson
PW in WAPC

SUMMER CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Please note the change of hours for the months of June, July and August:

Tuesday and Wednesday, 9am- 3pm Thursday, 12 noon - 5pm

Office will be closed Thursdays, July 16th, 30th and August 6th.

Sorry for any inconvenience, and *Thank you* for your understanding and cooperation.

PLEASE continue to let the office know when you are scheduling meetings/gatherings in the church building. It's important that Greta is aware of who is in the building in case of emergencies.

Thank you!

FOR PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES

In the event of a need for pastoral care, please call Greta in the office at 908-755-2781 and she will contact by phone pastoral care committee members

Fran Young (fran.reid.young@gmail.com)

Gwyn Gronlund (gwyndagronlund@comcast.net)

There are pastors on call for hospital emergencies and funerals.

FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP



If you would like to remember a loved one or celebrate a special event by providing flowers for a Sunday worship service, the flower sign up calendar for **2015** is located on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. If you are not bringing the flowers yourself, Gray's Florist in Watchung on Rte.22 E has been a good source and delivers to the church (908-757-0400). If you want Gray's to deliver, make sure you instruct them to do so. Greta, our church administrative assistant, will call you to remind you of flower sign up and confirm wording for the bulletin.

















Presbyterian Women



CIRCLE OF GRACE

June meeting day, time and place to be determined. More information will be announced.

CIRLCE OF HOPE

will be meeting on Tuesday, June 9th, at 5:30pm at Giovanni's Restaurant in Plainfield.

CIRCLE OF JOY

will be meeting on *Tuesday, June 9th at* 3:30pm with location to be determined. Details to be announced.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Hearts, Hands & Stitches has recently moved beyond our neighborhood and congregation. Our prayer shawl ministry is listed on the international website www.shawlministry.com. Several people have contacted us through the website to request shawls for loved ones, and thankfully, we were able to share with them. Check out the website for many beautiful prayers, inspiring stories, photos and patterns. Please keep this ministry of sharing God's love through shawls in your prayers, and remember to let one of our members know if there is a need for a shawl.

We continue to meet monthly. We create comforting shawls and lap robes at our meetings and on our own time.

Our June meeting is scheduled as follows: Tuesday, June 9, 2015, at the home of Fran Young. All meetings are from 7:15 to 9:30 p.m.

We share ideas and prayer requests, and have a time of quiet, prayerful stitching. All are welcome to join or visit.

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

JUNE SAVE THE DATE CALENDAR

*** Brass Quintet, 7:30pm, Thursdays

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 10:30am, Bible Study - TBD	3	7:30pm Seekers Bible Study- TBD	5	6
9am Choir Rehearsal/ 10am Worship ↓	8	9 10:30am, Bible Study - TBD Circle of Joy, 3:30pm Circle of Hope, 5:30pm 7:15pm Hearts, Hands & Stitches meeting	10	11	12	13 North Plainfield Street Fair 12noon - 6pm
14 ↓	Session Meeting Library 7:00pm	16 10:30am, Bible Study - TBD	17	18	19	20
21 9am Choir Rehearsal/ 10am Worship ↓ (Father's Day)	22	July/Aug. Newsletter Deadline	24	25 ↓	26	27
28 ↓	29	30 10:30am, Bible Study - TBD				

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

908.755.2781 office@wapc.net; www.wapc.net

Director of Music Office Admin. Asst. Sexton Jeremy Messmer Greta Martin-Worthy David Eichenger <u>jeremy.messmer@gmail.com</u>; 585-750-0842 (cell) <u>office@wapc.net</u>; 908-755-2781 908-755-2781 (office)



Celebrating over 65 years and still growing

WATCHUNG AVE. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PETALS FOR PROFIT FUNDRAISER

We grow the plants to help your organization grow it's funds!

Shop at Parker Gardens from now until

June 15th!! (only 2 weeks left) and

we will donate **10%** of all the proceeds directly to WATCHUNG AVE. 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!

We make gardening easy!

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

Offer cannot be combined with other offers or sales.









Welcome to Garden State Equality's

6th Annual *Equality Walk*!



The DAY: Saturday, June 20, 2015

The TIME: 10:00 am

The PLACE: Kennedy Park in Asbury Park
Grand Avenue between Cookman & Lake Ave

Register: GSEquality.org/Walk

Meet us in **Kennedy Park**Grand Avenue between Cookman Ave and Lake Ave
RAIN OR SHINE!

The walk will be a roughly 2 mile circle to & from the boardwalk in Asbury Park.

Your support keeps GSE strong and ensures we are able to fight for every member of the LGBT community and those who need our focus such as LGBT youth, senior citizens and those in our transgender community

We fight *every day* to protect students all over New Jersey from bullying, harassment, and intimidation.

Prizes, incentives and additional details to be announced!

If you can't physically be at the Equality Walk, we invite you to be a Virtual Walker. You can still register and collect donations online!

Register at: <u>GSEquality.org/Walk</u>

If you have questions, email us at Walk@GardenStateEquality.org or call our headquarters at (973) 509-5428

Garden State Equality, 40 South Fullerton Ave, Montclair, NJ 07042

www.Facebook.com/GardenStateEquality Twitter: @GSEquality

PRAYER LIST

Prayers of support and comfort for:

- *Gail Schmeisser*, as she and her family and friends mourn the passing of her daughter, *Lisa Gayle Schmeisser*, after a long illness.
- Alice Lester, as she and her family and friends mourn the passing of her sister, Bea Danyo, after a long battle with cancer.

Healing, supportive prayers for:

Cathy Boleyn's father, Harley Donham, in long term care; Joan Brown recovering at Foot Hill Acres from a broken hip & shoulder.

Prayers of healing, comfort & support for those battling cancer:

David Knotts, Cathy Boleyn's brother-in-law; Jeanne Norrie; Don McGinn, Faye Steinau's brother-in-law; and Joe Steinau.

Prayers for those in the military and their families:

- PFC Jasmine Harris, currently stationed in Fort Hood, Texas.
- Jennifer Solis, daughter, Clara Elizabeth and husband, Victor, during his deployment.

Continued prayers for those people at home:

Helen and Tom Bradley, Nancy Higgins, Estelle Kennedy, Margaret L. Herman Angely, Helen Miller, Louise Thul, Shirley Ferri, at Sunrise Assisted Living, Basking Ridge, NJ and Bob Monteith, at Green Knoll Center in Bridgewater, NJ.



Happy Father's Day!







WATCHUNG AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

170 Watchung Avenue North Plainfield, NJ 07060-4133

Welcoming Everyone Celebrating Diversity Following Jesus

July 2015



A Note From Our Visiting Pastor

some thoughts.....

Since we were first uncomfortable in caves. human beings have been problem solving people, working to change our present situation to make it more comfortable, acceptable, functional, etc. Sometimes those changes were quick and easy (change the light bulb) and other times they took time (invent airplanes). But our tendency is for immediate gratification. See a problem. Fix a problem. In the least amount of time possible.

We encounter difficulty when patience, long term dedication and commitment are involved. Struggling with a problem for a long period of time challenges us and forces us to truly commit ourselves to some error and to some real risk. The Wright Brothers spent lots of time overcoming their failures and trying their own patience.

When changes involve people and relationships they really become complicated, taking lots more time, because we all have our unique perspective of how the problem should be solved. Pulling all those perspective together isn't always quick and easy.

And then sometimes the changes that need to be made are seismic. We've gone to the bank for years with our paycheck and gotten our monthly bank statement in the mail. And suddenly we're being charged to get the bank statement and the bank is going to charge us to cash or deposit our paycheck. They want us to do all our banking online and by phone.

In many ways that's where I think Watchung Ave Presbyterian Church finds itself today. Everyone agrees there are problems. But we're not all sure we have the patience to pull the perspectives together and we're not sure we want to take lots of time for a solution.

Along with other churches and denominations there has been a seismic shift in church. What we have been comfortable doing doesn't seem to work anymore. The world has shifted dramatically and the ways in which the church connects with that world have to be rethought. And we're not sure how we do that.

I want to remind you this isn't the first time that has been true. The very early church had the same struggle as did the church in other hostile environments during history. I want to remind you that the problems or issues that face WAPC didn't arise in the last few months, but have developed gradually over time. The decline has been going on for a while.

The solution will occur the same way. Like the Wright brothers, there may be some mistakes along the way.

But if God got the Israelites through the desert and if God got the early church through the first years after Jesus, I'm sure God can get WAPC through the next years. But like the Israelites and the early church we have to trust that God is going to send just what we need to deal with our problems. We have to trust God is not going to forget us on our journey but will walk with us.

Shalom,

Byron

July 1, 2015

Dear friends,

WELCOMING EVERYONE
CELEBRATING DIVERSITY
FOLLOWING JESUS

I am sending this letter to give you some idea of what we will be doing at WAPC over the summer and share some thoughts about how churches recover from crisis.

It has been my experience as I have worked with churches that need renewal and new visions that we have to get ourselves grounded in a real understanding of who we are. Last Sunday in Adult Education we talked about 1 Corinthians 12, where Paul talks about the church as the Body of Christ. I would urge you to read that chapter. This Sunday we will talk about things the Book of Order, the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church, says about who we are and how we function as a church. Over the next few weeks we will explore more of that foundational background.

Then we will focus specifically on the question of what God wants of us at this time and place. Last night in the Session meeting we talked about how we discern God's will. That is the challenge WAPC faces over the next months. It is important, as we look to the future, that we have an understanding that we need to get our journey aligned with God's journey, our will with God's will.

There is one comment I want to make about all of this. Sometimes it can be pretty overwhelming to see the magnitude of the task ahead. There are lots of empty seats in the sanctuary. Clearly WAPC needs to change and grow. It's easy for us to think about all that needs to be done, worry about whether this or that will work, worry that there aren't enough people to do what needs to happen, get anxious about whether we have the time and energy to do everything.

I want to remind you of a line that churches constantly overlook, but which is fundamental to our mission. On the first page of the Book of Order in F.1-0202, Christ Calls and Equips the Church, it says, 'Christ calls the Church into being, giving it all that is necessary for its mission in the world....'

I think it is important that we remember that quote. If Christ has called WAPC into existence, then God will provide what we need in order to do what God calls us to do.

I will be at WAPC on Sundays and will be available to talk with you after 1:30 when Adult Education is finished. I will also be around on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, when Session is meeting. I will be available anytime after 4:00 PM. I would love to hear your thoughts about the past, present, and future of WAPC. However, please call the office to make an app't so I don't encounter 3 people all wanting to talk at the same time.

I look forward to working with you and beginning to move into a new vision for Watchung Ave Presbyterian Church.



Shalom, Byron

RESULTS OF THE NEW BEGINNINGS PROCESS

At their regular stated meeting on Monday, June 15, the Session received and accepted a report from the *New Beginnings* facilitators. From discussion by the members of the congregation who attended the May 17th *New Beginnings* session as well as the previous five *New Beginnings* sessions, the facilitators reported that the participants rejected options such as closure or "doing nothing" different from what the congregation is doing now, and that the consensus of those present was to Redefine the Mission of WAPC.

Believing that we can remain in our building and that we have the levels of energy, dedication, resources and skills to transform WAPC "into a mission station that intersects with the needs of the people who live in the surrounding communities," the following motion was made and unanimously passed:

The Session, with the involvement of the congregation, will work to redefine the mission of Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church in order to carry the good news of Jesus to not only its members but also to the surrounding community. During the next two or more months we will discern to what mission God is calling our congregation and to develop the base on which our future is built.

Toward this end, the Session is committed for the next 10 weeks to working with Rev. Byron Leasure in developing and strengthening the skills we will need.

SCHEDULING APPOINTMENTS WITH BYRON

We welcome Rev. Byron Leasure to our midst for 10 weeks this summer. He will be leading us in worship and adult education **every Sunday from June 28 until September 20**, with the exception of the second Sunday of each month. Adult education is open to everyone, and will take place each Sunday after worship.

Byron will also be available <u>by appointment</u> on Sunday afternoons after adult education class after 1:30pm and in the late afternoon of the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

Please call or email the office to make an appointment for either Sunday or Monday. (908-755-2781 or office@wapc.net)

Byron will lead worship on the following Sundays:

July 5, 19 and 26 August 2, 16, 23 and 30 September 6 and 20

He will be available, late afternoons, from 4-6pm on the following Mondays:

June 29 July 13 and 27 August 10 and 24 September 14

HIGHLIGHTS OF SESSION MEETING – JUNE 15, 2015

- 1) Replacement of all obsolete smoke detectors was completed.
- 2) There was water leakage in the basement during the recent heavy rain.
- 3) Average worship attendance in May was 35.
- 4) One air conditioner in basement and video monitor in office not working at top capacity.
- 5) Piano committee looking into a Steinway possibly available from the Wilson School.
- 6) The New Beginnings facilitators' report was accepted by Session. A motion was made and unanimously passed that "Session, with the involvement of the congregation, will work to redefine the mission of Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church in order to carry the good news of Jesus to not only its members but also to the surrounding community."

Summary by Gwyn Gronlund, Clerk of Session, with notes from Elders Hogan and Ledder





Come enjoy ice cream and get acquainted with the lovely people who worship in our building. Members of New Life and Nuevo Pacto congregations will join us on Sunday, July 19 at 4 p.m. in the Parish Hall. There will be make-your-own ice cream sundaes and activities for children.

WAPC will host this gathering. If you can be of help in planning, setup, serving, cleanup, please contact Gwyn Gronlund at gwyndagronlund@comcast.net

FAITH GARDEN UPDATE

With all the rain and warm weather recently, the growth at the Faith Garden has been phenomenal!

Zucchini and cucumber plants are just beginning to flower. Tomato plants are flowering, and even a few tiny tomatoes are visible.

The plastic collars seem to be helping. Some seedlings have been munched, but not as many as last year.

[Would anyone like to adopt a rabbit or two?]





Please sign up to water for a week or two this summer. Schedule is being made up now for July through September.

If you want to be involved with this ministry to provide fresh produce to those in need, call Gwyn Gronlund

at 908-754-1251 or email at gwyndagronlund@comcast.net.







SPECIAL OFFICE HOURS JULY & AUGUST

PLEASE continue to let the office know when you are scheduling meetings/gatherings in the church building. It's important that Greta is aware of who is in the building in case of emergencies.

Thank you!

 Tuesdays- July 21 & Aug. 8
 8am -11am

 Wednesdays- July 15, 22, 29 & Aug. 5
 8am -11am

 Fridays- July 17, 31 & Aug. 7
 8am -11am

ON ALL OTHER DATES HOURS WILL BE:

Tues./Wed., 9am-3pm * Thurs., 12-5pm * Fri., 10am-12noon

OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

Thursdays, July 16th, 30th and August 6th

Sorry for any inconvenience, and *Thank you* for your understanding and cooperation.

FOR PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES

In the event of a need for pastoral care, please call Greta in the office at 908-755-2781 and she will contact by phone pastoral care committee members

Fran Young (fran.reid.young@gmail.com)
and

Gwyn Gronlund (gwyndagronlund@comcast.net)

There are pastors on call for hospital emergencies and funerals.

FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP



Remember a loved one or celebrate a special event by providing flowers for a Sunday worship service. The 2015 sign up calendar is located on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. If not bringing the flowers yourself, Gray's Florist in Watchung on Rte.22 E has been a good source and delivers to the church (908-757-0400) upon your request. The church administrative assistant, will call you to confirm wording for the bulletin.

COFFEE HOUR CAPTAINS/HOSTS

After worship, Sundays in the Parish Hall during May were filled with people gathering over coffee and cookies and catching up with each other and with the happenings at WAPC.

Good times . . .

So let's keep it up!

The calendars for July and August are on the Coffee Hour board. Can you act as a: Captain - get volunteers to host for each week of one of the months and act as their back up support?

Host - Set up the coffee hour table for one Sunday?
Please add your name to the calendar or see me.
Dianne Ledder
Coffee Hour Chairperson
PW in WAPC

JULY **SAVE THE DATE** CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4 Happy Independence Day!!
9am Choir Rehearsal/ 10am Worship/ Adult Ed. Class ↓	6	7 Circle of Joy, 9:15 am @ Perkins Restaurant	8	9	10	11 Hearts, Hands & Stitches - time TBD
12 ↓	Session Meeting Library 7:00pm	14	15	16	17	18
19 9am Choir Reh./ 10am Worship/ Adult Ed. Class ICE CREAM SOCIAL- 4PM	20	21	22	August Newsletter Deadline	24	25
26 9am Choir Rehearsal/ 10am Worship/ Adult Ed. Class	Session Meeting Library 7:00pm	28	29	30	31	

*** Brass Quintet, 7:30pm, Thursdays

Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church
170 Watchung Avenue, North Plainfield, NJ 07060
Director of Music Jeremy Messmer
Office Admin. Asst. Greta Martin-Worthy

Sexton David Eichenger

908.755.2781

office@wapc.net; www.wapc.net <u>jeremy.messmer@gmail.com</u>; 585-750-0842 (cell)

office@wapc.net; 908-755-2781

908-755-2781 (office)



Presbyterian Women



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Hearts, Hands & Stitches has recently moved beyond our neighborhood and congregation. Our prayer shawl ministry is listed on the international website, www. shawlministry.com. Several people have contacted us through the website to request shawls for loved ones, and thankfully, we were able to share with them. Check out the website for many beautiful prayers, inspiring stories, photos and patterns. Please keep this ministry of sharing God's love through shawls in your prayers, and remember to let one of our members know if there is a need for a shawl.

We continue to meet monthly. We create comforting shawls and lap robes at our meetings and on our own time. Our summer meetings are scheduled as follows:

An afternoon in the country, Saturday, July 11, at the home of Judith Botzan. We will carpool to Judith's, time to be announced.

Tuesday, August 11, at the home of Ellen Lake, at 7:15 p.m.

We share ideas and prayer requests, plan our projects, and have a time of quiet, prayerful stitching. All are welcome to join or visit.

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

CIRCLE OF JOY

will be meeting on Tuesday, July 7th at 9:15am for breakfast at Perkins Restaurant in Green Brook.

CIRLCE OF HOPE

will not be meeting for the months of July and August. Meetings will resume in September. Announcements to follow.

CIRCLE OF GRACE

July meeting day, time and place to be determined. More information will be announced. 7th Annual Front Porch

BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL PIGROAST

Saturday July IIth 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Gazebo Park, Main Street, Chester, NJ

FREE ADMISSION KIDS ACTIVITIES
LIVE BANDS VENDORS
INSTRUMENT AUCTION!

RAIN OR SHINE JOIN US UNDER THE TENT (BRING YOUR OWN BLANKET OR LAWN CHAIRS)

Questions call (908)443-1294 or visit WWW.FRONTPORCHBLUEGRASSFESTIVAL.COM

Donations accepted & all proceeds to benefit BYG Work Camp; a mission group composed of 7 local area churches that travel to Appalachia every summer to rebuild homes with Appalachia Service Project. This summer, our 120 volunteers will spend a week making many families safer, warmer and drier through home repairs.

PRAYER LIST

Prayers of support and comfort for:

- *Tom Bradley*, as he and his friends and family mourn the passing of his wife of 70 years, *Helen Bradley*.

Healing, supportive prayers for:

- *Margaret Herman-Angely* recently hospitalized for tests at RWJ Somerset Hospital.
- Faye Steinau, recovering well at home from hip replacement surgery.
- Mark Lampariello recovering from heart surgery.
- Joan Brown recovering at Foot Hill Acres from a broken hip and shoulder.
- Cathy Boleyn's father, Harley Donham, in long term care.

Prayers of healing, comfort & support for those battling cancer:

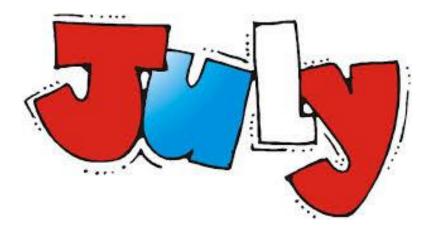
- *David Knotts*, Cathy Boleyn's brother-in-law; *Jeanne Norrie*; *Don McGinn*, Faye Steinau's brother-in-law; *and Joe Steinau*.

Prayers for those in the military and their families:

- *Jim Lester*, Alice Lester's grandson, to serve 1 year with the USMC after completing officer's candidate school.
- PFC Jasmine Harris, currently stationed in Fort Hood, Texas.
- *Victor Solis*, husband and father of Jennifer (Hernandez) Solis and Clara Elizabeth during his deployment.

Continued prayers for those people at home:

- Nancy Higgins, Estelle Kennedy, Helen Miller, Louise Thul, Shirley Ferri, at Sunrise Assisted Living, Basking Ridge, NJ and Bob Monteith, at Green Knoll Center in Bridgewater, NJ.









WATCHUNG AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

170 Watchung Avenue North Plainfield, NJ 07060-4133

Visions Newsletter

Welcoming Everyone
Celebrating Diversity
Following Jesus

August 2015



A Note From Our Visiting Pastor

some thoughts.....

For a long time my doctor regularly used to tell me it would be good if I exercised every day. My reaction was my schedule was too full and I just couldn't get that in.

Almost 15 years ago I had a 'minor' heart attack, although I thought it hurt enough to qualify as a 'major' one. The cardiologist also told me I needed to exercise regularly. Not only was it a good idea, he said, it was necessary if I wanted to live a full life.

I found it amazing how a 'minor' heart attack could provide such focus, how much that could clarify priorities. I was amazed at how I could find time that I couldn't before. Now the gym is a regular event 5 days a week.

I have an 83 year old friend with emphysema who resisted carrying oxygen with him because of appearance. He didn't want to look helpless and needy. He now carries oxygen because he decided it was better to live a full life outside his house than a restricted life inside the house.

We know a crisis can really focus our attention, whether it's something medical, personal, financial, etc. Just let your life, your future, hang in the balance and it is amazing how clear one can be with one's priorities.

That's also true with churches. If WAPC can allow its current situation to help it focus on its real priorities you will be amazed at how clear you will become about what is important and what needs to be done to ensure your future ministry.

The 7 last words of the church, 'We have always done it that way' will become irrelevant. 'What do we need to do to live' will become far more relevant.

We all have to decide if we want to live or die. We have to decide just what we want and what we believe God wants for us. Some people chose to eat, drink, smoke, etc. themselves to death. Some churches decide to live out the 7 last words of the church. Others decide to live.

Frankly, as hard as it is, I think WAPC is at a great place of clarity. It is not a time for hand wringing, but simply a time to set priorities and to be united on those priorities. It's time over the next weeks and months to talk openly and clearly about how we are going to live into the future, letting go of all that has held us back. It's an opportunity to not just talk the talk, but also walk the walk, finding the time to do what we have always talked about doing.

Shalom,

Byron





Van Gogh Museum, WikiArt

by Bishop Bruce Ough and Rev. Susan Nienaber

It is possible to revitalize our mainline congregations and denominational structures. And it is happening all around us, in spite of the numerous challenges we are still facing. It's true that we are still challenged by an aging population in our mainline churches, fewer younger clergy, seasoned clergy who are struggling to learn new skills and ways of being because what worked at the beginning of their ministries is not working now and recovering from several decades of despair and exhaustion. Despite these challenges, we are bold to say that we now know what works. The mechanics of reversing the downward trends in our denominations have been well documented in books such as Bishop Robert Schnase's Seven Levers: Missional Strategies for Conferences. But, the mechanics alone will not create the kind of revitalization that is needed. Just as important as the mechanics is the attitude, mind-set, stance, and practices of leaders leading this revitalization work, whether they are clergy, lay or denominational leaders. In our work together as denominational executives (Bishop Bruce Ough of the Minnesota and Dakotas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and Susan Nienaber, District Superintendent), here's what we are finding:

- 1. **Prayer is Absolutely Essential**. Every day it is essential to ground yourself in God. There is so much coming at you as a denominational executive (or pastor or lay leader for that matter) that taking time for your spiritual disciplines helps you know how to keep the main thing the main thing. "An active prayer life keeps it from being about you." (Bishop Ough) We still operate in a culture where prayer is often about getting something rather than an act of letting go. The kind of prayer that is necessary to effectively lead is about opening ourselves up so that we can be available to God's purposes—essentially, getting out of God's way. It is acknowledging through prayer the power and presence of God. And, it's being reminded that we can't do it ourselves but God can.
- 2. The Belief that God is at Work and Will Work to Guide and Direct our Efforts. Closely related to prayer is the firm belief that God is already at work and will work to guide and direct our transformational efforts. While it is possible to have a fundamental belief that God is at work in the world without fully understanding one's place in God's work, prayer provides the space to discern how we can cooperate with the Spirit that is already moving. Related to what a leader

fundamentally believes, another key to success is the language that we use. The Sufi poet Hafiz wrote, "What we speak becomes the house we live in." The pall of despair and decline has been too pervasive in the past 30 years. The lamenting must stop and we must focus our whole selves on God's work – this means being very careful and intentional about the words we choose to use.

- 3. Looking for the Miracles that are Happening and Telling the Stories of
 - **Transformation**. The definition of miracles that we are using here is not just the literal miracle of whether or not the person with cancer is healed. Rather it is the more ordinary moments when God's love and grace overwhelms our sensibilities; when we see our faith communities become submerged in God's goodness. Recently, one of our small churches gathered together to do the funeral of a stranger, someone who was destitute and without family. That story went viral in the media. This is a miracle. A miracle may simply be that people believe that God's grace has been unleashed. When we do something ordinary God takes that ordinary act and creates something incredible. We still have to be honest about the despair, brokenness and decline in our mainline situation but we can't allow ourselves to believe that despair has the last word. It's about God transforming us and changing us. The stories that we tell only have power if they are told and heard and believed. The stories have to touch the heartstrings in order to inspire change.
- 4. **Developing a Clear Sense of One's Mission as a Leader**. A great leader at this time in history has to know how God intends to use them and how God is already using them. "I have a fundamental belief that God wants to work through me to create new life here." (Bishop Ough) It is important to be bold and have the confidence that God has a clear plan and mission. The other critically important belief is that we cannot control the decline and revitalize simply by being a skillful manager or technician. We will stay stuck in a rut with the only the mechanics. Mechanics and technicians make things efficient but this is not ultimately what will get us to the revitalization of the mainline. It's about God transforming us and changing us. Again, "we cannot manage our way into revitalization, we can only be led into it." (Bishop Ough)
- 5. **Being Willing to Color outside the Lines**. Most of us spend the bulk of our lives and energies trying to create boxes of sensibility. We spend time trying to figure out how to manage our lives according to our denominational rules while our churches feel the pressure to put together predicable programs and governing structures. Boxes can be helpful and are a necessary evil in some ways in order to keep large organizations in check but when those boxes begin to keep us from seeing where God is at work they then keep us from being able to live into the miraculous. The task of the leader is to work to break down those boxes in order to get to a different place or to create a different organizational culture. All organizations need to constantly re-create themselves. The whole journey of a leader is orientation to disorientation to orientation.

We only grow if we have seasons of disorientation. "We typically cannot be arrested by God's presence unless we are a little disoriented." (Bishop Ough) A leader sometimes needs to say outrageous things in order to lift up an idea that is out of the box for it is "only when we are

disoriented that God can command our full attention." (Bishop Ough) We can't get too comfortable with the way things are because we will then feel trapped or, even worse, come to believe that we don't need God. A critical piece of advice: you can win many trust points by taking a good, calculating risk but you lose a lot if it doesn't work.

- 6. Being Fearless in Making Extremely Tough Decisions and Choices and Managing the Anxiety that Is Generated. Being fearless is in large part about being consistent. It is one thing to make a tough decision, it is something else to stay with that decision even when the pressure builds. It is important to live with a tough decision long enough to make an impact. But there is a difference between being fearless and being reckless. Being fearless is about courageously living out of one's values and one's faith that God is at work. Being reckless sometimes happens when we do or say outrageous things only to get the attention of the organization or to create disorientation instead of making a tough decision because it is the right thing to do.
- 7. **Humbly Admitting Mistakes and Working to Fix Those**. If a risk doesn't work you can't ignore it and you can't blame someone else for the mistake. A courageous and effective leader readily acknowledges mistakes, takes ownership of them, and humbly and sincerely apologies for those mistakes. This is the only way to build and maintain trust. When you take risks, not everything is going to work. One doesn't always know for sure if it is God's right time. Sometimes leaders want to be fearless without a willingness to take responsibility for the outcomes. This will be a disaster for the organization if you cannot admit your mistakes.
- 8. **Always Being Grateful**. Every day is a gift and it is a tremendous privilege to be in religious leadership at this time in history. God is doing powerful work in the refining of our mainline traditions and as a people of faith we are breaking free from the structures that held us in bondage. We are confident that we will break free to do God's will in order to create disciples for the transformation of the world.

Whatever role you play—as pastor, lay leader, or denominational executive—you can help to reverse the steep decline in our traditional systems. We will lose some churches that are too far down the life cycle of decline, while others will turn around in remarkable ways. Choosing life, in whatever form it takes, is key. The spirit, attitude, and tone of our leadership will make all the difference.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, July 26th, the adult education participants brainstormed with Byron to develop a list of characteristics of a *faith-based community*. Here are our results.

A *faith-based community* should be:

- Supportive
- Encouraging
- Celebrative
- Grateful
- Inclusive
- Share a belief in God/Jesus
- Have Action-based responsibility
- Trusting in God's Grace
- Open to God's leading
- Have presence of the Spirit



What do you think of these qualities?

SCHEDULING APPOINTMENTS WITH BYRON

Rev. Byron Leasure will be with us for <u>only 6 more weeks</u> this summer. He has been leading us in worship and adult education every Sunday since June 28 and will end on September 20, with the exception of the second Sunday of each month. Adult education is open to everyone, and will take place each of those Sundays after worship.

Byron will also be available <u>by appointment</u> on Sunday afternoons after adult education class after 1:30pm and in the late afternoon of the second and fourth Mondays of each month. Please call or email the office to make an appointment for either Sunday or Monday. (908-755-2781 or office@wapc.net)

Byron continues to lead worship on the following Sundays: August 2, 16, 23 and 30 September 6 and 20

He will be available, late afternoons, from 4-6pm on the following Mondays:

August 10 and 24

September 14

Ice Cream Social, Sunday, July 19th

I want to thank and commend everyone who was part of the ice cream social event. I thought it was an amazing success in spite of the heat and humidity. You all did a great job of hosting your neighbors and entering into real conversation with them. A couple of times I sat there wondering where this might all lead, but thought it was a great beginning. I just want to thank and congratulate you all. ~Byron

HIGHLIGHTS OF SESSION MEETING – JULY 13, 2015

- 1) A motion was passed to not charge extra for decorating time for an event for current members and anyone with member status. Next month we will review rental policies.
- 2) A motion was passed to give permission for tolling of a single handbell at the end of the worship service each week as well as a random ring of handbells at the beginning of the service on the second Sunday of each month during the summer.
- 3) A signup sheet will be posted and volunteers will be requested to serve as Lay Readers for Sundays in the month of August.
- 4) Training will be set up for ordained members to serve Home Communion to our friends at home.
- 5) The resignation of Julia Lake as elder was accepted with regret. Julia will be leaving to attend graduate school.
- 6) Session moved to allow any Presbytery business on the WAPC computer to be given to Margaret Mitsuyasu, associate pastor of Pluckemin Presbyterian Church.
- 7) Average worship attendance in June was 32.

Summary by Gwyn Gronlund, Clerk of Session

Future Plans of some of WAPC's Family Graduates

Jake Watters will be attending the University of Rochester as a senior in the fall, majoring in Biomedical Engineering.

Shelby Watters will be attending Florida Institute of Technology as a sophomore in the fall, majoring in Pilot / Aviation Management.

Shelby obtained her private pilot's license during her freshman year at FIT.

Lily Durick will be a freshman attending Rowan University this fall. She plans on majoring in early childhood education.

Jennifer Jones will be attending Raritan Valley Community College as a freshman this fall.

Ryan Thomas will be a sophomore at Kean University, studying Criminal Justice.

Summer Thomas graduated from The College of New Jersey this past May, earning a B.S. in Health & Exercise Science with a minor in Psychology. She swam for TCNJ all 4 years & was captain her senior year. She will be attending Montclair State University's Graduate School in the fall studying nutrition to become a Registered Dietician. Summer will also be a swim coach for the Westfield YMCA swim team.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS AUGUST

Tuesday & Wednesday, 9am-3pm Thursday, 12-5pm Friday, 10am-12noon PLEASE continue to let the office know when you are scheduling meetings/gatherings in the church building. It's important that Greta is aware of who is in the building in case of emergencies.

Thank you!

FOR PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES

In the event of a need for pastoral care, please call Greta in the office at 908-755-2781 and she will contact by phone pastoral care committee members

Fran Young

(fran.reid.young@gmail.com) and

Gwyn Gronlund (gwyndagronlund@comcast.net)

There are pastors on call for hospital emergencies and funerals.

Get well cards can be sent to:

Grace Landsperger

c/o Fedoryk

10 New Brunswick Avenue

Lavallette, NJ 08735

FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP



Remember a loved one or celebrate a special event by providing flowers for a Sunday worship service. The 2015 sign up calendar is located on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. If not bringing the flowers yourself, Gray's Florist in Watchung on Rte.22 E has been a good source and delivers to the church (908-757-0400) upon your request. The church administrative assistant, will call you to confirm wording for the bulletin.

COFFEE HOUR CAPTAINS/HOSTS

After worship, Sundays in the Parish Hall during May were filled with people gathering over coffee and cookies and catching up with each other and with the happenings at WAPC.

Good times . . .

So let's keep it up!

The calendar for August is on the Coffee Hour board. Can you act as a: Captain - get volunteers to host for each week of one of the months and act as their back up support?

Host - Set up the coffee hour table for one Sunday?
Please add your name to the calendar or see me.
Dianne Ledder
Coffee Hour Chairperson
PW in WAPC

AUGUST SAVE THE DATE CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
9am Choir Rehearsal/ 10am Worship/ Adult Ed. Class	3	4	5	5	7	8
9 9am Choir Rehearsal/ 10am Worship/ NO Adult Ed. Class	Session Meeting Library 7:00pm	11 Hearts, Hands & Stitches to meet 7:15pm- Location TBD	12	13	14	15
9am Choir Rehearsal/ 10am Worship/ Adult Ed. Class ↓	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 ↓	Session Meeting Library 7:00pm	September Newsletter Deadline	26	27	28	29
30 ↓	31					

*** Brass Quintet, 7:30pm, Thursdays

Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church
170 Watchung Avenue, North Plainfield, NJ 07060
Director of Music Jeremy Messmer
Office Admin. Asst. Greta Martin-Worthy
Sexton David Eichenger

908.755.2781 office@wapc.net; www.wapc.net jeremy.messmer@gmail.com; 585-750-0842 (cell) office@wapc.net; 908-755-2781 908-755-2781 (office)



Presbyterian Women



CIRCLE OF JOY

will not be meeting for the month of August. Meetings to resume in September. Announcements to follow.

CIRLCE OF HOPE

will not be meeting for the month of August. Meetings will resume in September. Announcements to follow.

CIRCLE OF GRACE

will not be meeting in August. More information about when meetings are to resume will be announced.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Although the weather is hot and sticky, the members of **Hearts, Hands & Stitches** are still knitting and crocheting prayer shawls and lap robes to share God's love with those who are grieving, hospitalized or at home, or celebrating a milestone.

We continue to meet monthly. We create comforting shawls and lap robes at our meetings and on our own time. Our summer meetings are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, August 11, at 7:15 p.m., location to be determined.

An afternoon in the country, **Saturday**, **September 12**, **at the home of Judith Botzan**.

We will carpool to Judith's time to be appounced.

We will carpool to Judith's, time to be announced.

We share ideas and prayer requests, plan our projects, and have a time of quiet, prayerful stitching.

All are welcome to join or visit.

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

PRAYER LIST

Prayers of support and comfort for:

- The Boleyn family and friends as they mourn the passing of *Cathy Boleyn's* father, *Harley Donham*.
- *Tom Bradley*, as he and his friends and family mourn the passing of his wife of 70 years, *Helen Bradley*.

Healing, supportive prayers for:

- *Grace Landsperger*, who fell and broke her hip and wrist while visiting her daughter, Jeanne Fedoryk.
- *Margaret Herman-Angely* recently hospitalized for tests at RWJ Somerset Hospital.
- Faye Steinau, recovering well at home from hip replacement surgery.
- Mark Lampariello recovering from heart surgery.
- Joan Brown recovering at Foot Hill Acres from a broken hip and shoulder.

Prayers of healing, comfort & support for those battling cancer:

- *David Knotts*, Cathy Boleyn's brother-in-law; *Jeanne Norrie*; *Don McGinn*, Faye Steinau's brother-in-law; *and Joe Steinau*.

Prayers for those in the military and their families:

- *Jim Lester*, Alice Lester's grandson, to serve 1 year with the USMC after completing officer's candidate school.
- PFC Jasmine Harris, currently stationed in Fort Hood, Texas.

Continued prayers for those people at home:

- Nancy Higgins, Estelle Kennedy, Helen Miller, Louise Thul, Shirley Ferri, at Sunrise Assisted Living, Basking Ridge, NJ and Bob Monteith, at Green Knoll Center in Bridgewater, NJ.

[08/2015]



WATCHUNG AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

170 Watchung Avenue North Plainfield, NJ 07060-4133

Visions Ne

Welcoming Everyone
Celebrating Diversity
Following Jesus

September 2015



A Note From Our Visiting Pastor

some thoughts.....

One of the most dramatic stories coming out of the Pope's visit to Philadelphia is a minor little story about the LBGT symposium to discuss gender identity that was to occur in St. John the Evangelist Church, one of the large Catholic churches in the city. After a call from the archdiocese, the church withdrew its invitation to host the event.

The old pattern of Roman Catholic authority would dictate that once the archdiocese has spoken the symposium would have been cancelled. It would not have been held in defiance of the archbishop's authority.

As another indication that the days of top down clergy authority are over, the leaders of the symposium simply moved the event down the street to the Methodist church, rejecting the authority of the archbishop.

Within churches of all sorts that old pattern of the clergy being the shepherd of the flock and carrying the vision and ministry for the flock is rapidly dying. There are a number of reasons for this, but they all reinforce, in one way or another, Luther's concept of the priesthood of believers. We no longer live in a world in which people automatically accept authority. More and more people want a voice in what is going on in their

church, social club, school, service organization, or other group. People assume they have the right to question any decision or comment by any authority.

The internet lends support to this thinking in that anyone can instantly check out some statement by any authority figure. I can make a statement, which would have been assumed to be correct 30 years ago, but today can be challenged by anyone with a Smartphone.

Churches, in particular, are struggling with that old pastor centered model of leadership because more and more churches can no longer afford that 'let the pastor do it' model. As the amount of money available for pastoral leadership declines, more and more people are coming to understand that if ministry is going to happen they will have to do it. If a church can only afford a part time pastor then something has to happen with some of the things a full time pastor would have done.

Finally, for Presbyterians, the Book of Order has always said that it is the responsibility of the pastor to 'equip the saints(the congregation) for the work of ministry.' It is the pastor's responsibility to equip the people to do ministry and not to do it for them.

Shalom,

Byron

SCHEDULING APPOINTMENTS WITH BYRON

Rev. Byron Leasure will be with us for <u>only 3 more weeks</u> this summer. He has been leading us in worship and adult education every Sunday since June 28 and will end on September 20, with the exception of the second Sunday of each month. Adult education is open to everyone, and will take place each of those Sundays after worship.

Byron will also be available <u>by appointment</u> on Sunday afternoons after adult education class after 1:30pm and in the late afternoon of the second and fourth Mondays of each month. *Please call or email the office to make an appointment for either Sunday or Monday.* (908-755-2781 or office@wapc.net)

Byron continues to lead worship on the following Sundays: September 6 and 20

He will be available, late afternoon, from 4-6pm on Monday, September 14

INVITATION TO JOINT WORSHIP

Immediately after the massacre at Mother Immanuel Church in Charleston, Garrett Hansen suggested it would be a good idea for WAPC to reach out to Bethel Presbyterian Church to

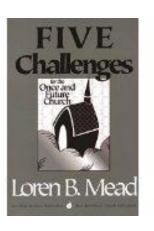


have some sort of joint worship service and dialogue. Session discussed that recommendation and initiated a conversation with Bethel through Byron. After some

discussion and working around vacations it was decided that WAPC and Bethel will worship together on Sunday, September

27, at 10:00 AM at 300 East Fifth Street, Plainfield. Bethel will host this service and provide a light lunch afterwards. There will also be a time for discussion of race and ministry in the Plainfields.

Everyone is invited and urged to attend.



5 Challenges to the Once and Future Church

A lot of what Byron has been talking about in the Adult Education classes and in his sermons is based upon ideas Loren Mead has presented in this little paperback, <u>5 Challenges to the Once and Future</u> <u>Church</u>. Loren Mead presents challenges all churches have to face in order to do ministry in the 21st century and is something that would be helpful for everyone to read as we move through the transition we face over the next months and years. It can be found on Amazon.com.

FAITH GARDEN UPDATE - LATE AUGUST

This is usually the time of year when gardeners can relax and enjoy the fruits of their earlier labors. However, with so little rain lately, the garden still needs almost daily watering.

Somehow, the weeds keep growing and thriving. There are still weeks in September and October when helping hands are needed. Please contact Gwyn at 908-754-1251 if you can assist.



The cucumbers and zucchini are about finished. Tomatoes are ripening almost faster than they can be picked. Green beans are thriving.

Glossy purple eggplant are maturing and there are many hot peppers, a favorite of our recipients.

Because the produce doesn't always keep until Saturdays, we are now distributing to WIC clients on Tuesdays, in addition to the Saturday morning distributions at St. Joseph's Parish Center.

Please support the Faith Garden with your prayers for good weather!







BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Tuesday morning bible study group will resume meetings on Sept. 8th at 10:30am at the home of Fran and Wayne Young, 219 Maple Ave., North Plainfield.

Thursday evening "Seekers" bible study group will resume meetings on *Sept. 10th at 7:30pm* at a location to be determined. Please contact the church office, 908-755-2781, for the address.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SESSION MEETING – AUGUST 10, 2015

- 1) A motion was passed to approve an upgrade of the security system with a new monitor in the office [old monitor no longer functioning properly] and a monitor in the hallway for groups without access to the office. This should solve the problem of renters leaving the doors open for access. Cost, including installation, is \$1,314.00.
- 2) A motion was passed to approve painting of all Head Start spaces downstairs, including bathrooms, by John Herrick, at a quote of \$4,800. [He later agreed to \$4,500.] Work will be finished by August 24th.
- 3) A motion was passed to approve an additional cost of \$550.00 for carpentry to support the installation of the downstairs fire door, which is required by the Fire Department.
- 4) WAPC's rental policy was reviewed and will be looked at again in September.
- 5) It was moved to extend Rev. Byron Leasure's contract for one more week, to allow for a joint service with Bethel Presbyterian Church on September 27. Bethel plans to host WAPC for a joint service, including discussion of racial issues in Plainfield and North Plainfield, followed by a light lunch.
- 6) Dot Fenz has agreed to be coordinator for Home Communion. Ordained members who would like to be trained to serve Home Communion are being sought.
- 7) The interim pastor search committee was approved, consisting of Sarellen Hogan (chair), John Sullivan and Ellen Lake.
- 8) It was moved to call a congregational meeting on August 30, to elect an elder, and to ordain on September 6.
- 9) Average worship attendance in July was 29.

Summary by Gwyn Gronlund, Clerk of Session

WAPC CURRENT NEWS

On Sunday, August 30th, *Bob Goellner, Jim Roselli* and *Joel Stambaugh* were unanimously voted in as elders and *Ellen Lake* as a deacon. The installation/ordination ceremony will be held as part of the worship service on Sunday, September 6th.

Congratulations to them all!

An **Interim Pastor Search Committee** has formed consisting of: *Sarellen Hogan (chair), Ellen Lake, and John Sullivan.*Please support the committee with your prayers.

JOURNEY TO THE FUTURE

Wow! You think Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church has problems!

We have been caught in a storm of sorts, aren't sure of where we are going, and don't even know how we will get there! But, we aren't the only ones who have been in such a situation.

You may be aware that August is the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, a storm that devastated New Orleans, Louisiana. On the morning before Katrina struck, the more than 200 members of the Smoking For Jesus Ministry received the message to pack one bag containing clothing for three days for each person and to be at the church no later than 8:30 am. Thus began a journey of many miles and years for the entire congregation.

Pooling their resources, the entire Smoking For Jesus Ministry (named for Rev 3:16 –"Because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out" – and meaning that the group is "red hot for the Lord.") fled New Orleans together "because we were a family." 10 years later they are still together, just not in New Orleans. They didn't know if they had faith until it was tested – and it was.

The group settled briefly in Texas not far from Louisiana only to have to move on again, chased by Hurricane Rita. For more than a month the congregation traveled over a thousand miles, staying in hotels and retreat centers.

Thanksgiving 2005 found them in Marble Falls, Texas, near Austin, population 6,200, 83% white, less than 4% African-American. Many of the members found housing in an apartment complex with large vacancies. Smoking For Jesus Ministry members were 100% African American, but they were prepared to integrate into what would become home. They believed in doing what the Bible says and "If I show myself friendly, you know, that's my responsibility. And if I do that, then I believe it can be reciprocated."

The Smoking For Jesus Ministry congregants were embraced by their new neighbors. In 2007 they found a 56 acre ranch nearby. Once an orphanage, the land came with two houses, two dorms, a cafeteria and even a church. Some families have purchased lots and built homes on the campus. Further development is planned. Members have opened businesses or work full time for the Real New Orleans Style Restaurant, operated in Marble Falls by the church. One Marble Falls resident says of her new friends, "They're all very kind, warm and welcoming. Isn't that the way God wants it…"

What is in store for our WAPC family? Will we pass our test of faith? We have been uprooted from old traditions and are being called to a new place in unfamiliar territory. Will we be kind, warm and welcoming? Will we remember to not be lukewarm, but to be "smoking" in our faith?

Unlike the trip taken by Smoking For Jesus, we have a journey of just a few steps. It will take us out the doors of the church building, across Watchung Avenue and into the North Plainfield unknown to us.

Traveling mercies, everyone.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday & Wednesday, 9am-3pm Thursday, 12-5pm Friday, 10am-12noon

Note Special Office Hours Below From September 21st Until October 2nd

MON.	TUES.	SEPTEMBER WED.	THURS.	FRI.
21 9-4PM	22 9-4PM	23 8am- 10:30am	24 8am- 11:30am	25 Office Closed
28 8am- 11:30am	29 8am- 11:30am	30 8am- 10:30am		
		OCTOBER	1 Office Closed	2 Office Closed

FOR PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES

In the event of a need for pastoral care, please call *Greta in the office at 908-755-2781* and she will contact by phone pastoral care committee members

Fran Young (fran.reid.young@gmail.com) and

Gwyn Gronlund (gwyndagronlund@comcast.net) There are pastors on call for hospital emergencies and funerals. PLEASE continue to let the office know when you are scheduling meetings/gatherings in the church building. It's important that Greta is aware of who is in the building in case of emergencies.

Thank you!

FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP



Remember a loved one or celebrate a special event by providing flowers for a Sunday worship service. The 2015 sign up calendars are located on the bulletin board in Parish Hall. If not bringing the flowers yourself, Gray's Florist in Watchung on Rte.22 E has been a good source and delivers to the church (908-757-0400) upon your request. Greta, church administrative assistant, will call you to confirm wording for the bulletin.

COFFEE HOUR CAPTAINS/HOSTS

After worship, Sundays in the Parish Hall people gather over coffee and cookies to catch up with each other and with the happenings at WAPC.

Good times . . . So let's keep it up!

The calendars for September, October, and November are on the Coffee Hour board.

Please sign up to either act as a:

Captain - get volunteers to host for each week of one of the months and act as their back up support OR

Host - Set up the coffee hour table for one Sunday OR see me. . . Dianne Ledder
Coffee Hour Chairperson
PW in WAPC

September <u>SAVE THE DATE</u> Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3 ***	4	5
9am Choir Rehearsal/ 10am Worship/ Adult Ed. Class	7	8 Bible Study Group 10:30am Circle of Hope, 7:30pm	9	10 *** Bible Study Group 7:30pm ↓	11	12 Hearts, Hands & Stitches to meet -time & Location TBD
9am Choir Rehearsal/ 10am Worship/ NO Adult Ed. Class	Session Meeting Library 7:00pm	15 Bible Study Group 10:30am	16 Circle of Joy, 3:30pm	17 *** ↓	18	19
9am Choir Rehearsal/ 10am Worship/ Adult Ed. Class ↓	21	22 ↓	23	24 *** October Newsletter Deadline	25	26
27 WAPC/Bethel Joint Worship at Bethel Presby. Church	Tentative Session Meeting Library 7:00pm	29 ↓	30			

*** Brass Quintet, 7:30pm, Thursdays

Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church 170 Watchung Avenue, North Plainfield, NJ 07060 Director of Music Jeremy Messmer

Office Admin. Asst.

Sexton

Jeremy Messmer

Greta Martin-Worthy

David Eichenger

908.755.2781

office@wapc.net; www.wapc.net

jeremy.messmer@gmail.com; 585-750-0842 (cell)

<u>office@wapc.net</u>; 908-755-2781

908-755-2781 (office)



Presbyterian Women



CIRCLE OF JOY

will be meeting Wednesday, Sept. 16th, at 3:30pm at the home of Beverly Krausse.

CIRLCE OF HOPE

will be meeting
Tuesday, Sept. 8th at
7:30pm at the home of
Alice Lester.

CIRCLE OF GRACE

September's meeting date, time and place is to be determined.

Watch for notice to follow.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Although the weather is hot and sticky, the members of **Hearts, Hands & Stitches** are still knitting and crocheting prayer shawls and lap robes to share God's love with those who are grieving, hospitalized, or at home, or celebrating a milestone.

We continue to meet monthly. We create comforting shawls and lap robes at our meetings and on our own time. Our autumn meetings are scheduled as follows:

An afternoon in the country, Saturday, September 12, at the home of Judith Botzan. We will carpool to Judith's, time to be announced.

Tuesday, October 13, at the home of Gwyn Gronlund Tuesday, November 10, at the home of Fran Young

We share ideas and prayer requests, plan our projects, and have a time of quiet, prayerful stitching.

All are welcome to join or visit.

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

PRAYER LIST

Prayers of support and comfort for:

- Faye Steinau and family and friends as they mourn the passing of her husband, *Joe Steinau*, long time member of our WAPC family.

Healing, supportive prayers for:

- *Grace Landsperger*, who fell and broke her hip and wrist while visiting her daughter, Jeanne Fedoryk.
- Mark Lampariello recovering from heart surgery.
- Joan Brown recovering at Foot Hill Acres from a broken hip and shoulder.

Prayers of healing, comfort & support for those battling cancer:

- *David Knotts*, Cathy Boleyn's brother-in-law; *Jeanne Norrie*; *Don McGinn*, Faye Steinau's brother-in-law.

Prayers for those in the military and their families:

- *Jim Lester*, Alice Lester's grandson, to serve 1 year with the USMC after completing officer's candidate school.
- PFC Jasmine Harris, currently stationed in Fort Hood, Texas.

Continued prayers for those people at home:

- Nancy Higgins, Estelle Kennedy, Helen Miller, Louise Thul, Margaret Herman-Angely, Shirley Ferri, at Sunrise Assisted Living, Basking Ridge, NJ and Bob Monteith, at Green Knoll Center in Bridgewater, NJ.

Supportive prayers for:

- WAPC's Temporary Pastor Search Committee members, Sarellen Hogan (Chair), Ellen Lake, and John Sullivan.





.. FALL ..

is coming!









We're Going Back To School



WATCHUNG AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

170 Watchung Avenue North Plainfield, NJ 07060-4133



A Note From Our Visiting Pastor

some thoughts.....

I often marvel at how difficult change is for humans. We start changing as infants from birth and by 6 years of age we're pretty good at adapting to all sorts of things that have happened to us. By the time we reach 60 we've been changing for decades, but the change seems to get harder and harder as we get older.

That's all about the fact that by 60 we have lots of old memories to hang on to, friends to keep, patterns of behavior that are comfortable, things around us that are familiar.

But that only means change is harder as we get older, but it doesn't mean we stop changing. That has to continue, because when it stops we are dead. But to continue to change also means we have to sort out those things we are willing to let go so we can move on. Downsizing a house becomes important. Giving up driving may be life saving. And on and on.

All of which is also true for churches. It's just harder because there are more people who have to agree on things. But change has to occur to churches just like humans if they are to continue to live.

People who are in recovery in any 12 step program are told they need to change people, places, and things if they hope to really change their old behavior. Those programs recognize human beings like to hold on to the old and familiar and learning a new life style requires us to focus on the new and unfamiliar.

For an individual that's a challenge to make new friends, hang out in different places, let go of old patterns. Usually that doesn't mean selling your house. But it might mean redecorating. The struggle for churches in these sorts of changes is that we generally don't sell the old church to buy a new one. And we can't swap the current people for new ones.

But we can recognize that all the things, people, programs, patterns that remind us of the old and familiar get in the way of our accepting the new and unfamiliar. And we can recognize there are things we can do to emphasize the new ministry we are living into.

We can change the newsletter, the look and feel of worship (The way you are sitting together in worship is one of those subtle changes). We can decorate the building in different ways. We can take down some pictures and put up others (I know a church that moved all the former pastor's pictures to a less prominent place). We can change the name of the church (I know a growing church that simply dropped the Presbyterian from their sign and letterhead.) It's very hard to tell yourself this is a new and exciting place when you continue to do the same old quarterly ham dinner you've done for the last 20 years. Or bring former pastors back to preach when the current pastor is on vacation.

In many ways we have to acknowledge our comfort with the old and our need to be uncomfortable for a bit with the new until the new becomes the comfortable new.

We have to do things to remind ourselves of our new unfamiliar life. But we have to be alert to the probability we will want to continue to do things with which we're comfortable just because they're familiar. Constant vigilance is what keeps us from falling back into old routines.

Shalom,

Byron



Be a part of the 43rd Annual Plainfield-North Plainfield CROPWALK, Sunday, October 18, 2015, 12:45pm



For information contact Tom Ledder, 908-232-2119 or Al Smith, 908-756-0738



Tuesday morning bible study group has resumed meetings at the home of Fran and Wayne Young, 219 Maple Ave., North Plainfield. All are welcome!

Thursday evening "Seekers" bible study group has resumed meetings at members' homes. Please contact the church office, 908-755-2781, for location. *Everyone is welcome!* Those that seek answers and understanding and those that want to share.



Heaven and Near-Death Experiences Group

will be meeting Sunday, October 18th after coffee hour in the church lounge. All are welcome!! For more info., contact: Marla Miksa, mikfort@aol.com, Cathy Lyttle clyttle29@hotmail.com, or Peggy Bunnell jsbunnell@verizon.net.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SESSION MEETING – SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

- 1) A motion was passed to extend Rev. Byron Leasure's contract with WAPC through October. He will moderate Session on October 12, and preach and lead adult education on October 18 and 25.
- 2) The "Abbreviated Mission Study" developed by the Temporary Pastor Search Committee was reviewed and revised and will be presented to the congregation for review on Sunday the 20th.
- 3) The elders committed to reading and discussing the book The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People.
- 4) A motion was passed to investigate setting up typical rental forms on-line and investigate accepting credit card payments.
- 5) A motion was passed to investigate the possible sponsorship of a Middle Eastern refugee.
- 6) Plans are being made to reach out to members who have not attended church recently.
- 7) Session approved two prayer vigils with late night hours by our renting congregations.
- 8) Average worship attendance in August was 27.

Summary by Gwyn Gronlund, Clerk of Session

ATTENTION: ALL PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF WAPC

Sunday, October 4, please plan to stay after worship for a brief (maybe 10 minutes) conversation about this year's PW events. Do we want to plan a Cookie Walk, a Soup Luncheon, a Women's Advent Service? What are our Women's Circles planning for 2015-2016? Your input is needed. If you can't be there, please pass your thoughts on to another member or email Gwyn Gronlund at gwyndagronlund@comcast.net.

Thanks for your participation, in the past, the present and the future!

WAPC CURRENT NEWS

Byron's Extended Stay

Sunday, September 27th was originally planned to be Rev. Byron Leasure's last day with us. However, we are going to worship with Bethel Presbyterian Church that day and it would be an awkward ending for us without closure. Byron is unavailable the first two Sundays in October due to prior commitments, but he has agreed to be with us the last two Sundays in October, October 18th and 25th. He will also moderate our two session meetings in October. We on the session sincerely appreciate additional time with Byron and are grateful that he will be with us until the end of October.

Expanded Home Communion Plan

Last Sunday a group of our ordained members (elders and deacons) were trained by Byron per The Book of Order to bring Communion to our "Friends at Home" or in the hospital or extended care. These visits will take place on the first(1st) and third(3rd) Sundays of each month, and will be an extension of the morning worship service. Those requesting Home Communion will be visited by a team of two to receive the Bread and the Cup, prayers and scripture. Dot Fenz will be the coordinator, organizing the teams for the visits. Details will be coming soon as we begin this new initiative to stay connected with our "Friends at Home".

A Message From Pope Francis

If somebody has a room in his house that is closed for long periods, it develops humidity, and a bad smell. If a church, a parish, a diocese or an institute lives closed in on itself it grows ill (just like with the closed room) and we are left with a scrawny church, with strict rules, no creativity.

Safe, more than safe, insured by an insurance agency, but not safe!

On the contrary- if it goes forth - if a Church and a parish go out into the world, then once outside they might suffer the same fate as anybody else who goes out; have an accident. Well in that case, between a sick and a bruised Church, I prefer the bruised, because at least it went into the street. . .

But, I ask, how often, in Church, has Jesus knocked on the door, but on the inside, so as to be let out to proclaim the kingdom. Sometimes we appropriate Jesus, just for us, and we forget that a Church that is not going out into the world, a Church which does not go out, keeps Jesus imprisoned.

Submitted by The Session

FAITH GARDEN UPDATE

The Lord has blessed us with the fruit of the earth to share with our neighbors. In spite of the cool, wet weather early in the summer, and the hot dry weather later in the summer, very good crops have been produced. Right now, the Faith Garden looks a bit like a jungle, with tomato plants, eggplant, kale and peppers hanging over the raised beds. It is amazing that tiny seedlings become huge and heavy in only a few short months. We still hope to have a fall crop of spinach and beets, although planting was delayed by the recent hot weather. Please remember to pray for the Faith Garden, for those who give their time to tend it, and for those who receive the fresh, organic produce.

COFFEE HOUR CAPTAINS/HOSTS

After worship, Sundays in the Parish Hall people gather over coffee and cookies to catch up with each other and with the happenings at WAPC.

Good times . . . So let's keep it up!

The calendars for October, November and December are on the Coffee Hour board.

Please sign up to either act as a:

Captain - get volunteers to host for each week of one of the months

and act as their back up support OR

Host - Set up the coffee hour table for one Sunday OR see me. . . Dianne Ledder
Coffee Hour Chairperson
PW in WAPC

The Flower Sign Up Sheets

are on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Bringing flowers for the sanctuary for Sunday worship is a way to acknowledge and remember loved ones, special events or just to say thank you. If you are not bringing the flowers yourself, Gray's Florist in Watchung on Rte.22 E has been a good source and delivers to the church (908-757-0400). When ordering, make sure to instruct them to deliver to the church.

Please note Special Church Office Hours Thursday, Oct. 1st, 8am-11am and Friday, Oct. 2nd, Office Closed

Regular Church Office Hours

Tuesday & Wednesday, 9am-3pm ** Thursday, 12-5pm ** Friday, 10am-12noon

PLEASE continue to notify the office when you are scheduling meetings/gatherings in the church building. It's important that Greta is aware of who is in the building in case of emergencies. Thank you!

OCTOBER **SAVE THE DATE** CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 ***	2	3
4 9am Choir Rehearsal/ 10am	5	6 Bible Study Group 10:30am	7	8 *** Bible Study Group 7:30pm	9	10
Worship/ ↓		Circle of Hope, 7:30pm		1		
11	Columbus Day Session	13 Bible Study Group 10:30am	14	15 ***	16	17
1	Meeting Library 7:00pm	Hearts, Hands & Stitches @ home of Gwyn Gronlund		1		
18 Heaven /Near Death Grp. meeting after worship	19	20 Bible Study Group 10:30am	21	22 ***	23	24
CROPWALK, 12:45pm		1				
25 9am Choir Rehearsal/ 10am Worship	26 Session/Elder Meeting Library 7:00pm	27 ↓	28	29 *** November Newsletter Deadline	30	31 Halloween

*** Brass Quintet, 7:30pm, Thursdays

Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church
170 Watchung Avenue, North Plainfield, NJ 07060
Director of Music Jeremy Messmer
Office Admin. Asst. Greta Martin-Worthy
Sexton David Eichenger

908-755-2781 office@wapc.net; www.wapc.net jeremy.messmer@gmail.com; 585-750-0842 (cell) office@wapc.net; 908-755-2781 908-755-2781 (office)



Presbyterian Women



CIRCLE OF JOY

October meeting TBD.
Please contact church
office for more
information.

CIRLCE OF HOPE

will be meeting
Tuesday, Oct. 6th at
7:30pm at the home of
Faye Steinau.

CIRCLE OF GRACE

October meeting, TBD.
Please contact church
office for more
information.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Now that the weather is finally cooler, knitting and crocheting shawls and lap robes will be even more enjoyable. Imagine a cozy lap robe to keep both the maker and the recipient warm. Hearts, Hands & Stitches members create shawls and lap robes to share God's love with those who are grieving, hospitalized, or at home, or celebrating a milestone.

We continue to meet monthly. We create comforting shawls and lap robes at our meetings and on our own time. Our autumn meetings are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, October 13, at the home of Gwyn Gronlund Tuesday, November 10, at the home of Fran Young

We do not have a meeting in December.

At HHS meetings we share ideas and prayer requests, plan our projects, and have a time of quiet, prayerful stitching. All are welcome to join or visit.

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

/



WATCHUNG AVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PETALS FOR PROFIT FUNDRAISER

We grow the plants to help your organization grow It's funds!

Shop at Parker Gardens between
SEPTEMBER 1st and DECEMBER 30th and
we will donate 10% of all the proceeds directly to
WATCHUNG AVE 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!

Parker Gardens is where beautiful gardens begin.

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

Offer cannot be combined with other offers or sales.

PRAYER LIST

Prayers of support and comfort for:

- The *Steinau family* and friends as they mourn the passing of *Don McGinn*, Faye Steinau's sister, Shirley McGinn's husband.
- Faye Steinau and family and friends as they mourn the passing of her husband, Joe Steinau, long time member of our WAPC family.

Healing, supportive prayers for:

- Rev. Kwabena Owusu-Afriyie, "Father O", pastor at Holy Cross Church in North Plainfield, diagnosed with a rare condition called, transverse myelitis.
- Grace Landsperger, who fell and broke her hip and wrist while visiting her daughter, Jeanne Fedoryk.
- Mark Lampariello recovering from heart surgery.
- Joan Brown recovering at Foot Hill Acres from a broken hip and shoulder.

Prayers of healing, comfort & support for those battling cancer:

- David Knotts, Cathy Boleyn's brother-in-law and Jeanne Norrie.

Prayers for those in the military and their families:

- *Jim Lester*, Alice Lester's grandson, to serve 1 year with the USMC after completing officer's candidate school.
- PFC Jasmine Harris, currently stationed in Fort Hood, Texas.

Continued prayers for those people at home:

- Nancy Higgins, Estelle Kennedy, Helen Miller, Louise Thul, Margaret Herman-Angely, Shirley Ferri, at Sunrise Assisted Living, Basking Ridge, NJ and Bob Monteith, at Green Knoll Center in Bridgewater, NJ.

Supportive prayers for:

- WAPC's Interim Pastor Search Committee members, Sarellen Hogan (Chair), Ellen Lake, and John Sullivan.









WATCHUNG AVENUE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
170 Watchung Avenue
North Plainfield, NJ 07060-4133





November 2015



Newsletter

A Note From Our Visiting Pastor

some thoughts.....

This is the last time I will share with you through the newsletter, therefore, I need to start by saying thank you for your courage and willingness to hear some new things about the future of the church. If you weren't in worship yesterday I want to tell you that I thought it was not only lots of fun, but also energizing. I think one of the most important aspects of Sunday worship is that it energizes us to face the week ahead. I want to thank all the people who helped put together both worship and also the luncheon afterward.

And I want to thank you for the scarf, the gift card, and the pumpkin. The pumpkin goes on a shelf in my office, the card will be used for something, and the scarf is ready for the cold.

I forgot yesterday, and need to take this opportunity today, to thank the elders. The Session has worked very hard with me, meeting twice a month, working through some hard topics concerning their responsibility as spiritual leaders of the church. They have begun to discuss what it means to be a member of WAPC, how do we work better together, how do we deal with different ideas and personalities, honoring each one and yet holding ourselves together as the Body of Christ. I want to thank them all for all their hard work.

Finally, I was asked yesterday if I would come back and visit from time to time. My immediate answer to that is that I would love to be a fly on the wall for the next year or so to see how things go with you all, but I will not be visiting any time soon.

I now become one of your Former Pastors and in that role it is my responsibility to stay out of your way as you develop a healthy relationship with a new Interim Pastor and eventually an installed Pastor. As a Former Pastor it is my responsibility to make sure I allow you to move into some form of future ministry under their leadership. No matter how much I would love to be that fly on the wall, it is my responsibility to allow you to take what you have learned from me and go with it where you believe God wants you to go without my presence influencing that journey in any way.

It's sort of like parents allowing their children to establish their own lives without stopping by to make sure the house is running correctly and the parenting is being done correctly.

Therefore, I won't be around any time soon, but I did say that I promised myself I would visit all the churches with which I have had contact, starting when I was a little kid. So I made the list and have worked through some of them. And now that I'm not at WAPC, I will have time to work through a few more of them. So at some point I will visit WAPC, but you need to know you are at the bottom of the list and it's going to take awhile.

Unless, of course, the guys are dancing in tutus during worship. (That's an inside joke for which you had to be there yesterday). If you invite me for that I will be there in a heart beat.

Now I go with a warm place in my heart for you because I have enjoyed these 4 months. You have gifts and ideas and energy to do great things. Thank you for allowing me to serve you.

Try your best not to be afraid. The wheelbarrow isn't such a bad place. The grace of God always supports us even in the hard times. God does not abandon us, no matter how scared we might feel.

Shalom,

Byron

<u>HIGHLIGHTS OF SESSION</u> <u>MEETINGS – OCTOBER 12 and</u> <u>OCTOBER 26, 2015</u>

- 1. A motion was passed to accept the Abbreviated Mission Study and to be open to the possibility of a shared interim pastor. The interim pastor search committee will plan to meet with Trinity United Church's search committee to work out plans to share.
- 2. A motion was passed to buy ten 3 foot x 5 foot flags of nations to be installed in the Parish Hall.
- 3. A motion was passed for Elder Jim Roselli to provide a recording device for Session meetings.
- 4. Garrett Hansen has been invited by Elder Madelynne Lindsey, Moderator of the Committee on Ministry, to speak at the December 8 Presbytery meeting and to present an outline for churches to talk about racism and intolerance. This is a result of the joint service and discussion held with Bethel Presbyterian Church in September.
- 5. Garrett Hansen, who has been our church treasurer for about 4 ½ years, asked us to plan to transition to a new treasurer in about six months.

- 6. Joshua's Closet Thrift Shop (in our church basement) will be opening soon. Target date is November 3rd.
- 7. Talking points to keep in mind when contacting members who haven't been attending recently were discussed.
- 8. It was moved to send a letter to our Former Pastors about potential involvement at WAPC.
- 9. Policy on custodian deposit for rentals was discussed. Deposit should not be returned if area was not left clean.
- 10. Elder Jim Roselli will set up a dramatic presentation to be viewed on a monitor before worship on November 1st.
- 11. A service will be planned by the worship committee for November 22, in the Parish Hall, focusing on hymns.

Summary by:

Gwyn Gronlund, Clerk of Session

SEE PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 43RD ANNNUAL WAPC 2015 CROPWALK

http://www.xactstudios.com/crop2015/

Thoughts from Session

"Lord, Why do we always have to make an effort? ... I don't feel like it."

Lord, why do we always have to make an effort?
... I don't feel like it.

I don't feel like going to see this person or shaking hands with him or even smiling at him.

I don't feel like putting my arms around him.

I don't feel like giving the help I've been asked for,

I don't want to commit myself, and I don't feel like going to that meeting.

I don't feel like resisting the side-roads which tempt me to stray from my path,

or like switching off the golden images

that are projected non-stop on the screen of my dreams.

I don't feel like struggling against time, pausing, reflecting, meditating on your word, and I don't feel like praying.

Lord, Why do we a

Why do we always have to make an effort,

to live each day
as you want us to live it?
It's not easy,
it's not fun.

So often, what I feel like doing is just what I oughtn't to do,
 and what I ought to do
 is what I don't feel like doing!
Lord,
Is it true that we must always make an effort?
... even when we don't feel a bit like it!

Jesus answers:

It is hard to be a human being, and it is hard to be a loving person, I know.

I didn't want to spend thirty years climbing the steps of Calvary, But it was my Father's wish that my whole life

should be offered to you.

Go, little one,
don't ask yourself how you feel about
doing this or that,
ask if it is what the Father wants
for you and for your brothers and
sisters.

Don't ask me for the strength to make the effort;

ask first to love with all your strength, your God and your brothers and sisters,

because if you loved a little more
you would suffer much less,
and if you loved much more
your suffering would bring forth
joy and life.

From *New Prayers* by Michel Quoist Crossword Publishing Company, 19



Tuesday morning bible study group has resumed meetings at the home of Fran and Wayne Young, 219 Maple Ave., North Plainfield. All are welcome!

Thursday evening "Seekers" bible study group has resumed meetings at members' homes. Please contact the church office, 908-755-2781, for location. Everyone is welcome! Those that seek answers and understanding and those that want to share.

HEAVEN AND NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCES GROUP

will be meeting Sunday, November 22nd, 11:15 -12:30pm in the church lounge

> All are welcome! For more information,

contact Marla Miksa, mikfort@aol.com, **Cathy Lyttle**

clyttle29@hotmail.com, or

Peggy Bunnell jsbunnell@verizon.net.

ANNUAL COOKIE WALK

Sponsored by the Presbyterian Women

It's time once again to satisfy your craving for delicious cookies and take care of your Christmas gift list! A can of cookies makes a thoughtful gift. Be sure an extra can for your own munchies.



On Sunday, December 13th, immediately following worship, homemade cookies will be available in the Parish Hall. The cost is still only \$4.00 per can. A decorated coffee can is provided, and you choose your own cookies Save the Date! from those displayed. Cookies are separated according to whether

they contain any nuts or nut butter.

Please sign up on the next few Sundays with Gwyn Gronlund if you are able to bake cookies. We request that they be 2" or less in diameter, and labeled "nuts" or "no nuts." ~Thank you from PW



On **Saturday, November 21**st, North Plainfield Girl Scout troops 65133 and 65937 will host their

Annual Free Thanksgiving Community Dinner at Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church.

A complete sit down turkey dinner will be served from 2 to 5 pm.

This dinner is a wonderful opportunity for our 10th and 11th grade girls to address a need in our community. They will

learn about the team work that goes into planning and hosting a successful event in order to help others and bring the community together.

This event is completely funded by donations from local businesses and organizations. If anyone is interested in making a donation towards this wonderful community dinner and support the Girl Scouts in their endeavor, you can contact Jana Lattimore or Theresa McGrath at our2girlscouttroops@gmail.com.



GIVING TREE GIFT REQUESTS

Once again we will be collecting gifts for the Women's Shelter of Somerset County, an

organization that helps women and children fleeing from troubled

homes. All items should be NEW, UNWRAPPED, and have a nonviolent theme. Also, please consider donating holiday paper, tape, and ribbon. **Gift tags will be available in the Parish Hall during coffee hour, Sundays, November 15th, 22nd, and 29th.** ALL gifts <u>MUST</u> be received by **Sunday, December 6th** during coffee hour.

Please contact Peggy Bunnell (908-668-0051) with any questions.





You may recall that this past summer was cool and rainy early, and hot and dry later—not the best weather for raising vegetables. However, the Faith Garden still had an incredible harvest. Would you believe, over 600 tomatoes (various sizes and types), over 200 peppers (both hot and sweet), 27 eggplant, 67 cucumbers, 24 zucchini, 28 beets, over 30 lbs. of green beans, and over 10 pounds of kale, also bags of spinach, lettuce and parsley.

The yield of the garden was distributed in several ways. Volunteers took produce to The Society of St. Vincent DePaul, which distributes food and clothing on Saturday mornings to those in need at the St. Joseph's Parish Center at 99 Westervelt Avenue. Produce was given to the WIC (women, infant, children) participants who come to WAPC on Tuesdays, and fresh tomatoes and peppers to the SHIPs clients, who are served a hot meal in the St. Joseph's Church parking lot several evenings a week.

Many thanks go to all those who planted, started seedlings at home, watered, weeded, harvested and distributed. It takes many hands to achieve these results! Sarellen Hogan, Andy Lake, Dianne Ledder, Jeff Bunnell, and Al Smith of WAPC and Daria Berlin and Frank D'Amore of St. Joseph's provided labor. The land for the garden is donated by St. Joseph's. WAPC buys the seeds and pays half the cost of water. This year a load of organic composted soil was generously provided by Dickerson Landscaping, and the gardeners of Bethel Presbyterian Church shared seedlings with WAPC.

We thank God and our neighbor churches for making this sharing of food possible.

Gwyn Gronlund, Faith Garden coordinator



Care Package Program

THANK YOU to all who so generously donated to the Care Package Program for our college students and military young people.

The packages
were mailed on
Monday, October 26th.



COFFEE HOUR CAPTAINS/HOSTS

After worship, Sundays in the Parish Hall people gather over coffee and cookies to catch up with each other and with the happenings at WAPC.

Good times . . . So let's keep it up!

The calendars for October, November and December are on the Coffee Hour board.

Please sign up to either act as a:

Captain - get volunteers to host for each week of one of the months and act as their back up support OR

Host - Set up the coffee hour table for one Sunday OR see me. . . Dianne Ledder
Coffee Hour Chairperson
PW in WAPC

The Flower Sign Up Sheets

are on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Bringing flowers for the sanctuary for Sunday worship is a way to acknowledge and remember loved ones, special events or just to say thank you. If you are not bringing the flowers yourself, Gray's Florist in Watchung on Rte.22 E has been a good source and delivers to the church (908-757-0400). When ordering, make sure to instruct them to deliver to the church.

Church Office Hours

Tuesday & Wednesday, 9am-3pm ** Thursday, 12-5pm ** Friday, 10am-12noon

PLEASE continue to notify the office when you are scheduling meetings/gatherings in the church building. It's important that Greta is aware of who is in the building in case of emergencies. Thank you!

NOVEMBER **SAVE THE DATE** CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Daylight Savings Time Over	2	3 Bible Study Group 10:30am	4	5 *** Bible Study Group 7:30pm ↓	6	7
8 9am Choir Rehearsal/ 10am	9 Session Meeting Library	10 Bible Study Group 10:30am	11 Veterans Day	12 *** ↓	13	14
Worship/ ↓	7:00pm	Circle of Hope, 7:30pm/				
		Hearts, Hands & Stitches, 7:15pm				
15 ↓	16	17 Bible Study Group 10:30am ↓	18	19 *** ↓	20	Girls Scouts Thanksgiving Dinner 2-5pm - PH
22 9am Choir Rehearsal/ 10am Worship ————————————————————————————————————	23	24 Bible Study Group 10:30am ↓	25	Thanksgiving Day	27	28
Death Grp. meeting after worship,11:15						
29 9am Choir Rehearsal/ 10am Worship	30					

*** Brass Quintet, 7:30pm, Thursdays

Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church
170 Watchung Avenue, North Plainfield, NJ 07060
Director of Music Jeremy Messmer
Office Admin. Asst. Greta Martin-Worthy
Sexton David Eichenger

908-755-2781 office@wapc.net; www.wapc.net jeremy.messmer@gmail.com; 585-750-0842 (cell) office@wapc.net; 908-755-2781 908-755-2781 (office)



Presbyterian Women



CIRCLE OF JOY

will meet Saturday, November 14th, at 1 p.m. at the home of Estelle Kennedy. Please bring a sandwich. Dessert will be provided.

CIRLCE OF HOPE

will be meeting Tuesday, November 10th, at 7:30 pm at the home of Dianne Ledder.

CIRCLE OF GRACE

November meeting, TBD. Please contact church office for more information.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Now that the weather is finally cooler, knitting and crocheting shawls and lap robes will be even more enjoyable. Imagine a cozy lap robe to keep both the maker and the recipient warm. Hearts, Hands & Stitches members create shawls and lap robes to share God's love with those who are grieving, hospitalized, at home, or celebrating a milestone.

We continue to meet monthly. We create comforting shawls and lap robes at our meetings and on our own time. Our last autumn meeting is scheduled for 7:15pm on

Tuesday, November 10, at the home of Fran Young.

We do not have an evening meeting in December.

There will be an Advent Knitting Retreat at the Community of St. Charles Borromeo in Skillman, sponsored by the Purling Angels. Several of us have attended in the past, and have found it to be an inspiring, yet soothing time amidst the hustle-bustle of the season. The date is Saturday, December 12, and the cost is \$10.00, which includes lunch.

At HHS meetings we share ideas and prayer requests, plan our projects, and have a time of quiet, prayerful stitching. All are welcome to join or visit.

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



WATCHUNG AVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PETALS FOR PROFIT FUNDRAISER

We grow the plants to help your organization grow It's funds!

Shop at Parker Gardens between
SEPTEMBER 1st and DECEMBER 30th and
we will donate 10% of all the proceeds directly to
WATCHUNG AVE 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!

Parker Gardens is where beautiful gardens begin.

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

<u>www.parkergardens.com</u>

Offer cannot be combined with other offers or sales.

PRAYER LIST

Prayers of support and comfort for:

- The family & friends of *Jeanne Norrie*, wife of former WAPC student pastor who lost her long battle with cancer.
- The *Schaedel family* & friends who mourn the peaceful passing of long time WAPC member, *Jessie Lee Moser Schaedel* at the age of 91.

Healing, supportive prayers for:

- Faye Steinau's grandson, Ryan, as he recovers from brain surgery.
- *Heidi (Rundle) Stahl,* Gail Schmeisser's close family friend, recently diagnosed with ALS. Parents: Dick & Barbara Rundle, were WAPC members.
- *Beverly Krausse*, after a fall, is stable and no longer in ICU at RWJ-New Brunswick Hospital.
- Cathy Boleyn, receiving infusions for an attack of ulcerative colitis.
- *Rev. Kwabena Owusu-Afriyie,* "*Father O*", North Plainfield, Holy Cross Church's pastor, diagnosed with a rare condition called, transverse myelitis.
- Grace Landsperger, who fell & broke her hip & wrist.
- Mark Lampariello recovering from heart surgery.
- Joan Brown recovering at Foot Hill Acres from a broken hip & shoulder.

Prayers for those in the military and their families:

- *Jim Lester*, commissioned as a 2nd Lt, continues in Officers Candidate School, USMC, & upon completion will serve 8 yrs. in the Reserves.
- *Specialist Jasmine Harris*, of the U.S. Army, currently stationed in Buren, Kuwait & after a time there, to be sent to Iraq.

Continued prayers for those people at home:

- Nancy Higgins, Estelle Kennedy, Helen Miller, Louise Thul, Margaret Herman-Angely, Shirley Ferri, at Sunrise Assisted Living, Basking Ridge, NJ & Bob Monteith, at Green Knoll Center in Bridgewater, NJ.

Supportive prayers for:

- Harry Krausse while his wife, Beverly recovers in the hospital.
- WAPC's Interim Pastor Search Committee members, Sarellen Hogan (Chair), Ellen Lake, & John Sullivan.











WATCHUNG AVENUE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
170 Watchung Avenue
North Plainfield, NJ 07060-4133

Visions



December 2015



ANNUAL COOKIE WALK

Sponsored by the Presbyterian Women

It's time once again to satisfy your craving for delicious cookies and take care of your Christmas gift list! A can of cookies makes a thoughtful gift. Be sure to buy an extra can for your own munchies.

On **Sunday**, **December 13th**, immediately following worship, homemade cookies will be available in the Parish Hall. The cost is still only \$4.00 per can. A decorated coffee can is provided, and you choose your own cookies from those displayed. **Cookies are separated according to whether they contain any nuts or nut butter.**

Please sign up with Gwyn Gronlund if you are able to bake cookies. We request that they be 2" or less in diameter, and labeled "nuts" or "no nuts."

~Thank you from PW

GIVING TREE GIFT REQUESTS

Once again we have been collecting gifts for the Women's Shelter of Somerset County, an organization that helps women and children fleeing from troubled homes. All items should be NEW, UNWRAPPED, and have a

nonviolent theme. Also, please consider donating holiday paper, tape, and ribbon. ALL gifts <u>MUST</u> be received by

Sunday, December 6th during coffee hour.

Please contact Peggy Bunnell (908-668-0051) with any questions.





Thank You Notes from the Care Package Program



Dear WAPC,

I want to thank you for your generous gifts I have received in the mail. You truly don't understand how grateful I am to have a place like you who has noticed and helped my hard work to succeed. Once again, your gifts and goodies will be put to good use and you are a huge part to the success I will and hope to endure a centenary College. Thank you again from the bottom of my heart. GO CYCLONES!

Love, Stewart James Lester

Monday, Nevember 9,2015



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Friends at the Watching Are Presbyterian Church,

Thank you all so very much for the care package that you so thoughtfully put together and sent to me.

The snacks and supplies are great and will help me get through the late nights and note taking. Best of all was the card with all of the neell wishes and prayers. It's great knowing that there are people like you all back home thinking of is.

I've enclosed two pictures for you.

One is of the Platoon working the

Marine Corps Marathon a few weeks age.

The other is a few of my buddles in

the early morning horrs ofter a long

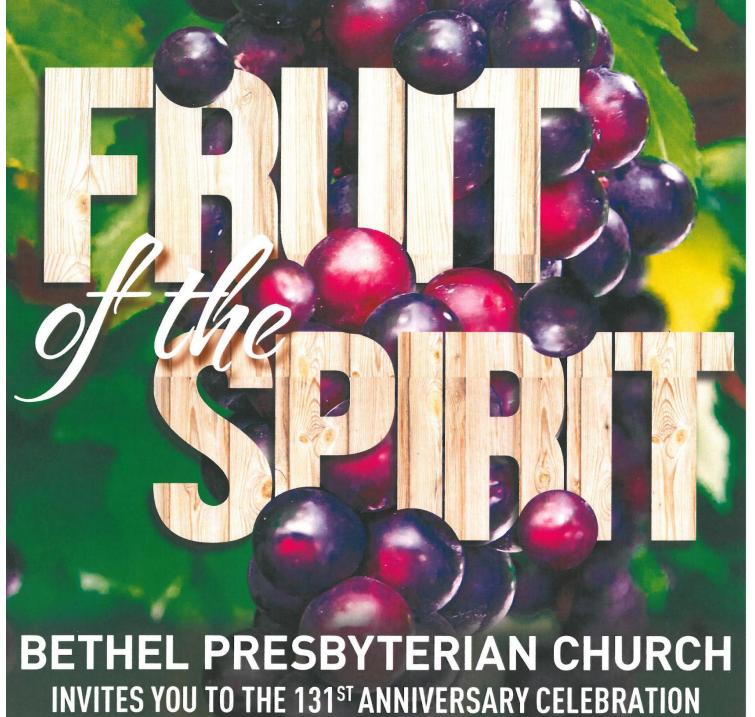
day in the field Mark you all again!

- 2nd Lt Jim Jester.

**SEE PICTURES ON PAGE 4







USTED ESTA INVITADO A ASISTIR A LA CELEBRACION DEL ANIVERSARIO 131

SUNDAY DECEMBER 13, 2015 10:00AM **GUEST SPEAKER: REV. GLORIA LYDE SMITH**

PASTOR JONATHAN WILLIAMS | GUEST SOLOIST CECELIA JENKINS 300 EAST 5TH STREET, PLAINFIELD NJ 07060 | LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED AFTER SERVICE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Presents

"O COME LET US ADORE HIM"

Featuring

THE COMBINED CHOIR AND FRIENDS

THE EBONY STRING QUARTET

Directed by Ira C. Woods

Guest Organist: Kenneth Thornton
Of Salem United Methodist Church Harlem New York

With Guest appearances by:

St. Paul's Baptist Church Hand Bell Choir & Symphonic Chimes

ST. MARK'S PRAISE DANCERS

This Program is presented in Memory of our departed Choral Masters:

Curtis Watkins

Edith Campbell

Daniel Ryans

Friday December 18, 2015

6 pm - Reception

7:30 pm Alusical Presentation

St. Mark's Episcopal Church 1430 Plainfield Avenue Plainfield, New Jersey 07060

Telephone No: 908-754-9483 Cmail: stmarksplainfield@gmail.com

Henry Foster, Senior Warden Elvis Belle, Junior Warden Ira C. Woods, Music Director, Organist

HIGHLIGHTS OF SESSION MEETING – NOVEMBER 9, 2015

- 1) WAPC's Session supports the presentation to the Presbytery meeting on December 8 by Garrett Hansen of the outline that Garrett developed to encourage churches to have discussions about racism and intolerance.
- 2) The Plainfield area YMCA is conducting an online Shelter Drive for items needed for their shelter. Session encourages members to donate and indicate you are from WAPC.
- 3) The Temporary Pastor Search Committee is meeting with the corresponding committee of Trinity United Church in Warren regarding sharing a temporary pastor.
- 4) Average attendance in worship in September and October was 29.
- 5) Joshua's Closet Thrift Shop (in our church basement) will be opening soon.
- 6) Session moved to consider installing a 2-sided LED sign in front of the church, to investigate the borough's sign ordinance, and to investigate sources of funding.

Summary by Gwyn Gronlund, Clerk of Session

Associate Executive Director

Associate Executive Director,

Stacy Reh kicked off an online drive raising goods for Plainfield YMCA's Shelter. Help them reach the goal of 500 items by making a gift of goods.

Shop online and purchase the items you wish to donate:

YouGiveGoods.com will email you a tax deductible receipt

All donations will be shipped at the close of the drive directly to the charity Visit our drive page frequently to check our progress or post a note

Drive ends December 31, 2015

Thank you for your support. The goods you purchase for donation will make a tangible difference in the lives of those who are in need today.



Gardens Celebrating over 65 years and still growing

WATCHUNG AVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PETALS FOR PROFIT FUNDRAISER

We grow the plants to help your organization grow It's funds!

Shop at Parker Gardens between
SEPTEMBER 1st and DECEMBER 30th and
we will donate 10% of all the proceeds directly to
WATCHUNG AVE 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!

Parker Gardens is where beautiful gardens begin.

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

Offer cannot be combined with other offers or sales.



Tuesday morning bible study group has resumed meetings at the home of Fran and Wayne Young,
219 Maple Ave., North Plainfield.

All are welcome!

Thursday evening "Seekers" bible study group WILL NOT BE MEETING FOR THE MONTH OF

DECEMBER and plans to resume the 1st Thursday in January 2016. *Everyone is welcome!* Those that seek answers and understanding and those that want to share.

COFFEE HOUR CAPTAINS/HOSTS

After worship, Sundays in the Parish Hall people gather over coffee and cookies to catch up with each other and with the happenings at WAPC.

Good times . . . So let's keep it up!

The calendar for December is on the Coffee Hour board.

Please sign up to either act as a:

Captain - get volunteers to host for each week of one of the months and act as their back up support OR

Host - Set up the coffee hour table for one Sunday OR see me. . . Dianne Ledder
Coffee Hour Chairperson
PW in WAPC

The Flower Sign Up Sheets

are on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Bringing flowers for the sanctuary for Sunday worship is a way to acknowledge and remember loved ones, special events or just to say thank you. If you are not bringing the flowers yourself, Gray's Florist in Watchung on Rte.22 E has been a good source and delivers to the church (908-757-0400). When ordering, make sure to instruct them to deliver to the church.

Church Office Hours

Tuesday & Wednesday, 9am-3pm ** Thursday, 12-5pm ** Friday, 10am-12noon

PLEASE continue to notify the office when you are scheduling meetings/gatherings in the church building. It's important that Greta is aware of who is in the building in case of emergencies. Thank you!

DECEMBER **SAVE THE DATE** CALENDAR

*** Brass Quintet, 7:30pm, Thursdays

CHNDAV	MONDAY	THECDAY	WEDNECDAY	THIDCDAY	EDIDAY	SATURDAY
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Bible Study Group 10:30am ↓	2	3 ***	4	5
6 10am-1:30pm Advent Luncheon/ Worship Parish Hall	7	8	9	10 ***	11	12
13 9am Choir Rehearsal/ 10am Worship Cookie Walk 11am-12noon Parish Hall	Session Meeting Library 7:00pm	15 🗼	16	17 ***	18	19
20 9am Choir Rehearsal/ 10am Worship	21	22 ↓	23	Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship- 9pm	25 Christmas Day	26
27 9am Choir Rehearsal/ 10am Worship	28	29 ↓	30	31 New Years Eve		

Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church
170 Watchung Avenue, North Plainfield, NJ 07060
Director of Music Jeremy Messmer
Office Admin. Asst. Greta Martin-Worthy
Sexton David Eichenger

908-755-2781 office@wapc.net; www.wapc.net jeremy.messmer@gmail.com; 585-750-0842 (cell) office@wapc.net; 908-755-2781 908-755-2781 (office)



Presbyterian Women



CIRCLE OF JOY

December meeting, TBD. Please contact church office for more information.

CIRLCE OF HOPE

December meeting,
TBD. Please contact
church office for more
information.

CIRCLE OF GRACE

December meeting,
TBD. Please contact
church office for more
information.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Now that the weather is finally cooler, knitting and crocheting shawls and lap robes will be even more enjoyable. Imagine a cozy lap robe to keep both the maker and the recipient warm. Hearts, Hands & Stitches members create shawls and lap robes to share God's love with those who are grieving, hospitalized, at home, or celebrating a milestone.

We continue to meet monthly. We create comforting shawls and lap robes at our meetings and on our own time. Our last autumn meeting is scheduled for 7:15pm on

We do not have an evening meeting in December.

There will be an Advent Knitting Retreat at the Community of St. Charles Borromeo in Skillman, sponsored by the Purling Angels. Several of us have attended in the past, and have found it to be an inspiring, yet soothing time amidst the hustle-bustle of the season. The date is Saturday, December 12, and the cost is \$10.00, which includes lunch.

At HHS meetings we share ideas and prayer requests, plan our projects, and have a time of quiet, prayerful stitching. All are welcome to join or visit.

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

PRAYER LIST

Prayers of support and comfort for:

- The *Bradley family* and friends who mourn the passing of *Tom Bradley*, long time WAPC member, while in Wisconsin visiting family on Thanksgiving Day.
- The *Krausse family* and friends who mourn the passing of long time WAPC member, *Harry Krausse* on Sunday, Nov. 22.

Healing, supportive prayers for:

- *Dianne Lytz*, long time member of WAPC, who has had a malignant tumor removed from her brain.
- Julie Mullen's parents, Joan and Duke, both fighting cancer.
- Betsi Kennedy, recovering from leg surgery.
- Faye Steinau's grandson, Ryan, as he recovers from brain surgery.
- *Heidi (Rundle) Stahl,* Gail Schmeisser's close family friend, recently diagnosed with ALS. Parents: Dick & Barbara Rundle, were WAPC members.
- *Beverly Krausse*, recovering at Care One at the Highlands, rehab facility, on Inman Ave., Edison, NJ.
- Cathy Boleyn, receiving infusions for an attack of ulcerative colitis.

Prayers for those in the military and their families:

- *Jim Lester*, commissioned as a 2nd Lt, continues in Officers Candidate School, USMC, & upon completion will serve 8 yrs. in the Reserves.
- *Specialist Jasmine Harris*, Charlie Company, 56th Apo AE 09330, now stationed in Iraq (*note new mailing address*).

Continued prayers for those people at home:

- Joan Brown, Grace Landsperger, Nancy Higgins, Estelle Kennedy, Helen Miller, Louise Thul, Margaret Herman-Angely, Shirley Ferri, at Sunrise Assisted Living, Basking Ridge, NJ & Bob Monteith, at Green Knoll Center in Bridgewater, NJ.

Supportive prayers for:

- Julie Mullen's former classmate, Cheryl, who is homeless in Florida.
- WAPC's Interim Pastor Search Committee members, Sarellen Hogan (Chair), Ellen Lake, & John Sullivan.



WATCHUNG AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

170 Watchung Avenue North Plainfield, NJ 07060-4133