

STREAM LINES

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



APRIL 2010

Pastor
Clerk of Session
Administrative Assistant
Stream Lines Editor and Webmaster
Stream Lines Assistants
Church Office
Pastor's Email Address
Church Office Email Address
Stream Lines Email Addresses

Rev. Jason P. Tucker
Mr. Charles Kurowsky
Mrs. Carol Palmer
Mrs. Susan Smolsky
Mrs. Carol Palmer and Mrs. Cathy Shaffer
(Phone): 732-634-1631 (Fax): 732-634-1291
pastorjtucker@gmail.com
avenelpres@verizon.net
streamlines@comcast.net and avenelpres@verizon.net



April 2010

**"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."
(1 Peter 2:9).**

He has risen! Could you imagine what was going through the disciples' minds when they heard these words? There they were, holed up in a room, scared for their lives, confused—wondering, "Have I just wasted the last three years of my life? The Lord, the One I dared to call 'Messiah,' is now dead." Could you imagine what it *felt* like to hear that Jesus had risen? I'm sure the word *joy* doesn't even begin to capture it.

That first Easter was *the* definitive moment in human history, where God changed the trajectory of life, as we know it, forever. "For God so loved the world," that He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to save it. The powers of sin and death were overthrown forever, and God's kingdom on earth broke through. I wonder when the disciples *really* understood this. I wonder if we really understand this today.

Sometimes in all of our Easter celebrating, we forget a crucial part of the resurrection story—in fact, it's the whole *point* of what it means to be God's people. Jesus didn't just rise from the grave to tell everyone, "Go and have faith." No. That's only *part* of the story. Instead, His final words to His disciples were: "Go into all the world and make disciples of all nations." It's not just about believing in Easter; it's about *sharing* our beliefs with the world. We are sent into the world "in order to proclaim the mighty acts of him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light."

You see, faith is not an end in itself. Faith is the beginning of the Christian life. And the Christian life is *life in execution of a task*: sharing the message of Jesus Christ with the world. Jesus said to God the Father, "As you have sent *me* into the world, so I have sent *them* into the world" (John 17:18). What does it mean to be part of this community of God? It means that we exist for the execution of God's mission here on earth. *God calls, forms, equips and sends His people* to be witnesses to his love and salvation.

What 1 Peter 2:9 reminds us is that the Church is *essentially* missionary in nature. That is to say, mission is the *essence* of what it means *to be* the Church. The people of God are those who have been "called out" in this life and in the life to come, to proclaim the gospel. They are a "chosen race," a "royal priesthood," "God's own people." As the theologian and missionary Lesslie Newbigin writes: "We who have *received* reconciliation live between the times as the *ambassadors* and *ministers* of reconciliation."

So what does that mean for *this* church? What does that mean for you? It means that your faith isn't just for your own benefit or satisfaction. It is meant for a purpose—God's mission to the world. You have been called to ministry! (And you didn't even need seminary for that.) That's right—you have been called. And Jesus Christ wants to send *you* out...to people in this church who need a friend...to people in the community...to those who live in our neighborhood who desperately need Jesus Christ.

So don't be afraid to get involved! *He has risen!* And He is waiting to use *you!* Let's not just say to the world that we believe in God; let's resolve to *show* the world that we believe in God. Happy Easter, everyone.

In Christ,
Rev. Jason Tucker

STREAM LINES INFORMATION

The deadline for the May 2010 issue of Stream Lines will be Wednesday, April 21, 2010 at 12:00 noon.

Remember to email your articles to:

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

**From the
Editor**



The May issue will be available for online reading and printing on or about Wednesday, April 28, 2010 and will be available to those who have no internet service and pick up their copies in the Sanctuary on Sunday, May 2, 2010.



Vacation Bible School 2010

High Seas Expedition: Exploring the Mighty
Love of God

Volunteers Needed

We will be sailing on the High Seas this summer and we need any help that you can give to us. If you are interested, please contact Dawn Connolly at home or through the Church Office.



Thank You Kitchen Angels

Following the funeral service held for Rich Gagnon on January 27, 2010, we held a luncheon for his family and friends. Rich passed away suddenly on January 20. He was such a blessing to this church and those who knew him. He will be missed.

Once again, the Kitchen Angels came through to not only feed the family's hunger, but also their spirit. It is such a blessing to hear the words, "what do you need?" and "what can I do?" when I make my phone calls to start asking for help. Your willingness to always be there to help in any way is such a blessing to me.

As I've learned over the years, Angels come in many forms, whether it is someone making a casserole, a cake, washing dishes, donating money, helping set up and clean up or just being there for the family who has lost a loved one. You have all helped to be a blessing to Jan and her family and to our church. Thank you so much and God bless you always.

Yours in Christ,
Carolyn Stockl

HIS HANDS COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

Making a Difference in Our Community



Furniture Donations

If you have furniture or appliances that you would like to give to someone in need, we have a new system to make your donation possible. His Hands Ministry no longer has a storage facility, but we can offer a solution.

The Clothes Closet is open the last Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. If you have an item that you would like to donate, please take a large picture of that item and we will post that picture on the day of the Closet. If someone is interested, we will use our cell phone to call you and you and the client can make arrangements as to how the item will be transferred. You can either bring the picture and information on the morning of the Closet or give it to Karen Severyn.

TOGETHER WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THIS COMMUNITY!



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

Book of Order W-2.3004

On Sunday, March 7, 2010, **RUI MIGUEL BAPTISTA** was baptized by Rev. Jason P. Tucker during the morning worship service, and the congregation committed themselves to nurture this child in faith.

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

Sunday School Easter Program

The Sunday School invites you to join them on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel for their Easter program. Come be part of the children's celebration of the resurrection of Christ.



All are welcome. Please join us!



Family Promise/Interfaith Hospitality Network

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

Once again our church will be hosting Family Promise families and individuals from Sunday, April 25 to Sunday, May 2, 2010. We need individuals to prepare meals and desserts, set up and take down beds, act as social servers during meal times and into the evening, overnight hosts, and more.

This ministry needs the help of many people in our congregation. We are asking for your help again, or for the first time, by committing to one aspect of this important ministry for one day during the week.

Please check upcoming Sunday bulletins or call the Church Office for more information or to volunteer.

Annual Church Picnic

Mark Your Calendars!

Come out one and all. Bring the family and kids to Merrill Park on Sunday, June 13, 2010 from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. Food, fun, games, softball and basketball are all available.

Watch for further details in Stream Lines and the Sunday bulletin as we near the big date.

Wayne Collins, Membership Care Committee



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

Congratulations to **CAITLYN ALTIERI** who was nominated for the Mayor's Youth Volunteer Award by our Christian Education Committee.

Caitlyn has been an active member of our church since childhood. She has volunteered her time to help in VBS as a classroom helper, assisted in Toddler Care and had the responsibility of recruiting youth helpers for our Adventures in Worship program. Her community volunteer work includes volunteering 12 hours a month as a demonstrator and teaching assistant at the Vern Fowler School of Dance, face painting for Colonia High School Harvest Festival, and baking cookies for soldiers in Iraq.

Caitlyn will receive her award at the Woodbridge Community Center, 600 Main St., 2nd floor Atrium, on Sunday April 25, 2010. Please try to be there on the 25th to support, encourage and thank Caitlyn for her time and talent.

Congratulations to Caitlyn and her family.
She is a great example of what God calls all of us to be and do.

NEWS FROM JOANN'S FOOD PANTRY



We would like to thank everyone who took part in our Souper Bowl Sunday. Your donations of soup helped feed many people during this very snowy winter. By the way, we could use more soup, so please feel free to drop it off at the Food Mobile in the back of the Sanctuary. We would also like to thank all of you who continue to donate food each week.

And thanks to all of you who have been helping on Saturday to unload the truck when we get our delivery from the Food Bank. You all have been a blessing to us. We couldn't have kept the pantry open without your help.

We are also happy to announce that Shoprite of Woodbridge has chosen our pantry again to be the recipient of the Shoprite in Caring Grant in the amount of \$1000.00. This money will be deposited in our account at the Community Food Bank in Hillside.

We must also recognize Pathmark who has been faithful in donating hundreds of dollars of baked goods each pantry day. These donations of cakes, cookies and breads are a real treat to our clients.

With your continued help our church will continue to feed the hungry of our community.

Yours in Christ,
Jake & Carolyn Stockl, Coordinators of Joann's Pantry



Our Military Servicemen, Servicewomen and Their Families

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

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



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

Prayer Requests

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



Recent Concerns

Robin Pevonis (friend of Jackie Turnbull), John Wehle (friend of Jackie Turnbull), Ernie Zelizi (brother of Vilma Ambis), Helene Weeks, Megan Kelliesh (friend of Wayne Collins), Mary Corigliano (cousin of Carol and Larry Palmer), Bob Cameron (uncle of Gayle Nolan), Eleanor Smith, Ron Vignapiano (in-law of Carol and Larry Palmer), Tessa Campbell (great-niece of Arleen Schreiber), Tom Maier (uncle of Randy Hunt), Susan Cornelius and Family (co-worker of Linda Herrington), Dot Allebach, Benjamin Cook (Carolyn Gilligan's co-worker's grandson), Alice Solomon (sister of Margaret Solomom, Josephine DeVito (mother of Carol Palmer), SPC Roberto Rosado

Those with On-Going Long-Term Concerns

Edward and Betty Dobson, Jennifer Perez, Dorothy Piperi (mother of Carolyn Gilligan's co-worker), Diana Dydak, Jeremy Hogan, Don Gilligan, Leo and Lucille Webber (friends of Carolyn Gilligan), Esther Nielsen, Phil Prasser, Marjorie Speath (sister of Barbara Morgan)

BRINGING WARMTH, BUILDING HOPE



**CHURCH WORLD SERVICE
BLANKETS+**

Put your caring into action -- Give a Blankets+ Mother's Day Gift

Under a big blue tent, more than 100 children, ages 6 to 14, are seated in small groups paying close attention to their teachers. Surrounded by ruined buildings, these Haitian children, who lost homes and family members during the earthquake, are continuing their education with the help of the CWS-supported House of Hope program. The tent also serves as a dormitory for the children and their families. Church World Service blankets have brought welcome warmth during the cool evenings.

Church World Service was able to rush blankets and the CWS Kits to the people of Haiti within the first 24 hours thanks to pre-positioned supplies in neighboring Dominican Republic. Medical supplies, food, water and tents have also been provided as part of the CWS and ACT Alliance combined effort. Your support helps make that kind of swift response possible.

Contributions to Blankets+ mean Church World Service will be in Haiti for the long haul, as families recover from this tragedy. And we will be ready to help families in other parts of the world to recover from disasters and build viable, sustainable lives and communities.

Through Blankets+, you can make a world of difference in Haiti and across the globe. \$25.00 can provide five warm blankets for a family left homeless by an earthquake or other disaster. \$105 can provide female health workers with three life-giving birthing kits. \$200 can provide a village with ten bio-sand filters to significantly eliminate impurities in the local water supply. \$250 can provide a sewing machine to a young mother who needs to support her family. \$1000 can equip a village well with a pump and provide hygiene training for the community. Your support for Blankets+ makes all this possible – and so much more. Please be generous in your support for Blankets+.

This Mother's Day, May 9, 2010, we invite you to honor your mother, grandmother, or that special person you honor on Mother's Day, with a gift to the Blankets+ program. Share the warmth with someone in great need in one of more than 80 countries, including our own.

Please fill out the following form and return it to the Church Office at 621 E. Woodbridge Avenue, Avenel, NJ 07001, together with your check made payable to the First Presbyterian Church of Avenel. You may also place these items in the offering plate. Please put the notation, "Blankets+" on your envelope and check.

Donations will not be accepted after Sunday, May 2, 2010

Please Print Clearly

Your Name(s):



Phone: _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Holy Week Events

Palm Sunday

Please join us for our Palm Sunday morning worship service on Sunday, March 28, 2010, at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Our Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service will be held on Thursday evening, April 1, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Communion will be offered.

All are welcome!



Our Prayer Vigil begins immediately following our Tenebrae Service. The Vigil starts at 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 1 and concludes at 5:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 4. This time of prayer and meditation will be held in our Chapel.



GOOD FRIDAY

Won't you join us for our non-traditional Good Friday service in the Sanctuary on Friday, April 2, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. There will be no sermon, but rather a Prayer Path exercise and quiet reflection.

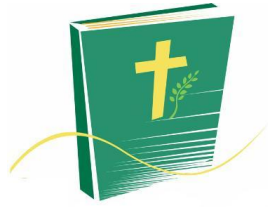


Your Board of Deacons invites you to come and join them for the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior at our pastor-led Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 4, 2010 at 7:00 a.m. in the Chapel. This service will be led by Pastor Tucker. A full breakfast will be served in Jacob Morgan Hall immediately following the service. Please join us!



I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

We welcome you to join us for this most joyous celebration of the risen Lord. Come be a part of our traditional Easter Sunday morning worship service on April 4, 2010 at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.



April Memory Verse

Psalm 113:3 (NIV)

From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the LORD is to be praised.



Transferred to the Church Triumphant

February 2010 – **James Krutzler**, our beloved church member and friend since March 1948, whose hard work and dedication were instrumental in the construction of our Christian Education Building.



Thought of the Month

Worry is like a rocking chair. It gives you something to do but doesn't get you anywhere.



April Birthdays

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

- 03 Jaclyn Ferrie
- 04 John Englert
- 07 Bill McLachlan
- 10 Grace Musselman
- 14 Carol Palmer
- 18 Judi Prasser
- 20 Janet Appel
- 21 Rosita Veluya, Dawn Englert, Kelly Hogan
- 23 Carolyn Stockl, Dean Manente, Jackie Turnbull
- 24 Suzanne Hatatah
- 26 Lori Welch, Sandy Kosakowski
- 27 Amanda Cuntala
- 30 Jesse Veluya, Mark Ross



"And Spring arose on the garden fair
Like the Spirit of Love felt everywhere
And each flower and herb on Earth's dark breast
Rose from the dreams of its wintry rest."

Percy Bysshe Shelley, *The Sensitive Plant*



The Pit

A man fell into a pit and couldn't get himself out.

A subjective person came along and said, "I feel for you down there."

An objective person walked by and said, "It's logical that someone would fall down there."

A Pharisee said, "Only bad people fall into pits."

A mathematician calculated how deep the pit was.

A news reporter wanted the exclusive story on the pit.

A self-pitying person said, "You haven't seen anything until you've seen my pit."

A fundamentalist said, "You deserve your pit."

A Christian Scientist observed, "The pit is just in your mind."

A psychologist noted, "Your mother and father are to blame for your being in that pit."

An evasive person came along and avoided the subject of his pit altogether.

A self-esteem therapist said, "Believe in yourself and you can get out of that pit."

An optimist said, "Things could be worse."

A pessimist claimed, "Things will get worse."

Jesus, seeing the man, took him by the hand and lifted him out of the pit.

People lose their compassion when they begin to think that they have been put on this earth to see through one another. But people of noble character know that they have been put on this earth to see one another through.

COMIC RELIEF!

Write it Down!

An 80-year-old couple was worried because they kept forgetting things all the time. The doctor assured them there was nothing seriously wrong except old age, and suggested they carry a notebook and write things down so they wouldn't forget.



Several days later, the old man got up to go to the kitchen. His wife said, "Dear, get me a bowl of ice cream while you're up." "Okay," he said. "...and put some chocolate syrup on it and a few cherries, too," she added. "You'd better write all this down." "I won't forget!" he said.

Twenty minutes later he came back into the room and handed his wife a plate of scrambled eggs and bacon. She glared at him. "Now, I told you to write it down! I knew you'd forget." "What did I forget?" he asked. She replied, "My toast!"

Practicing What You Preach???

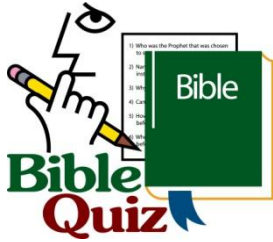
An honest man was being tailgated by a stressed out woman on a busy boulevard. Suddenly, the light turned yellow just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection.

The tailgating woman hit the roof, and the horn, screaming in frustration as she missed her chance to get through the intersection.

As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, fingerprinted and photographed, and then placed in a holding cell.

After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn and cussing a blue streak at the driver in front of you. I noticed the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'What Would Jesus Do?' bumper sticker, the 'Follow Me to Sunday School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk. Naturally, I assumed you had stolen the car!"



Monthly Bible Trivia Quiz

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

Category: Sayings
Quiz Title: Is it in There?

1. Is the statement, "God helps those who help themselves" in the Bible?

Yes No

2. Is the saying, "cast your bread upon the waters" found in scripture?

Yes No

3. Is the truism, "you reap what you sow" based on scripture?

Yes No

4. Is the adage, "money is the root of all evil" from the Bible?

Yes No

5. Is the maxim, "cleanliness is next to godliness" in the Bible?

Yes No

6. Is the maxim, "honesty is the best policy" based on scripture?

Yes No

7. Is the aphorism, "a fool and his money are soon parted" found in scripture?

Yes No

8. Is the proverb, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" found in the Bible?

Yes No

9. Is the maxim, "do unto others as you'd have done to you" based on scripture?

Yes No

10. Is the adage, "to err is human, to forgive divine" found in the Bible?

Yes No

Down the Road.....

- **Earth Day** – Thursday, April 22, 2010
- **Family Promise/Interfaith Hospitality** – Sunday, April 25 thru Sunday, May 2, 2010
- **National Day of Prayer** – Thursday, May 6, 2010
- **May Friendship Day** – Friday, May 7, 2010
- **Mother's Day/Youth Sunday** – Sunday, May 9, 2010
- **Ascension of the Lord** – Thursday, May 13, 2010
- **Presbyterian Heritage Sunday** – Sunday, May 30, 2010
- **Memorial Day Observed** – Monday, May 31, 2010

Answers to Monthly Bible Trivia Quiz

1. No 2. Yes (Ecclesiastes 11:1) 3. Yes (2 Corinthians 9:6) 4. Yes (1 Timothy 6:10) 5. No
6. Yes (Leviticus 19:36) 7. No 8. Yes (Acts 20:35) 9. Yes (Matthew 7:12) 10. No

STREAM LINES



APRIL 2010

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
Organization



STREAM LINES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AVENEL

APRIL 2010