



STREAM LINES

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

February 2014

LOVE BEARS ALL THINGS, BELIEVES ALL THINGS,
HOPES ALL THINGS, ENDURES ALL THINGS. – 1 Corinthians 13:7 (NKJV)

From the Pastor

February 2014

THERE CAN BE NO HOLIDAYS FOR LOVE

*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.
1 Corinthians 13:4-6 (NIV)*

If asked which month you'd most closely associate with the word "love", what would you say? For many Americans "February" might float to the fore, given St. Valentine's Day. For the florists, jewelers, sellers of sweets, greeting card companies, postal service, and restaurants, the still of a biting cold winter gets shattered by a flurry, no, a blazing blizzard of busyness, and business. Starting as early as the week after Christmas, in stores, schools, and print and television advertising, we can't seem to escape images of hearts, and winged cupids alighted on puffy clouds, arrows in hand. All this has come to be connected with "love", particularly romantic love.

It is certainly a good thing to set aside a day when people, more intentionally than usual, express their love for another verbally and with kind gestures of service or material gifts. Often however, the "love" surrounding a holiday like Valentine's Day can be nothing more than sappy sentimentalism. The size or cost of the bouquet, cologne, diamond, box of chocolates, or the restaurant's star ratings can become a rule by which to quantify a giver's love for the other. To be sure, expressing one's affection for another by giving a generous or high-quality gift within one's means is noble and worthwhile, even loving. Yet, for some, giving on Valentine's Day can devolve, consciously or unconsciously, into a conspicuous public display of affection. We've all seen

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February 2014						
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those whose giving is intended more to draw attention to themselves than to the one who is supposedly the object of their affection. On the other hand, there are those who receive a generous gift that seems to transform them into a peacock who's won "the best Valentine's Day gift in the office contest." Others still will use gift-giving at Valentine's Day as a kind of restitution for treating their love badly most other days of the year.

There can be no holidays for real love. "What?" you say, "Are you proposing that Valentine's Day be abolished?" "No!" I answer, "Of course not!" Here's what I mean. In my days as a midshipman, I sailed with a bosun who, when inspecting a paint job on deck, looked for what he called "holidays" — missed spots. With love, and especially for those who call themselves Christian, there can be no holidays, missed spots or missed days. Every day presents us an opportunity to express our love for those dear to us (and those not so dear to us, enemies even) with words, acts of service, and material tokens. That we may do this on Valentine's Day doesn't absolve us from doing it every other day of the year. Do we express our gratitude to God on Thanksgiving Day alone, or every day?

It's the doing of this loving that's the challenge, because true love compels us to put the other before ourselves, yet the sin in us impels us to do the reverse. Yet, by God's grace, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we do this willingly, in total freedom, even when there's a part of us that would rather not love the other, rather not do what would help them to thrive. As Paul put it,

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.
⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

Of ourselves, we are incapable of doing this. Yet, with Christ who is for us, in and beside us, it is possible. It is possible for us to think how we might love those who don't have a "Valentine" in their life, and then show them the love of Christ. It becomes possible for us, by granting that spouse or friend forgiveness, to revive, renew, and strengthen that relationship. It becomes possible for us to speak to a family member or co-worker a hard word of truth about how we may experience them. Such a word, communicated gently and with sensitivity, may help them become aware of something that may be keeping people, including us, from connecting with them. It may help them muster the resources to deal with a certain issue about which they may feel ill-equipped to overcome. It becomes possible for us too, to receive such a hard word from another without becoming angry or denying the rightness that we know is in it.

At Christmas we say that love came to us. By this we mean that Jesus came to earth to embody God's love physically, and to show us what love looks like. He ultimately died for us. *That's* what love looks like. Love is not easy and it is not the way of weakness. Love is indeed the only thing that conquers all things, just as Jesus showed us in rising from the grave to new and everlasting life.

In Christ,

Bob Louer
Pastor

STREAM LINES INFORMATION

The deadline for the March 2014 issue of Stream Lines will be Wednesday, February 19, 2014 at 12:00 noon.

Remember to email your articles to:

Susan Smolsky at streamlines@comcast.net

From the Editor



The March issue will be available for pickup in the Sanctuary on Sunday, March 2, 2014. It will also be available for online reading and printing on or about Wednesday, February 26, 2014.

If you are receiving a paper copy and would like to view the newsletter in color, please visit <http://avenepresbyterianchurch.org/newsletter>. All online issues are in color.



Ordination and Installation of Elders and Deacons

During the morning worship service on Sunday, December 29, 2013, the following officers were newly ordained and installed as an elder and a deacon of our church:

Elder: Eugene Hallenbeck
Deacon: Sandy Kosakowski

ANNUAL HOLIDAY FAIR

As I sat this evening writing the annual report for the Holiday Fair, I was filled with joy! This year we held the entire Fair in the gym. It created such a wonderful sense of fellowship, great music, delicious food and gratitude for everyone's help in getting this day put together. I'm sure God was smiling because of us. I know I was.

Two days ago, the girl I babysit for gave me 4 bags of items for this year's Fair. I brought it to church to put in Room 1, together with 3 bags of things I've collected. With all the cold and snowy weather we have been enduring, I'm sure many of you will be cleaning out closets and basements. **Please** think about the Fair when doing this. We will accept used household items, jewelry, and any new items you no longer want. The new items will be used in our Progressive Auction. Every year I am amazed at the stuff people will buy. So if in doubt as to whether we can use it, the answer is YES we can. There is space for donations in Room 1 for anything that you must give away before October.



Thank you in advance,
Cindy Culton



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, March 4, 2014 - 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Jacob Morgan Hall

Mark your calendars and join us for our Annual Pancake Supper on Tuesday, March 4, 2014. Seating is available from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in Jacob Morgan Hall. The suggested donation is \$5.00 per adult and \$2.00 for each child. Donations will be accepted at the door.

Everyone is welcome, so bring your friends!



Oops! There was an accidental omission on the January birthday list. Jake Ryan Kost celebrated his first birthday on January 24th.
Happy Birthday Sweetie!

YOUTH FUNDRAISER

Sunday, March 9, 2014



Mark your calendars for the next Youth Fundraiser on Sunday, March 9, 2014. All proceeds go to the Youth Mission Trip in July.

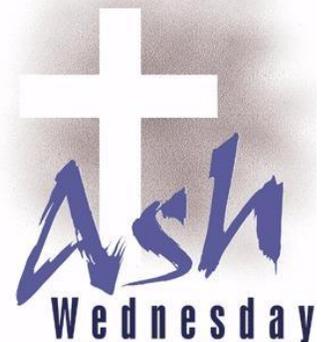
Look for more information in the March Stream Lines, the Church website and the Sunday bulletins.

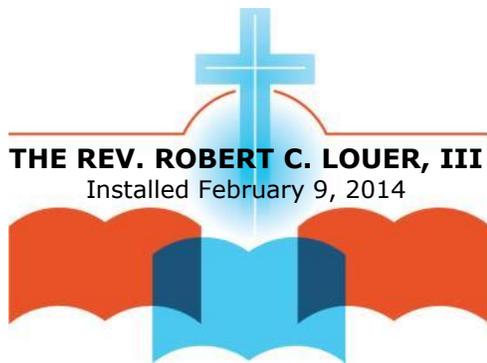
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday, March 5, 2014 – Sanctuary – 7:00 p.m.

Jesus retreated into the wilderness and fasted for 40 days to prepare his ministry. For Him, it was a time of contemplation, reflection and preparation. By observing Lent, most Christians join Jesus on His retreat.

Take the time now to map out your journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Begin your journey by joining us for our Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 5, 2014 in the Sanctuary.





THE REV. ROBERT C. LOUER, III
Installed February 9, 2014

INSTALLATION SERVICE

Sunday, February 9, 2014 - 4:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

Signed, Sealed, Delivered
HE'S OURS!

We are pleased to announce that on Sunday, February 9, 2014, the Rev. Robert C. Louer, III will be installed as the new pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Avenel, New Jersey, at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Everyone is invited to attend.

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

Thank you, Bob, for answering the call of God and His children.

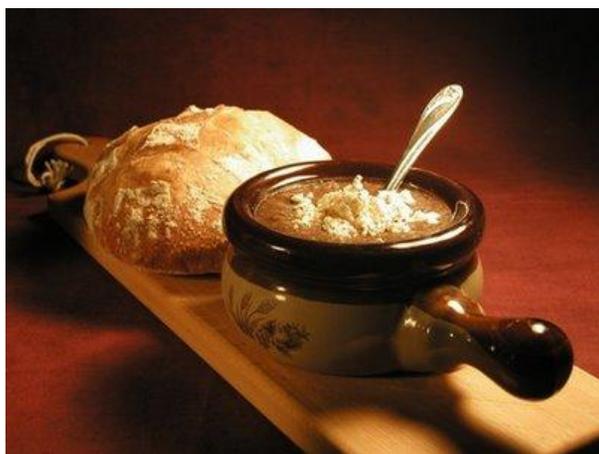
TO
LOVE

IS TO RECEIVE A GLIMPSE OF HEAVEN.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS
VESPER SERVICES
DISCUSSION GROUP

Wednesday Evenings
March 12, 19 and 26 | April 2 and 9
Beginning at 5:30 p.m. in JMH

Lent is a season of preparation and reflection, soul-searching and repentance, and a time for taking stock. Our annual Lenten Soup Suppers and Vesper Services held on Wednesday evenings are a perfect way to remember the sacrifice of our Lord during this special time of the year.



Our first date is Wednesday, March 12, followed by March 19, 26, April 2 and 9, 2014. Join us for the Soup Suppers, with delicious homemade soups, fresh baked breads and desserts, at 5:30 p.m. in Jacob Morgan Hall. Vesper Services will begin at 6:15 p.m. in the Chapel, followed by an adult education discussion group, also in the Chapel.



Our Military Servicemen, Servicewomen and Their Families

Anthony Battito, Jovan Diaz, Lauren Hansen, Jeffrey Hansen, Daniel Hedner, Edward Merz, Lauren K. Pfeifer, Steven Stockl, Rev. Adam Tietje, Amy Updike, Michael Warren, Rob Zardona

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



Eleanor Smith and Toni Anderson

Prayer Requests

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



Recent Concerns

Barbara Morgan, Julie Madsen, Eleanor Smith, Colleen Turi-Donado and Family (Rev. Bob's next-door neighbor), Gail Florio, Jennifer (known through Bobbie Altieri), The Beaty Family

Health and Healing

Pete Allebach, Thomas Kurzeja, Harry Musselman, Maureen Nielsen, Jennifer Perez

Those with On-Going Long-Term Concerns

Tessa Campbell (niece of Arleen Schreiber), Ann Marie Carola (friend of John and Linda Guarracino), Josephine DeVito (mother of Carol Palmer), Diana Dydak, Nancy Leclair (sister of Shirley Benkert), Esther Nielsen, Jennifer Perez

In Sympathy

Our sympathy to Diana Atakora on the passing of her friend, Justina Osuwa. May her spirit soar!



CALLED HOME

December 2013 – Marie Baldwin Field, our friend and long-time church member. Marie served in our church in many capacities, notably as Elder-Trustee and Sunday School Superintendent (for 14 years). She was married in 1944 to church member, Buck Field.

January 2014 – Hartley F. "Buck" Field, our friend and long-time church member. Buck served our church well as an Elder-Trustee, as well as being an inspiration

to the youth of the church. He served in the United States Navy during World War II, and was married in 1944 to church member, Marie Baldwin Field.

Our sympathies to Marie and Buck's daughter, Patti Field Cornell, and the entire Field family.



Discover the Iron

*Attributed to: Oliver Wendell Holmes and
Henry Ward Beecher*

If one should give me a dish of sand and tell me there were particles of iron in it, I might look for them with my eyes and search for them with my clumsy fingers and be unable to detect them. But let me take a magnet and sweep through it, and it would draw to itself the almost invisible particles, by the mere power of attraction!

The unthankful heart, like my fingers in the sand, discovers no mercies, but let the thankful heart sweep through the day, and as the magnet finds the iron, so it will find in every hour some heavenly blessings. Only the iron in God's sand is gold.

Where might you find God's sand? Open your scriptures. And if you look carefully with a thankful heart, there are nuggets of gold to be discovered there.

Christian Reflections

Lessons on Life

By: Unknown Author

There was a man who had four sons. He wanted his sons to learn not to judge things too quickly. So he sent them each on a quest, in turn, to go and look at a pear tree that was a great distance away.

The first son went in the winter, the second in the spring, the third in summer and the youngest son in the fall. When they had all gone and come back, the man called them together to describe what they had seen.

The first son said that the tree was ugly, bent and twisted.

The second son said no – it was covered with green buds and full of promise.

The third son disagreed. He said it was laden with blossoms that smelled so sweet and looked so beautiful. It was the most graceful thing he had ever seen.

The last son disagreed with all of them. He said it was ripe and drooping with fruit, full of life and fulfillment.

The man then explained to his sons that they were all right because they had each seen but only one season in the tree's life. He told them that you cannot judge a tree, or a person, by only one season, and that the essence of who they are and the pleasure, joy and love that come from that life can only be measured at the end, when all the seasons are up.

If you give up when it's winter, you will miss the promise of your spring, the beauty of your summer and the fulfillment of your fall.



Did You Know?

1. Cats have over 100 vocal chords.
2. Camel's milk doesn't curdle.
3. Elephants sleep between 4-5 hours in a 24 hour period.
4. Frogs can't swallow with their eyes open.

Famous Firsts in New Jersey

1. The first steam locomotive to actually pull a train on a track was built by John Stevens of Hoboken in 1824.
2. The first town to be lighted by electricity was Roselle in 1883.
3. The first radio broadcast of the World Series was transmitted live from Newark's radio station WIZ in 1921.
4. The first airplane passenger flight flew from New York to Atlantic City on May 3, 1919.



Sunday	2/09/2014	New Pastor Installation – 4:00 p.m. - Sanctuary
Friday	2/14/2014	Valentine’s Day
Tuesday	3/04/2014	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper – 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. - JMH
Wednesday	3/05/2014	Ash Wednesday Evening Service – 7:00 p.m. - Sanctuary
Friday	3/07/2014	World Day of Prayer
Sunday	3/09/2014	Daylight Savings Time – 2:00 a.m. – Turn clocks ahead 1 hour
Sunday	3/09/2014	First Sunday in Lent
Wednesdays	3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/02 and 4/09	Lenten Soup Suppers – 5:30 p.m. – Jacob Morgan Hall Vesper Services – 6:15 p.m. – Chapel Adult Education Discussion Group – After Vesper Services in the Chapel
Sunday	4/13/2014	Palm Sunday
Thursday	4/17/2014	Maundy Thursday/Tenebrae Service
Friday	4/18/2014	Good Friday
Sunday	4/20/2014	Easter Sunrise Service - Chapel
Sunday	4/20/2014	Easter Sunday/Easter Worship Service – 10:00 a.m. - Sanctuary
Tuesday	4/22/2014	Earth Day

WORSHIP COMMITTEE



The Worship Committee would like to thank everyone who gave their input regarding the new blended service. All of the suggestions were thoroughly discussed by the Committee, and it was decided that the majority of the congregation is in favor of keeping the new, blended service exactly the way it has been. We are still working on a few aspects of the service, and hope that we can continue to worship God as one united group. If there are any further questions, please see Rev. Louer or any member of the Worship Committee.



February Memory Verse

1 Corinthians 13:4-6 (NIV)

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.



Thought of the Month

Your mind is like a parachute. It functions only when open.



Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire. It is the time for home.

- Edith Sitwell

FEBRUARY

Birthdays



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

- 02 Mark Tarby
- 04 Cindy Culton, Sarah Kosakowski, Steven Kosakowski, Edward Sammartino
- 05 Chris Yuhasz
- 07 Diana Dydak
- 09 John Altieri, Linda Palmerini, Dorothea Smith
- 11 Eddy Exantus
- 13 Arlene Farley, Ferry Wattie
- 15 Jessica Miller
- 18 Toni Anderson, Jonathon Sternesky
- 21 Sarah Benkert, Marjorie Greasheimer
- 22 Patrick Lombardi
- 25 Justine Durham, Jaime Dydak, Graciela Goyco
- 28 Jordan Connolly, Roy Palmerini



PRICELESS!

STREAM LINES



February 2014

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A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AVENEL

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