

STREAM LINES



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



JANUARY 2011

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

Rev. Jason P. Tucker
Lenore ("Len") Turner
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



January 2011

"For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son..." -Romans 8:29

As we welcome the New Year and take stock of *who* we are and *where* we're going, it only seems natural that we should reflect on our spiritual lives. But what do we mean when we talk about our "spiritual lives?" The language of "spirituality" has become pervasive in contemporary American culture. Talk of spiritual *wholeness* and *wellness*, once relegated to Sunday morning sermons, can be found in health clubs, spas, boardrooms, and magazine covers. Whenever pollsters ask about faith, it seems that most Americans *overwhelmingly* affirm that: they *believe* in God, *pray* to God, and share "testimonials of personal encounters with God..."¹ even as participation in *traditional religious activity* in America continues to decline. Simply put, religious institutions are no longer the places where people are getting all (or any) of their spiritual information. Many Americans have become skeptical of religious institutions and have turned to a burgeoning "spirituality industry" to meet their needs.

Over the last few decades, this "spirituality industry" (a conglomeration of religion, philosophy, supernatural phenomena, psychic readings, and self-help psychology), has flooded popular culture with

¹ Wuthnow, Robert. *After Heaven: Spirituality in America since the 1950s*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998, p. 1.

books, movies, television programs, seminars and media personalities, *all promising answers* to the fundamental questions of all things “spiritual.”

So what do we finally mean when we use the term “spirituality?” Christian practice in America has been profoundly influenced by these changing trends in “spirituality,” as Christianity has tried to remain competitive in the “spiritual marketplace of ideas” (e.g., Christian entertainment, prosperity theology, a focus on technology, and a greater emphasis on finding truth in non-Christian religions). As a result, the Church has become, to a large degree, just one of *many* purveyors of spiritual goods and services, designed to enhance one’s personal spiritual journey.

Many Christians have seen this pervasiveness of secular “spirituality” as a good thing for the Church—a sign of the world’s insatiable hunger for truth that will eventually lead them to Jesus Christ. Perhaps this is true. But there is a very real danger that the Christian notions of “spirituality” and “spiritual formation” have been tainted by popular culture. Is *Christian* spiritual formation primarily about the *individual* journey of the spiritual self? Not exactly. “Spiritual formation,” for the Christian, is not focused on the *self*, but on the Person of *Jesus Christ*. It is “secular spiritual formation” in reverse—it focuses on God so that *God* can form the self. As Willard puts it, “spiritual formation for the Christian basically refers to the Spirit-driven process of forming the inner world of the human self in such a way that it becomes like the inner being of Christ himself.”² It is a spiritual journey with an end in mind: the *loss of self—Christlikeness*. It is a constant shaping and reshaping of the human self more and more into the image of Christ.

This year, let’s make a resolution to become more and more like Christ. How? By allowing Him to *form us*. By spending time in Scripture, prayer, worship and fellowship. For as we do, we find ourselves being shaped and molded by Christ.

May you and your family have a blessed New Year! And may we all conform more and more into His likeness.

In Christ’s service,
Pastor Jason

STREAM LINES INFORMATION

When the Lord closes a door, somewhere He opens a window.

It is with sadness and regret when I tell you that Stream Lines is closing its doors at this point in our church’s history. Participation in the newsletter has become minimal, both in forthcoming church information and in readership. This lack of participation makes the newsletter a struggle to prepare and no longer justifies the time, effort and resources that it requires.

The good news, however, is that you can still find the information you need about church activities on our church website (<http://avenelpresbyterianchurch.org>) and/or in the Sunday bulletins. Registration and other forms will also be made available online and in the Sunday bulletins. Please bear with us as we make this transition.

Thank you to those who have supported our newsletter over the years with your committee reports and information. It was greatly appreciated.

And who knows – there may be a time when the printing presses roll again.



**From the
Editor**



May the kindness you have shown to others in 2010
return to you many times over in 2011.

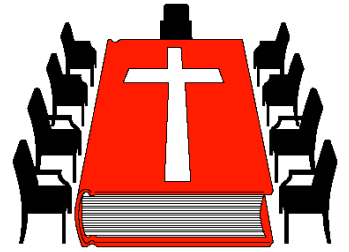
God’s blessings and peace for a Happy New Year!

Your Stream Lines Team

² Ibid., p. 22.

ELDERS AND DEACONS

We extend our deep appreciation to those elders and deacons who have finished their term as officers. For your contributions of time, talents, thought, actions and energy to this church and God's kingdom, we thank you.



Elders: John Hogan, Wayne Dubin

Deacons: Dawn Connolly, Cindy Culton, Jan Gagnon, Belinda Kerchner, Lynne Merz

We would like to welcome and congratulate those individuals who have been called to the office of deacon or elder. God has called you to challenging and rewarding work for His kingdom. Thank you for answering His call.

Elders: Pat Battito, J. Bruce McKee

Deacons: Hanna Culton, Huguetta Exantus, Jane McKee, Linda Sammartino

In addition, we thank all those elders and deacons who have renewed their commitment to the Lord and this church for another term.

Elders: Rich Culton, Bill McLachlan

Deacons: Mary Ann Lombardi

Come to the Game!

February 6, 2011 - Mark Your Calendars



It's another Super Bowl Sunday, this year February 6, 2011. That's when our next David's Challenge will be held right here in our very own gym. Everyone is invited to come watch as our Sunday School Department is divided into two teams that will battle for victory. The red team is "Christ's Crusaders" and the blue team is "God's Warriors." The team that answers the most

bible-based questions correctly will get to advance toward their goal depending on the yardage value of their question. The team scoring the most points by the end of the game wins. We will start promptly at 9:00 a.m. and will end at 10:00 a.m.

Property Care Newsletter

**Minutes of the Property Care Committee Meeting
Held on December 7, 2010**

The meeting was opened with prayer by Bruce McKee at 7:30 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Manse

A work party (Rick Severyn, Bob Ragan, Rich Culton) has been set up for 12/29 to complete the following:

- a. Waterproof painting in basement back room
- b. Painting hallway by cellar



- c. Shelf to be installed over washer and dryer in basement
- d. Front doorknob to be repaired
- e. Outside electrical plug on porch not aligned

The work party will coincide with the Fire Alarm System Check on 12/29 - **Bruce**

Shed needs a motion detector light installed - **Bruce** will check with Bill Walsh

CE Building

1. Light in kitchen needs ballast - **Gary/Bruce**
2. Sink in girls room to be looked at and checked whether leaking - **Bruce/Gary**
3. Hallway light needs ballast
4. After the meeting the committee looked at the exit signs in the CE Building and Gym which the Fire Inspector had suggested we replace. Two signs need batteries and/or light bulbs - **Bob** to look at.
5. It was also discovered that the AED in the hallway by the Gym needs a battery - being looked at.

Ken Hunt Lounge

Gay to check with Worldwide Flooring on Route 1 for recommendation on cleaning floor tiles.

Gym

1. A smoke detector and a light needs to be hardwire installed with a switch by main door to the gym. **Bruce** will check with Bill Walsh
2. Gym doors (see door section below).

Lawn Maintenance/Snow Plowing

1. The Edger has been repaired by Frank Battito.
2. The committee decided on a snow plowing contract with Greener Solutions. **Rich** will contact them and sign the contract for this winter season.
3. The Annual Fall Clean-up was held on Saturday, November 20th with great success. We had about 20 volunteers. Thanks to all that helped and to Cindy Culton for coordinating the refreshments and coffee for that day.

Jacob Morgan Hall

Doors - see door section below.

Roofs

Fundraisers are being proposed to include various events (e.g., moment for mission announcements, pancake breakfasts, dinners, dances, etc).

In addition, the committee will need to meet with the Finance committee to **develop a plan** for the upcoming 2011 budget and future budgets to build up capital funds so that when a major repair is needed, the monies are already available.

The roofs had been repaired by BC Roofing and when leaking was discovered in the boiler room in Westminster Hall and Room 19 in the CE Building, BC Roofing responded and fixed the leaks. The Room 19 leak had not been part of the completed roof repair. It was the asphalt shingle roof that is at least 15 years old. BC repaired with some tar. Will have to keep an eye on that roof for future replacement.

Recycles

The food pantry produces most of the cardboard recycling. Jake Stockl has been in touch with the Township to provide us with 2 additional blue recycling bins. So far there has been no progress. **Bob** will take the excess cardboard recycling to the dump on Saturday. But this matter has to be resolved with additional bins.

Safety Inspector

A volunteer is needed to do the monthly safety check of our fire extinguishers, exits signs, CO2 detectors. The list of items will be provided by **John Hogan**. **Bob** will investigate.

Doors

Our recommendation to session will be to hire **Accurate Door and Hardware from Totowa, NJ** to perform the following services that the Avenel Fire Inspector has deemed necessary:

JMH

16 gauge frame fire rated
18 gauge door with vision fire rated
Panic bar with passage trim
Closer
BB Hinges
Cost: \$1,312.00

JMH Double Doors

16 gauge frame fire rated
2 18 gauge doors with vision fire rated
2 vertical rod panics with passage trim
2 closers
6 BB Hinges
Cost: \$2,560.00

Gym Inside Doors

16 gauge frame fire rated
2 18 gauge doors with vision fire rated
2 vertical rod panics with passage trim
2 closers
6 BB Hinges
Saddle
Cost: \$2,720.00

Gym Outside Doors

16 gauge frame
2 18 gauge doors
2 vertical rod panic bars
2 closers
6 BB Hinges
Saddle
Weather Stripping
Cost: \$2,575.00

Total Cost: \$7,167.00

Future Projects

See below.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Rick Severyn at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gay Patrouch

FUTURE PROJECTS

Manse

1. Back porch painting - 2nd coat on walls and ceiling
2. Painting back porch floor deck
3. Tree by Manse to be removed - Treeminator
4. Gutter Guards - Gary - Spring 2011
5. Power Washing - Spring 2011
6. Rear Steps - cosmetic work - coincide with replacement of driveway and sidewalk
7. Replacement of driveway and sidewalk

Chapel

Chapel steps need to be repaired/replaced (temporary fix for safety completed in October). Look at for 2011/2012 timeframe.

Gutter Guards for all buildings.

Committee Members: Frank Battito, Rich Culton, John Hogan, Bruce McKee, Gay Patrouch, Ralph Price, Bob Ragan, Joan Ross, Rick Severyn and Gary Stevenson

BLUE STAR FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

American Legion Post #471 – 25 Brown Avenue – Iselin, NJ 08830

On behalf of the American Legion T. Nulty Post 471's Blue Star Family Support Group, we would like to thank you very much for your recent generous donation for our October 23rd mailing of items and cookies for the troops. Your generosity has brightened the lives of several members of our Hometown Heroes and also of the men and women who serve with them.

Thank you again for supporting our men and women serving our country!

Best regards,

Ron Davie and Ed Gorman – Co-Founders
Mike Serak – Post Chaplain



... DOWN THE ROAD ...



- ❖ Epiphany of the Lord – Thursday, January 6, 2011
- ❖ World Day of Prayer – Friday, March 4, 2011
- ❖ Pancake Supper – Tuesday, March 8, 2011
- ❖ Ash Wednesday – Wednesday, March 9, 2011
- ❖ Daylight Savings Time Begins – Sunday, March 13, 2011 at 2 a.m.
- ❖ Lenten Soup Suppers/Vesper Services – To Be Announced
- ❖ Palm Sunday – Sunday, April 17, 2011
- ❖ Maundy Thursday – Thursday, April 21, 2011
- ❖ Good Friday – Friday, April 22, 2011
- ❖ One Great Hour of Sharing Collection – Sunday, April 24, 2011
- ❖ Easter Sunday – Sunday, April 24, 2011



Our Military Servicemen, Servicewomen and Their Families

Rev. Adam Tietje, Brian Ragas, Daniel Hedner, Jovan Diaz, Scott Rampone, Turner Robbins, Edward Merz, Anthony Battito, Justin Kitchen, Michael Warren, Lauren K. Pfeifer, Bryan Palmer, Amy Updike, Robert Bartko, Michael Barany

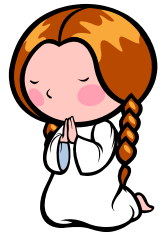
FREEDOM ISN'T FREE. SOMEBODY PAID.



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

Prayer Requests

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



Recent Concerns

Sterlacci Family, Kacie Turnbull, Janice Klausman (friend of Bobbi Altieri), Lanny Armstrong (friend of Carol and Larry Palmer), Jolan Farkas, Ron McKee (son of Bruce and Jane), Betty Martino (friend of Carol Palmer), Monika Lynfatt (friend of Betty Hulsizer), Elaine Boiko (mother-in-law of Wayne Dubin), Ron Dunham (friend of Betty Hulsizer), Madeline (sister of Lorine Price), Robert Evangelista (friend of Charlie and Stephanie Kurowsky), Kelly Hogan, Sherry Zigre (friend of Holly Ely)

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, Esther Nielsen, Phil Prasser, Marjorie Speath (sister of Barbara Morgan), Josephine DeVito (mother of Carol Palmer), Tessa Campbell (niece of Arleen Schreiber)



BIBLE VERSE QUOTEFALL PUZZLE

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

Psalm 4:3 (NIV)

K	H	A	S	L	S	E	F	T	R	P	H	R	M	L	T	L	F
	G	O	W		Y	H	A	O	A	T	H	E	T	S	E	R	D
	N	O	D		T		T				A	I		O	O	H	E

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

IN OUR DENOMINATION

LETTER FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF ELIZABETH
DECEMBER 17, 2010



Dear Congregations of the Presbytery of Elizabeth,

Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

At the Presbytery meeting in November, your representatives to the meeting expressed concern about the second large increase, in as many years, in Presbytery's portion of Per Capita. Per Capita is the portion of our giving that allows us to provide support for us to connect with other congregations within our presbytery, with other presbyteries, with synod and with the denomination. It allows us to be a Christian organization which practices democracy. I marvel every day at my role in this Presbytery! As a lay person and elder, I have been blessed to be a part of the presbytery leadership during this time of transition. Per Capita allows us to provide a venue for our congregations, members of the ministry, and elders to connect and collaborate to do the work of Jesus Christ not just in our congregations and communities, but also in the greater world.

I want to assure you, this is the last large increase. In order to properly fund the daily operations of Presbytery, and not deduct dollars from the Shared Mission budget, it was proposed by the Stewardship Committee and supported by the Presbytery to take this path. This path is not one that we blindly follow. As we continue with our mission study to discern our future, we will reevaluate our Presbytery budgetary needs. Change is not an easy, nor is it a quick, process.

In every Session meeting that I attended for the mission study, concerns were raised about the Per Capita. I have heard you! And, I have passed those concerns on to Council. First, this Per Capita raise is NOT a result of increased administrative expenses. It is not our intent to just take money and keep funding the projects of the past. By truly dedicating our Shared Mission dollars to mission only, we will be strongly stating our presence as a Presbytery that knows God calls us to be mission-driven. In the past, a portion of our Mission budget was redirected to the daily operations of the Presbytery. This will no longer happen.

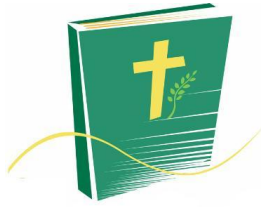
Therefore, please prayerfully consider fulfilling your Per Capita giving as well as your Shared Mission giving. I will commit to increasing my communication with the congregations of the Presbytery of Elizabeth concerning budgetary expenditures and mission giving of our presbytery.

May the Peace of Jesus Christ be with you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susan Krivenko".

Susan Krivenko
Moderator – Presbytery of Elizabeth

NOTE TO THE CONGREGATION: The new per capita fee is \$36.90.



January Memory Verse

Psalm 62:7 (NIV)

My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge.



Transferred to the Church Triumphant

December 2010 – **Linda Gavor**, our beloved friend, Deacon of the Church, and church member since May 14, 2004, who was unexpectedly taken from us. God’s peace and comfort to her family and friends. God speed Linda.



Thought of the Month

A Christian is a living sermon whether or not he preaches a word.

January Birthdays

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

Thank you!



- 01 Gene Breza, James Krutzler
- 02 Holly Ely
- 03 Ifke Seik, Mikayla Germek
- 05 Steven Welch
- 07 Phil Prasser
- 08 Gary Stevenson, Michael Kosakowski
- 10 Tammy Salimbene
- 12 Linda Guarracino
- 13 Monica Shannon
- 16 Luisa Rondoh, Abigail Ragan
- 19 Steven Holtz
- 21 Betty Dobson, Caitlyn Shannon, Joseph Shannon
- 27 Richard Exantus
- 29 Pat Battito, Cathy Shaffer
- 31 Richard Green



Winter

Nature gives to every time and season some beauty of its own.

Charles Dickens



Least, But Not Last

By Brian Shipman

"Charlene, this is Jesus. I'm coming to your house today."

Charlene abruptly awoke in a cold sweat. She raced through her morning routine on this beautiful morning and frantically ran through the house, trying to figure out what to do first – when the phone rang.

"Hello, this is your local Salvation Army," the voice said. "We were calling to see if you had any old clothes that you could donate for the poor."

"Um, sure," Charlene said. Following the caller's instructions, she went to her closet, found some old shoes and clothes, boxed them up, and placed them on the front porch.

While she was outside, a young boy came to the door and said, "Miss, could you donate one dollar to help fight leukemia?" Charlene nodded, pulled out two one-dollar bills, and handed them to the boy. She went back inside, only to find the phone ringing again. Charlene's next-door neighbor needed a baby-sitter immediately for the rest of the day. Charlene knew she wouldn't get much pay, but she agreed.

"What if Jesus comes to my house while I'm next door?" she asked herself.

Jesus had already come to Charlene's house three times, in the form of the Salvation Army, a young boy, and her next-door neighbor. When Charlene offered her help to these people, she was helping Jesus.

Matthew 25:31-46 illustrates this point vividly. Jesus explained that how we treat others is how we treat Him. For instance, if we feed the hungry and offer water to the thirsty, then we are doing the same for Jesus. If we fail to provide clothes to those who need them, then we fail to minister to Jesus. When we care for the sick, we are caring for Jesus. When we ignore those in prison, we are ignoring Jesus.

Jesus comes to you every day in the form of a variety of people with different needs. What needs have you deliberately ignored this week? What needs have you met? What can you do to improve the way you respond to the people in need around you?

Don't turn Jesus away when He comes in the form of someone who needs your help. Ask God to show you how to minister to others around you. Pray that you would make ministering to the least of Jesus' brothers and sisters your first priority.

COMIC RELIEF

"A cheerful heart is good medicine...." Proverbs 17:22

KIDS SAY THE FUNNIEST THINGS. . .

1. **How do you decide who to marry?** You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming. – Alan, age 10.
2. **What is the right age to get married?** Twenty three is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then. – Camille, age 10. No age is good to get married at. You got to be a fool to get married. – Freddie, age 6.
3. **How can a stranger tell if two people are married?** You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids. – Derrick, age 8.
4. **What do you think your mom and dad have in common?** Both don't want any more kids. – Lori, age 8.
5. **What do most people do on a date?** Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough. – Lynette, age 8. On the first date, they just tell each other lies, and that usually gets them interested enough to go

- for a second date. – Martin, age 10.
6. **What would you do on a first date that was turning sour?** I'd run home and play dead. The next day I would call all the newspapers and make sure they wrote about me in all the dead columns. – Craig, age 9.
 7. **When is it okay to kiss someone?** When they're rich. – Pam, age 7. The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that. – Curt, age 7. The rule goes like this: If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids wiith them. It's the right thing to do. – Howard, age 8.
 8. **Is is better to be single or married?** It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them. – Anita, age 9.
 9. **How would the world be different if people didn't get married?** There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there? – Kevin, age 8.
 10. **How would you make a marriage work?** Tell your wife that she looks pretty even if she looks like a truck. – Ricky, age 10.

SHOW AND TELL

A kindergarten teacher gave her class a "show-and-tell" assignment. Each student was instructed to bring in an object to share with the class that represented their religion.

The first student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Benjamin. I am Jewish and this is a Star of David."

The second student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Mary. I'm a Catholic and this is a Rosary."

The third student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Tommy. I am a Presbyterian and this is a casserole."


THE PICNIC

A Jewish Rabbi and a Catholic Priest met at the town's annual 4th of July picnic. Old friends, they began their usual banter.

"This baked ham is really delicious," the priest teased the rabbi. "You really ought to try it. I know it's against your religion, but I can't understand why such a wonderful food should be forbidden. You don't know what you're missing. You just haven't lived until you've tried Mrs. Hall's prized Virginia Ham. Tell me, Rabbi, when are you going to break down and try it?"

The rabbi looked at the priest with a big grin and said, "At your wedding."





Answer to Bible Verse QuoteFall Puzzle

Know that the Lord has set apart the
Godly for Himself.

Psalm 4:3 (NIV)

BIBLE WORDSEARCH

(<http://biblestudygames.com>)

CATEGORY: OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS

G	U	P	Y	P	S	A	L	M	S	E	G	D	U	J
D	E	U	T	E	R	O	N	O	M	Y	O	G	O	O
E	H	N	J	E	R	E	M	I	A	H	M	B	A	S
Z	A	E	E	X	O	D	U	S	O	M	I	P	T	H
E	B	H	M	S	I	S	A	I	A	H	C	S	P	U
K	A	E	W	L	I	S	W	A	R	A	A	W	M	A
I	K	M	S	M	I	S	K	A	P	I	H	I	S	S
E	K	I	S	T	H	N	H	Z	S	S	X	A	U	B
L	U	A	K	A	H	C	U	E	Q	O	A	G	C	R
L	K	H	N	E	Z	E	L	X	U	M	M	G	I	E
E	H	O	Z	W	O	C	R	M	R	A	P	A	T	V
U	J	O	E	L	C	A	E	S	O	H	R	H	I	O
M	A	N	O	E	D	A	N	I	E	L	A	Z	V	R
A	C	H	R	O	N	I	C	L	E	S	N	F	E	P
S	R	E	B	M	U	N	K	I	N	G	S	E	L	O

Genesis - Exodus - Leviticus - Numbers - Deuteronomy - Joshua - Judges - Samuel - Kings - Chronicles
 - Ezra - Nehemiah - Esther - Job - Psalms - Proverbs - Isaiah - Jeremiah - Ezekiel - Daniel - Hosea - Joel
 - Amos - Jonah - Micah - Habakkuk - Haggai

STREAM LINES

January

JANUARY 2011

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

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