

# Stream Lines

---

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



July/August 2011

---

## Who's Who in the Church

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

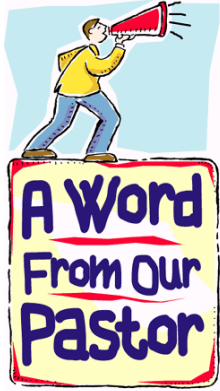
Rev. Jason P. Tucker  
Ms. Katja Gruening  
Mr. Charles Kurowsky  
Mrs. Carol Palmer  
Mrs. Susan Smolsky  
Ms. Delia Culton  
Mrs. Carol Palmer and Mrs. Cathy Shaffer  
(Phone): 732-634-1631 (Fax): 732-634-1291  
avenelpres@verizon.net  
deliaculton@hotmail.com and avenelpres@verizon.net

### ELDERS

**2011** - Carolyn Gilligan, Charles Kurowsky, Karen Severyn, Wayne Collins, Kathy Sturtz  
**2012** - Carolyn Stevenson, Carolyn Stockl, Ryan Miller, Lorine Price, J. Bruce McKee  
**2013** - Rich Culton, Bill McLachlan, Pat Battito

### DEACONS

**2011** - Joan Benkert, Danetta Juarez, Elizabeth Hulsizer, Mary Ann Miller  
**2012** - Millie Knotts, Joan Collins, Arlene Farley, Vilma Ambis, Linda Sammartino  
**2013** - Mary Ann Lombardi, Hanna Culton, Huguette Exantus, Jane McKee



**July/August 2011**  
**Rev. Jason Tucker**

### **"Connect"**

As our youth prepare to travel to West Virginia later this month, they have begun to reflect upon the theme for their week of service: *connect*. In John 15:5 Jesus says, "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing." In other words, if (and only if) we are *connected* to the vine, we will bear fruit to and for the world around us.

These teenagers are about to experience what *real connection* to Jesus, and producing fruit in His name, is all about. They will work harder than they've ever worked before—rebuilding broken homes and broken lives. And, as they serve, they'll be *connecting* with God in a powerful and life-changing way.

Please pray for these kids, and the adult leaders going on the trip. Pray for safety, for fun, and for...*connection*.

#### **2011 Workcamp Participants (July 10-16):**

Caitlyn Altieri	Caitlyn Robson
Erika Hallenbeck	Lauren Robson
Krista Hallenbeck	Wayne Collins (Leader)
Olivia Iannone	Charlene Ragan (Leader)
Christian Marshello	Karen Severyn (Leader)
Abigail Ragan	Jason Tucker (Leader)

As you know, this mission trip isn't the only way we're living out John 15:5 in our church. Along with our many programs/ministries we are also trying to help people connect with God by offering two worship services with two unique styles, beginning Sept. 11. As we prepare to launch this new chapter in the life of Avenel Church, we again ask for your prayers, that through our worship, more and more people will truly find their *connection* with Jesus. I would especially like to thank those folks who've made the effort to attend the 9am service this summer in anticipation of the new schedule. I know change can be difficult, but Jesus calls us to follow wherever He leads—I thank you all for your willingness *to follow*.

May God bless you and your family this summer!

In Christ's service,  
Pastor Jason

---

### **Stream Lines Information**

Stream Lines isn't possible without your help! Please send me any committee updates, events, or important dates that should be included in our next issue.

**The deadline for the Sept/Oct 2011 issue of Stream Lines will be Wednesday, August 24, 2011 at 12:00 noon.**

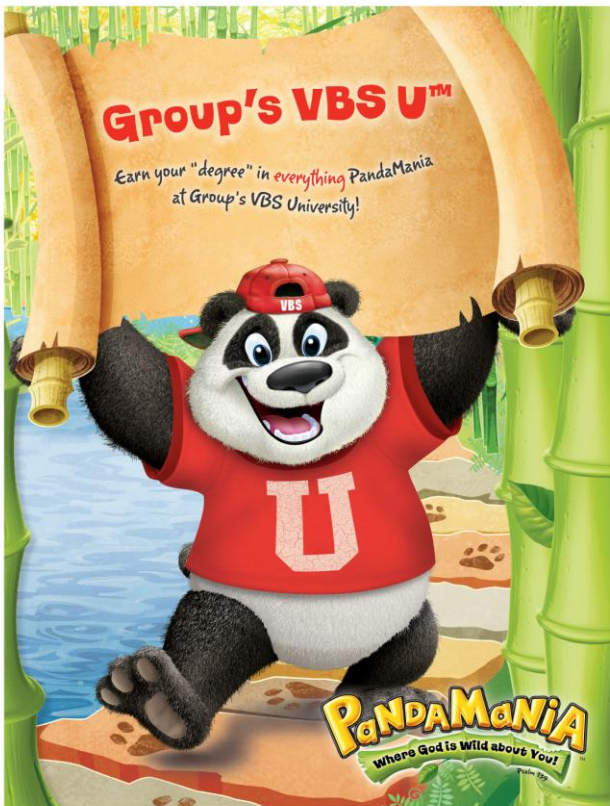
Remember to email your articles to:  
Delia Culton at deliaculton@hotmail.com

**From the  
Editor**



The Sept/Oct issue will be available for online reading and printing on or about Wednesday, August 31, 2011 and will be available to those who have no internet service and pick up their copies in the Sanctuary on Sunday, September 4, 2011.

- **Independence Day** — Monday, July 4
- **Youth Workcamp Mission Trip** - Sunday, July 10- Saturday, July 16
- **VBS "Pandamania"** - Monday, July 18- Friday, July 22
- **Family Promise**- Sunday, August 21- Sunday, August 28
- **Coffee House**- Sunday, August 28 @7-10pm
- **Next Session meeting** - Tuesday, August 30 @7pm
- **Contemporary Service Launch**- Sunday, September 11 @ 11am



VBS is about to start!!!!  
 July 18<sup>th</sup> through July 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 9:00 AM - 12:10 PM

We're all excited about our jungle adventure.

We are asking for monetary donations to help with the cost of snacks for our jungle explorers.

If you care to donate, please send your donations to the church office or put it in an envelope marked "VBS Snacks" and put it in the offering plate on Sunday.

Thank you for your continued support for our youth!



As part of VBS, this year the children will also be collecting soda can tabs. The Ronald McDonald House accepts donations of can tabs which it then brings to local recycling centers, where they are weighed to determine their value. The recycling center then sends the local RMHC Chapter a check for the total value, all money then goes to supporting family's stays at the RMHC home. This is an easy way to help out our community and to encourage the children to

help others as well. So, while at your summer barbeques make sure you take the tabs off all cans and bring them to church to place in a container at the back of the sanctuary. All tabs will be donated to the **Ronald McDonald House in New Brunswick.**



Congratulations to Rachel Ann Haggerty who graduated from middle school on June 22, 2011 and will be attending high school in September. Rachel is the daughter of Mark and Susan and sister of Matthew. She is the granddaughter of Al & Millie Knotts.

Congratulations to Nicole Capoult who graduated from college in May with a degree in Business. Nicole is also a judge and a coach for gymnastics in Fairlawn. She is the granddaughter of Arleen Schreiber.



*The congregation extends its love, prayers, and deepest sympathy to:*

The family and friends of Edith Cloidt who completed her earthly journey in May.

Joan Ross and her family and friends on the passing of Joan's mother, Jolan Farkas, who completed her earthly journey in May.

The family and friends of Linda Bisgaard who completed her earthly journey in June.

## July Birthdays

- 06- Pingkanita Wattie, Brett Fowler
- 07- Charles Kurowsky
- 09- Linda Sammartino
- 12- Esther Nielsen, Carolyn Stevenson, Katie Tucker
- 13- Regina Luntungan
- 16- Kelly Maye
- 17- Frank Dodich
- 18- Erika Bladt, Caitlyn Germek, Anna Hallenbeck
- 22- Carrie D'Amato
- 23- Nancy McCann, Greven Lewis
- 24- George Terebush
- 25- Mae Dudas, Christian Marshello
- 28- Darla Hunt
- 29- Betty Hulsizer, John Turnbull
- 31- Jean Vesey

## August Birthdays

- 01- Kathy Sturtz
- 04- Donalda Funk
- 05- Joan Smith, Kelly Sammartino
- 08- Ellen Paloti
- 10- Bob Hornyak
- 12- Joan Ross
- 13- Tyler O'Hara
- 16- Lisa Fowler
- 18- Eugene Hallenbeck, Erika Hallenbeck
- 19- Linda Herrington
- 22- Joan Collins, Cheyanne Kerchner
- 23- Rolly Luntungan, Barbara Ciocci
- 29- Kristina Sternesky
- 31- Howard Ely



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



**Our Military Servicemen, Servicewomen and Their Families**

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

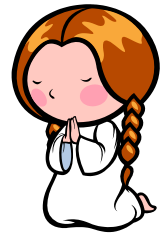
**FREEDOM ISN'T FREE.  
SOMEBODY PAID.**



Eleanor Smith and Toni Anderson

Prayer Requests

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



**Recent Concerns**

Irene Collins (mother of Wayne Collin), Paul Chomiak, Carole Toone (niece of Arleen Schreiber), LaVerne Doll, Jim Lawrence, Stacey Ramos (daughter of Frank Dodich), Becky Michael (friend of Jackie Turnbull and Carrie D'Amato)

**Those with On-Going Long-Term Concerns**

Betty Dobson, Jennifer Perez, Dorothy Piperi (mother of Carolyn Gilligan's co-worker), Diana Dydak, Jeremy Hogan, Esther Nielsen, Phil Prasser, Marjorie Speath (sister of Barbara Morgan), Josephine DeVito (mother of Carol Palmer), Tessa Campbell (niece of Arleen Schreiber), Ron McKee (son of Bruce & Jane McKee), Eric LaGrand (neighbor of Julie Cahill)

**Join us this fall for:  
A New Contemporary Worship Experience**  
Sundays @11:15am  
Beginning 9-11-11

"Are you feeling tired? Worn out? Burned out by religion?  
Get away with me, and you will recover your life."  
-Jesus

Modern Music ~ Relevant Messages ~ Casual Atmosphere ~ Real People



### March, 2011

- Approved recommendations from the Worship Committee to hold Worship services at 9 am beginning in June, and to hold a Special Worship Celebration on December 18, 2011 incorporating the Christmas Concert during worship.
- Approved recommendations from the Alternative Worship Team to alter the sanctuary in preparation for contemporary worship.
- Agreed to meet with representatives of the Indonesian Reformed Church at the next Session meeting to discuss safety and health concerns.
- Approved the baptism of Connor Strunk on May 1, 2011.

### April, 2011

- Met with the Indonesian Church to resolve concerns about the cleanliness of the kitchen and the supervision of children.
- Rescheduled the May and June Session meetings to May 25 and June 27, respectively.
- Approved a recommendation from the Worship Committee to have the youth present a dramatic skit as part of Youth Sunday.
- Granted permission to the Avenel Fire Dept. to hold a car wash in the church parking lot.
- Approved a recommendation from the Property Care Committee to refurbish the hallway in the CE building to make it more presentable to visitors.
- Approved a recommendation from the Christian Education Committee to collect a freewill offering in appreciation of Lenore Turner, Seminary Intern.
- Approved recommendations from the Membership Care Committee to hold a Men's Breakfast on October 1 and a Pot Luck Supper on October 9.
- Approved the members of the Communicants Class and 4 adults as new members.

---

# *Heavenly Grounds*

## *Coffee House*



Join us for coffee and dessert, as we enjoy music from our very own praise band!

We'll learn many of the new songs for the new service!

If you'd like to help us out with staffing the event, please contact Pastor Jason: [pastorjtucker@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjtucker@gmail.com)

*Sunday Night*

*August 28*

*Jacob Morgan Hall*

*7-10pm*



Admission is free!

---

## Church Kitchen Shower



There are plans in the works to refurbish our church kitchen now that Head Start has moved out. We would like to start fresh with all new items and are planning a tea party shower for the early fall (hopefully September). There will be a \$10 charge for the shower and all money will be used to purchase needed kitchen items. We are also asking all of you to please save all the 20% off & \$5.00 coupons that come in the paper & mail for Bed, Bath & Beyond (don't worry if they are expired, they will still accept them) and to please give any coupons to Cindy Culton or Carolyn Stockl. **We will keep you updated on this fun project.**

---

### Family Promise



### A Family Promise Thank You

I would like to start by saying it was an honor and privilege to assist Ryan Miller and Jason Tucker in hosting Family Promise the first week of May. I was truly inspired by the willingness of others to help serve those who are in need. Our warm hospitality not only demonstrates what being a Christian really means, but we also show that we, as a body of Christ, really care!

Whether you prepared a nice hot meal, or provided a delicious dessert, social served, or stayed the night as an overnight host, you also served God by providing the basic necessities in life that are all too often taken for granted.

On behalf of Ryan and Jason, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation and enormous gratitude to the following people who so generously gave of their time to help make Family Promise such a success...

Laura Meehan  
Suzanne Hatatah  
Belinda Kerchner  
Shirley Benkert  
Ruth Seeds

Melissa Groeltsch  
Michelle Howell  
Barbara Morgan  
Carol Palmer  
Sarah Kosakowski

Bob Hornyak  
Robbie Olah  
Charlie Kurowsky  
Arlene Farley  
Brett Fowler

Karin Tucker  
Tim Samons  
Carolyn Gilligan  
Kevin Miller  
Linda Sammartino

A special thank you to Carol Palmer for all of the behind the scenes details and numerous phone calls! I look forward to serving with you again in August!! Keep an eye out for the sign up sheet in the back of the Sanctuary.

In His Love,  
Sandy Kosakowski

PS. I ordered Pizza on Saturday night from Sorrento's Pizzeria. They gave us a substantial discount, donated additional items, and they said they would gladly do it again!

---

*Thank you very much for the gift of the chancel flowers on Sunday. It was very thoughtful of you. It was great to worship with all of you in my home church.*

*Love,  
Esther Nielsen*

---

*Thank You Kitchen Angels*

May 28, 2011



In May 2011, our dear friend and church family member, Jolan Farkas, passed away. One could always spot Jolan's smiling face in the last pew with her beloved daughter Joan Ross. She will be missed. What a wonderful life she led.

On May 28th we held a luncheon for Jolan's family and friends. Joan, Jolan's daughter, did not want the Angels to work hard that day so she had the food catered. Thank you to all of you who made those delicious deserts and were there to help set up the room and help with the clean up. Because of a prior commitment I didn't think I could be there so I want to thank Millie Knotts, Jolan's Deacon for getting the Deacons and others to bake. Thank you, Cindy Culton & Bobbie Altieri for organizing everything. I would like to say a special thank you to our newest Angel, Nick Altieri who earned his wings by serving the fish. Good job Nick. I was happy that my plans changed and I could be present to say my goodbyes.

Jolan touched many lives and will be sorely missed by many people.

Yours in Christ,  
Carolyn Stockl

---

**Dear Session of First Pres. Avenel,**

**I am sending this note to you as representatives of the congregation to express my deep gratitude. You have welcomed me, supported me, and given me a place to grow. Thank you so much for the monetary appreciation gift and ALL your words of encouragement! My prayers are with you.**

**Many Blessings,  
Len Turner**

---



---

I hope this helps to answer any questions that you may have had about our Food Pantry and the work that goes on there.

The food pantry is open to anyone in need. We are open on the last Tuesday of the month from 10 to 11:30 distributing bags of food to our clients. We also give out emergency bags of food through the church office.

Usually 2 volunteers pack about 95 bags of food each month with most families getting two bags and large families getting 3.

Last year we served 524 families many of them with children.

We have some very dedicated people in this church, members & non members who help us each month volunteering their time working at the pantry by helping to pick up the food, stocking the shelves, packing the bags or distributing the food.

Once a month we receive a shipment of food from the Community Food Bank in Hillside, sometimes weighing between 700 to 1000 lbs. or more. We are always looking for volunteers to give one or two hours a month to help unload the truck and put the food away. Don't be afraid to step up.

For the past several years, we have been blessed with a grant from Shop Rite in Woodbridge. This money is put into our account at the food bank for our use. When this amount is depleted we then use money that has been donated to us through the We Feed program of Middlesex County, the annual Crop Walk and the generous donations of this congregation. This year we received \$1350 from The Have a Heart Food Drive. The Deacons hold this money in an account specifically for the food pantry.

These monies are used when we go food shopping at local supermarkets for things that we need. We also take part in the Mayors Summer Concert program, and along with 8 other pantries, share in all the food that is donated. During the year we also receive donations from the Boy Scouts, The Cast a Can Campaign & the Postal Food Drive. There will also be a Bowl for Hunger night at the Woodbridge Bowling Center. Remember also that our Food Mobile is parked in the Narthex every Sunday, ready to bring your donations over to the pantry. Keep them coming.

*Perhaps you have been able to tell that there is a lot of heavy physical work and long hours involved in running this program. Knowing that we are helping those that might go hungry if it were not for our pantry is very fulfilling.*

For those of you who don't know, our food pantry was named after Joann Breza who was a member of this church for many years. She was instrumental in getting our church involved with the Community Food Bank of Hillside. Joann and her husband Gene worked many long hours to help make our pantry what it is today.

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

---

**Annual Holiday Fair 2011.....** Please remember to save items old and new for the church fair, when you are doing your Spring cleaning. New items will be used in our Silent Auction and old items will be sold in the White Elephant room. Books and jewelry are always needed. This year I ask that you keep your donations until the Fall as the Fair closet was much too packed last year, which made it very difficult to sort through. If holding on to your donations is a problem, please contact Cindy Culton. Our Fair has been successful in the past due to your generous donations.