



# STREAM LINES

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

July/August 2013

## From the Pastor

**July/August 2013**

### ENTRUSTED TO CARE FOR WHAT BELONGS TO GOD

*Verse: (God said) let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth....See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. -Genesis 1:25, 29*

A friend of mine recently returned from a trip to Rwanda. Much to my surprise, he told me that plastic bags are illegal there. They're not for sale, nor may they be brought into the country. The reason is that after being used, plastic bags invariably end up strewn everywhere — blowing like tumbleweed along the road and becoming entangled in fences and tree branches like spider webs. To avoid this, plastic bags are banned, and one Saturday a month, Rwandans—the entire nation of them, president and cabinet included—venture outdoors to tidy the place up, sweeping and collecting whatever trash they find. As a result, my friend said, Rwanda's landscape is pristine and breathtaking.

The time I spent living in Africa, in Zambia, jolted me into realizing how much waste I generate. Zambia, at least where I lived, has no municipal garbage collection. One hires a man or boy, shovel in hand, to dig in the blazing sun a six-foot by five-foot by eight-foot-deep hole in the ground. Into that pit went one's bottles, cans, paper, plastic, leaves — you name it. Every so often it's burnt down with fire. Seeing my trash mount in that pit day by day made me aware of how much waste I generate. I noticed the amount of packaging used for many (Western) foods and consumer products, i.e. sweet or salty snacks. As it happens, the U.S. accounts for 5% of the world's population but about 18% of its municipal solid waste (MSW). Americans generate an average of 4.4 lbs. of solid waste/person/day. Imagine? We "produce" in excess of 250 million tons of MSW/year, and recycle only about 33% of it, whereas 85% is recyclable.

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The Rev. Robert C. Louer, III

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July 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

This is a matter of stewardship. Stewardship is an issue for all humanity, and especially for us who call ourselves followers of Jesus Christ. A steward is one who is entrusted to care for something *that belongs to someone else*. To sustain our lives, God has lovingly given us the magnificent gift of creation. God has also exalted and dignified humanity by entrusting it to care for God's world. God has appointed us to steward *what belongs to God*. The earth and all that is in it is God's, not ours.

Even our bodies are a gift from God. Scripture says, "...your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God. *You are not your own*; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies" (1 Cor. 6:19-20). This has important implications for what we do with and how we care for our bodies. The Centers for Disease Control reports that 69.2% of adults aged 20 and over are overweight, and 35.9% of similarly aged adults are obese (2009-2010). We're literally eating ourselves to death. Our minds, too, we must steward. When did you last read a book that challenged you to think, or engaged in a challenging discussion? What TV programs and movies are you watching? Are they edifying or polluting your mind?

Stewardship also involves taking care of the external resources with which God has blessed us. In our disposable, throwaway society, how well do we take care of physical property, what we think of as "ours"? How well do we take care of the physical property where Christ's church gathers? Does the condition of that property reflect His glory?

We are stewards of the financial resources God's given us, personally and as a nation. Individually and collectively, we are by far the most indebted nation ever. Churches even, which should be shining examples of responsible stewardship, are spending more than they take in. This very congregation is over \$11,000 in the red as of the end of May. Does your giving reflect your love for and commitment to Christ's church? Are you holding back, waiting for a permanent pastor to be installed to resume your usual giving pattern? Is your giving on par with the economic realities the church is facing in 2013, or those of 1993? What are you sacrificing for the sake of Christ's church? As members of the Body of Christ, we have committed ourselves to steward the faith of the church. We are responsible for nurturing our faith and passing it to future generations. We do this by gathering for worship, Bible study, prayer, and by sharing our faith with a world that hungers and thirsts for the One it does not know — God, Jesus Christ, who graciously loves and accepts them as they are, unconditionally. How're we doing here?

In summer, the rhythm of life slows down in the church, as elsewhere. But life does go on. The Body of Christ still meets to proclaim its faith in God. It still nurtures that faith together and when scattered. The Body still has financial obligations. So this summer, take time to think about stewardship. Assess your stewardship of your faith and church. With your presence and praise before and for God, your prayers, and your pocketbooks, please consider your responsibilities as a steward of all God has given you. *So, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31)*. I look forward to seeing you this summer, fellow stewards and stewardesses!

- Bob Louer

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# KICK-OFF SUNDAY

Sunday, September 8, 2013 — Mark Your Calendars!

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## STREAM LINES INFORMATION

**The deadline for the September 2013 issue of Stream Lines will be Wednesday, August 21, 2013 at 12:00 noon.**

Remember to email your articles to:

**Susan Smolsky at [streamlines@comcast.net](mailto:streamlines@comcast.net)**

**From the Editor**



The September issue will be available for pickup in the Sanctuary on Sunday, September 1, 2013. It will also be available for online reading and printing on or about Wednesday, August 28, 2013.

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

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*Sir Valiant*

## **Vacation Bible School 2013**

**JULY 22-26  
9:00 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.**

**Kingdom Rock: Where Kids Stand Strong for God!**

**Opportunities to Serve**

**VBS is in the planning stages.** We're excited about our adventures in Kingdom Rock "Where Kids Stand Strong for God!"

We are asking for people to serve and help make our VBS the wonderful program it has been in previous years. If you serve, I know you will find it a rewarding experience.

Mark your calendars and keep the dates of July 22-26 available. Just call Carolyn Gilligan and she'll sign you up!

Thank you for your continued support of our youth!

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## Aluminum Cans Recycling Program

For those who aren't aware, we have been collecting aluminum cans for many years. We began this collection to "earn" some money to purchase extra Bibles for our Sunday School students. We have always given a Bible to each student, usually as they entered 3rd grade. In addition, we have been able to give a Beginner's Bible to each nursery student and a Study Bible to every student entering high school. Bibles have been given to others when needed. We have also used part of this money to help pay for other Christian Education projects, without taking away from purchasing Bibles or the Church budget.

Please help us out and bring your aluminum cans to the trailer at the end of the Sanctuary parking lot. There is a crate beside the trailer where you can deposit the cans.

Thank you for your continued support!

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Our annual Ladies' Tea will be held on Saturday, October 19, 2013. Invitations will be available in the September Stream Lines.

**Please mark the date on your calendars!**



Oops! There was an accidental omission on the June birthday list. Al Knotts had a birthday on the same day as his wife Millie – June 27<sup>th</sup>.

So sorry Al. I hope you had a great birthday!

# Bersey

Scholarship Fund

The month of June has brought us to the presentation of the Bersey scholarship. This year, the Christian Education Committee is proud to have awarded the Bersey scholarship to Caitlyn Altieri, Kayla Fowler, Abigail Ragan and Kristina Sternesky! All four of these senior girls have been active in our church and have given their time and talents helping others in service to our Lord. Thank you and congratulations!!



This, then, is the state of the union: free and restless, growing and full of hope. So it was in the beginning. So it shall always be, while God is willing, and we are strong enough to keep the faith. -Lyndon B. Johnson

Church Office Closed  
September 2, 2013



The Church Office will be closed on Monday, September 2, 2013 for the Labor Day holiday.

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# Baptisms

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, June 9, 2013, **MIA NOELLE RIENZO** was baptized by the Rev. Robert C. Louer, III during the morning worship service. Mia's parents, Nicholas and Heather, her grandparents, Carolyn and Gary Stevenson, as well as the congregation, committed themselves to nurture this child in faith.

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## THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE HAS HEARD YOU!

The Worship Committee is grateful for the feedback the congregation provided at the informal meetings held on May 5. It has been a great help in guiding our thinking and discussion. We have also sought input from the Christian Education Committee and Interim Pastor. Our challenge, on your behalf, was to find a way that will best meet our need for Sunday corporate worship, Christian education for youth *and adults*, and for how we can engage in a time of fellowship with one another — to do what's best to strengthen and unify us spiritually and relationally as the Body of Christ as a whole.

Obviously there's no way to satisfy every individual's personal situation and preferences. Nevertheless, we have given your input the highest consideration while endeavoring to act in our collective best interest as a church.

Hence, we're pleased to announce that beginning on Kick-Off Sunday, September 8, 2013, youth *and adult* Sunday School will be held at 9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

A blended worship service incorporating styles from both current services will be held at 10:00 a.m. Traditional communion will be celebrated the first Sunday of each month, and by intinction the remaining Sundays, although on Kick-Off Sunday we'll celebrate communion in the traditional manner.

Immediately following worship will be a time for fellowship, as we've begun doing in recent weeks. You'll be able to contribute to making this fellowship time a success by taking turns bringing food, setting up, and cleaning up. Sign-up sheets will be posted.

Asked about these changes, our Interim Pastor, Bob Louer, had this to say: "I attended the May 5 congregational meeting and was particularly pleased with how members stated their personal preferences with conviction, yet at the same time most were able to subordinate them and flex for the good of the congregation as a whole. I also met with the Worship and Christian Education committees and Session, and admire how thoroughly they considered these issues. They have a genuine concern to provide the church with strong worship, spiritual nurture through Christian education (for youth *and adults*), and to strengthen and unify the church as a community. This was not an easy task. Yet, the kind of mutual forbearance and love for one another and Christ's Church that I am seeing from many people tells me there are a bunch of folks here who are really trying to walk the talk of the Gospel, and are actually doing it. That's not easy, but it's very cool to see!"

In this exciting new season, as we move forward together, the Worship Committee looks forward to your continued support, feedback, ideas, and partnership in service. We'll be revisiting and evaluating this new Sunday schedule in November.

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## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2013

**JULY 22-26**  
**9:00 A.M. TO 12:15 P.M.**

ALL CHILDREN 3 YEARS OLD AND POTTY TRAINED  
THROUGH 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

COME AND LEARN OF GOD'S LOVE!

MUSIC, CRAFTS, SNACKS AND MORE!

### **SIGN UP NOW!**

July 22<sup>nd</sup>-July 26<sup>th</sup>  
First Presbyterian Church of Avenel  
621 E. Woodbridge Avenue  
Avenel, NJ 07001  
732-634-1631  
Children 3 years old and potty trained through 5<sup>th</sup> grade

### **KINGDOM ROCK**

**REGISTER BY JULY 5, 2013**

#### **PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ M/F \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday \_\_\_\_\_ Grade completed in June: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

I give the church permission to use my child's photograph on the church's website.  Yes  No



Return completed form to the First Presbyterian Church of Avenel, 621 E. Woodbridge Avenue, Avenel, NJ, 07001



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

Lauren Hansen, Jeffrey Hansen, Bryan Palmer, Edward Merz, Jovan Diaz, Anthony Battito, Michael Warren, Lauren K. Pfeifer, Amy Updike, Robert Bartko, 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**

Carmen Aponte and Mima Martinez (friends of Maritza Flores-Shah) Ritchie (neighbor of Suzanne Hatatah), Gary (friend of Suzanne Hatatah), Jake Ryan Kost (Don and Carolyn Gilligan's grandson), Family of Kelli (friends of Barbara Hanson), Sylvia (Carolyn Cullum's mother), Ruth McCartney and Mildred Burns (friends of Suzanne Hatatah), Beth Berger (friend of Barbara Hanson)

### **Health and Healing**

Dot and Pete Allebach, Scott Severyn, Maureen Nielsen, Harry Musselman, Jennifer Perez, Eugene Breza

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

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



### **CALLED HOME**

**May 2013 – LaVerne Doll**, our friend and church member since her reaffirmation of faith on January 29, 1989. LaVerne served her country during World War II as a Tech Sergeant in the Women's Army Corps, and was a 53-year member of the Colonia American Legion Auxiliary. She served faithfully in our church and was one of the 3 Musketeers - LaVerne, Grace Kantor and Gladys VanLiew - who you could always find together in church on a Sunday morning. Our sympathies to LaVerne's family.



## GRADUATIONS

Our heartiest congratulations go out to the following graduates:

**JARED OLAH** graduated from Warren Hills High School in June and will be attending college in the fall. Jared is the grandson of Robbie Olah and nephew of Susan Smolsky.

**AMANDA SHUEY** received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Resource Management cum laude from Rutgers. She will be continuing with her education to get her Masters. Amanda is the granddaughter of Vilma Ambis.

**CHRISTIAN SHUEY** graduated from Morris Knolls High School and will be attending college in the fall. Christian is the grandson of Vilma Ambis.

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## *Christian Reflections*

### **The Parable of the Marbles**

Once upon a time, there was a foolish boy who had a bag full of beautiful marbles. Now, this boy was quite proud of his marbles. In fact, he thought so much of them that he would neither play with them himself nor would he let anyone else play with them. He only took them out of the bag in order to count and admire them. They were never used for their intended purpose. Yet, that boy carried that coveted bag of marbles everywhere he went.

Well, there was also a wise boy who wished he could have such a fine bag of marbles. So this boy worked hard and earned money to purchase a nice bag to hold marbles. Even though he had not yet earned enough with which to purchase any marbles, he had faith and purchased the marble bag. He took special care of the bag and dreamed

of the day it would contain marbles with which he could play and share with his friends.

Alas, the foolish boy with all of the marbles didn't take care of the marble bag itself, and one day the bag developed a hole in the bottom seam. Still, he paid no attention and, one by one, the marbles fell out of the bag.

It didn't take long, once the foolish boy's marble bag developed a hole, for the wise boy to begin to find those beautiful marbles, one at a time, lying unnoticed on the ground. And, one by one, he added them to his marble bag. The wise boy thus gained a fine bag full of marbles in no time at all. This boy played with the marbles and shared them with all of his friends. And he always took special care of the bag so he wouldn't lose any.

And what about the foolish boy? Because he was selfish and careless, he lost all of his marbles and was left holding the bag.

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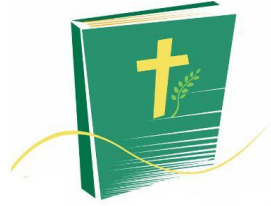
### **Did You Know?**

1. Stewardesses is the longest word that is typed with only the left hand
2. Coca-Cola originally contained cocaine
3. The Republic of Zambia is bordered by eight countries: Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe

### **Did You Know in New Jersey?**

1. Cape May was named after Dutch explorer Cornelis Jacobszoon Mey (in English, Cornelius Jacobsen May), who sailed the Delaware River in 1614. New Jersey was settled in 1618 by the Dutch.
2. New Jersey is the only British North American colony whose first European settlers were not English. New Jersey finally became a British Royal Province in 1702.





## July/August Memory Verse

Galatians 5:1 (NIV)

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.



## Thought of the Month

Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light.



In summer, the song sings itself.

- William Carlos Williams -

## July Birthdays

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



- 06 Brett Fowler, Pingkanita Wattie
- 07 Charles Kurowsky
- 09 Linda Sammartino
- 12 Esther Nielsen, Carolyn Stevenson
- 13 Regina Luntungan
- 16 Elaine Ferrie-Kaczmarek, Kelly Maye
- 17 Frank Dodich
- 18 Caitlyn Germek, Anna Hallenbeck
- 23 Greven Lewis
- 24 George Terebush
- 25 Mae Dudas, Christian Marshello
- 28 Darla Hunt
- 29 Elizabeth Hulsizer, John Turnbull



## August Birthdays

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

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

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## In Our Denomination



### Special Days and Emphases

Human life in community reflects a variety of rhythms which also affect Christian worship. Among these are the annual cycles of civic, agricultural, school and business life, special times of family remembrance and celebration, and the patterns of a variety of cultural expressions, commemorations and events. The church, in carrying out its mission, also creates a cycle of activities, programs and observances. While such events may be appropriately recognized in Christian worship, care shall be taken to ensure that they do not obscure the proclamation of the gospel on the Lord's Day. -Directory for Worship, W-3.2003

### Special Days and Emphases for July 2013

- July 04, 2013 - Independence Day
- July 21, 2013 - Smaller Membership Church
- July 28, 2013 - Metropolitan/Urban Ministry

### Special Days and Emphases for August 2013

- August 04, 2013 - Homelessness/Affordable Housing
- August 06, 2013 - Hiroshima Day
- August 11, 2013 - Higher Education/Collegiate Ministries
- August 18, 2013 - Youth Discipleship
- August 25, 2013 - Public Education

You can read more on all these topics by visiting the website of the Presbyterian Church (USA) at <http://pcusa.org>.

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

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## Pastor Nominating Committee



**PNC Update (As of June 23)** - The PNC held the first of its in-person interviews with pastor candidates and is scheduling some additional interviews in the coming weeks.

The Committee, comprised of Ed Benkert, Delia Culton, Wayne Dubin, Elaine Ferrie, Carolyn Gilligan, Christian Marshello, Bruce McKee, Kevin Miller, Melissa Miller and Carolyn Stevenson, is very optimistic of the selection process so far.

Please feel free to give any comments or feedback you have to any of these individuals. We welcome your comments.



# STREAM LINES



July/August 2013

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First Presbyterian Church of Avenel  
621 E. Woodbridge Avenue  
Avenel, NJ 07001  
(732) 634-1631

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