

STREAM LINES



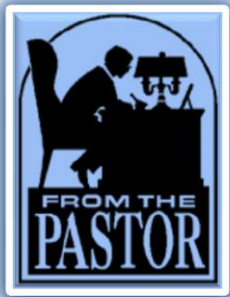
A Monthly Publication of the First Presbyterian
Church of Avenel, New Jersey



JUNE/JULY 2010

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June/July 2010

"The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in a boat to a deserted place by themselves." Mark 6:30-31

As spring washes into summer, and that deep, dark green blankets the trees, my outlook on life seems to change dramatically. Perhaps it's due to the nostalgia of childhood, when summer was truly a vacation from the rest of the year. Back then, summer meant going to camp. It meant playing sports. It meant taking swimming lessons, and watching endless reruns of *Flipper*. It meant pink lemonade, watermelon, barbecues, and family camping trips. It meant *time* -- time enough to simply meander through life, if only for a little while.

I look back on those days with a sense of longing. As my life scurries from deadline to deadline, and weaves its way through my tightly packed schedule, I sometimes wonder what it would be like to really *rest*. Time is one luxury I don't seem to have. And yet, in my heart of hearts, I know that time is essential if I'm going to experience the kind of rest that I need. I need to get away with Jesus to a "deserted place." I need to reflect on my life and listen for His leading. I can't let the machine-like drone of my busyness continue to drown out God's gentle whispering to my heart.

Can you relate with me? Are you often so busy that you don't have "leisure even to eat?" Are you completely frazzled by the pace of your life? Then *take back* your rest. *Take back* your time. It's like those great *Universal Studios* commercials... "Take back your vacation." How? By spending time in God's presence.

I know, I know, I had you up until this point. And then I hit you with the "churchy" answer. But it's absolutely true. Only *God* can give us that childhood-summer-like rest in the midst of our busy lives.

Don't get me wrong, vacation is great (and necessary). You need physical relaxation as well as spiritual. The body and spirit are deeply connected. But by laying our frustrations, anxieties and fatigue before Jesus, we can handle the storms of stress with a "peace that passes all understanding."

So this summer, let's together take a chance. Let's dare to "get away." Let's keep our ears open for that still, small voice. Let's take time to *rest* in His presence if only for a few minutes each day. You may not have time for reruns of *Flipper*, but you may just find that Jesus is all you need. Hmm, where have I heard that before?

One way that you can devote some time for God this summer is by participating in our "Finding God in *The Shack*" summer book study/discussion group. We'll be meeting on Sunday afternoons, around lunchtime, to discuss the book, faith, and how we can use religious fiction to grow closer to God. The dates: June 20, 27, July 11, 18, and 25 at 12:30 p.m., location TBA.

May God bless you and your family this summer, and may He grant you His deep and satisfying rest.

In Christ's service,
Rev. Jason Tucker

To see our flyer and sign up for the Summer Reading/Discussion Group, [click here](#).

STREAM LINES INFORMATION

The deadline for the August 2010 issue of Stream Lines will be Wednesday, July 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



The August issue will be available for online reading and printing on or about Wednesday, July 28, 2010, and will be available to those who have no internet service and pick up their copies in the Sanctuary on Sunday, August 1, 2010.

MARCH SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



At the March Session meeting, the Elders:

- Examined and approved Kristina Sternesky, Abigail Ragan and Kayla Fowler (members of the Confirmation Class) for church membership.
- Approved the recommendation of the Memorial Committee to purchase a new Plexiglass tabletop for the Communion Table.
- Approved the recommendation of the Membership Care Committee to hold an All-Church Picnic at Merrill Park on June 13, 2010.
- Approved recommendations from the SMI Committee to donate \$300 of their funds to Eddie Exantus for the purchase of tents for Haiti relief, and \$200 to the Blue Star Family Group to assist in purchasing basic necessities for service men and women overseas.
- Elected Elder Rich Culton as Commissioner to the March 23 Presbytery meeting.

At a special Session meeting on March 28, the Elders:

- Approved a request from the Worship Committee to accept donation of an organ to be used by the church.
- Approved a request from the Mission Committee to offer shirts and sweatshirts with the church's logo on them for sale as a fundraiser.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2010

JULY 26-30 FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 12:00 NOON

ALL CHILDREN 3 YEARS OLD AND POTTY TRAINED
THROUGH 5TH GRADE

COME AND LEARN OF GOD'S LOVE!

MUSIC, CRAFTS, SNACKS AND MORE!

SIGN UP NOW!

July 26-30, 2010
First Presbyterian Church of Avenel
621 E. Woodbridge Avenue
Avenel, NJ 07001
732-634-1631

Children 3 years old and potty trained through 5th grade

REGISTER BY JUNE 20, 2010

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Child's Name: _____

Address: _____

Birthday _____ Grade completed in June: _____

Parent/guardian: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Allergies: _____



The members of Joann's Pantry would like to congratulate John Altieri on becoming an Eagle Scout. He chose to build platforms to store food as his project, bringing our pantry up to State code. John has also been a wonderful volunteer in the food pantry for the past several years. He saved a lot of backaches for the more senior volunteers!

We are very proud of his accomplishment to the highest rank that can be achieved by a Boy Scout and wish him well in the future.



The Church Office will be closed on Monday, July 5, 2010 for the 4th of July holiday.



REMINDER

Beginning Sunday, June 6, 2010, the morning worship service begins at 9:30 a.m.



SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION 2010-2011

Preschool (3 years old before October 31, 2010) thru High School

**Sunday School starts on September 12, 2010
from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**

If your child will be 3 years old by October 31, 2010 and you wish to register him/her in Sunday School for the 2010-2011 term, please fill out the information on the form below and return it to the Church Office at 621 E. Woodbridge Avenue, Avenel, NJ, 07001, or place it in the offering plate on a Sunday morning.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM 2010-2011

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Date of Registration: _____

Pupil's Name: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Grade: _____

Mother's Name: _____ Father's Name: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Parents' Church Affiliation: Ours: _____ Other: _____



Sunday School Wish List 2010-2011

The Sunday School is again asking you to donate to its "Wish List."

If you would like to donate any of the supplies listed below, the Sunday School would greatly appreciate it. It is never too early to start gathering supplies for the upcoming Sunday School year!

Thank you in advance for your help.

Computer Paper
Masking Tape
Dry Eraser Markers
Dry Erasers
Permanent Markers
Scotch Tape
Felt
AA Batteries
Hot Glue
One-Hole Punch

Card Stock Paper
Poster Board
Tissues
Colored Pencils
Crayons
Colored Tissue Paper
Adult Scissors
Children's Paint
Staple Removers

Fun Tack
Laminating Paper
Laminating Machine
Markers
Glitter Glue
Pipe Cleaners
Children's Scissors
Paintbrushes
Rulers



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

Congratulations to **SARAH BENKERT** for receiving the John Philip Sousa Award in music. The John Philip Sousa Award is the pinnacle of achievement for high school band students. The award honors the top student in a high school band and recognizes superior musicianship and outstanding dedication. This award was received by Sarah in addition to her National Honor Society and Tri-M Music Society recognition.

Congratulations to Sarah and her entire family!

Congratulations also go to the recipients of the 2010 Bersey Scholarship Award. They are **SARAH BENKERT, ANDREW MARSHELLO, CAITLIN MEEHAN** and **REBECCA TARBY**. God's blessings to these recipients as they embark on the next phase of their life's journey.

Graduations

Our heartiest congratulations go out to the following graduates:

SARAH BENKERT will be graduating from Colonia High School in June and will be heading off to college in the fall, majoring in Music Education.

HANNA CULTON graduated from Lafayette College on May 22, 2010. She earned a B.S. in Geology. Hanna hopes to find a job as a geologist at an environmental consulting company.





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

During the week of April 25th thru May 2nd our church gave shelter to 5 women and 5 children. A "BIG THANK YOU" to all our volunteers who supplied dinner, dessert, social serving and overnight hosting. Without you, this past week would not have been possible.

We were blessed with being a part of helping these families get back on their feet. Homelessness is growing in our country and we believe that each and everyone who helped this past week was blessed by getting to meet the families and knowing that they are truly doing God's work as Matthew 25:34 says:

"Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing...'"

We had several new families volunteer, and that gave us encouragement. If you have not been involved in Family Promise before, please, please pray about helping out during the next week that we will host, August 29th through September 5th.

Blessings,
Tim Samons and Carol Palmer
Family Promise Coordinators for week of April 25 thru May 2



New Member Classes **Saturday, June 12, 2010 - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**

While we consider everyone who walks through these doors to be our brothers and sisters in Christ – part of God's family – we also recognize the importance of joining a congregation as a sign of one's deeper commitment to the life of the church. We believe that our church is a wonderful place for such a commitment and we're extending an open invitation for all who'd like to join at this time.

This will be a 1-day class that will meet for 3 hours from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Saturday, June 12, 2010. All members will officially join on Sunday, June 27, 2010.

Please contact the church office at 732-634-1631 to sign up or email Pastor Jason at pastorjtucker@gmail.com if you have any questions.

The Worship Committee would like to thank Suzanne Hatatah for arranging the donation of a Wurlitzer organ and our Music Director, Francesco Santelli, for his professional assessment. A group including Wayne Collins, Randy Hunt, Stan Kaczmarek, Charlie Kurowsky, Jonathan Sternesky and Pastor Tucker put in a Herculean effort to move the 400-pound instrument from Linden to its new home in the Chapel.

We would like to also thank our donor, Mr. Erwin Stumpf of Linden, New Jersey, for his generous gift.



Elaine Ferrie-Kaczmarek, Worship Committee Chairperson

Membership Care Committee News



A Congregational Picnic is planned for Sunday, June 13, 2010 from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. at Merrill Park, Grove 1B. That's the first grove on the right hand side as you enter the park from New Dover Road. There will be fun, games, food and lots of fellowship for all. The Committee will be supplying hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages. There is a sign-up sheet in the rear of the Sanctuary for other foods such as salads, fruits and desserts. And don't forget to bring your lawn chairs.

We are looking to have a good time, so come on out!

Wayne Collins, Membership Care Committee



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, April 25, 2010, **NICHOLAS SAMMARTINO** 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 Sammartino family all the blessings of His gentle and abundant love.

Thank You!

Thank you to all those who helped with our Annual Spring Clean-Up on Saturday, April 24, 2010.

Those who helped were: Ken Welch, Aida Welch, Suzanne Hogan, John Hogan, Rick Severyn, Karen Severyn, Nina D'Amato, Gay Patrouch, Jason Tucker, Mike Sturtz, Joan Ross, Carolyn Stockl, Wayne Dubin, Kristina Sternesky, Caitlin Meehan and Ralph Price.

Thanks to all others whose names may not be on this list.



Ralph Price, Your Property Care Committee



Aluminum Cans

With the onset of summer, you will see an increase in the amount of recyclable aluminum cans being disposed of in your home. Did you know that monies collected from cans donated to our trailer go to help purchase bibles and other supplies for our Sunday School?

Please help us out and bring your recyclable 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 any time, all year long.

Thank you!



Our Military Servicemen, Servicewomen and Their Families

Daniel Hedner, Anthony Battito, Robert Bartko, Jason Bone, Michael Barany, Justin Kitchen, Rev. Adam Tiejte, Carson Severyn, Edward Merz, 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 Cloidt

Prayer Requests

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



Recent Concerns

Bill McLachlan, The D'Amato family, Bill Klanssek (Belinda Kerchner's uncle), John Wehrle (friend of Jackie Turnbull), Helene Weeks (friend of Wayne Collins), Tonny Seik, Tessa Campbell (niece of Arleen Schreiber), George Shaffer, Vinnie Giordano (friend of Joan Benkert), Jack Bergacs (husband of Carolyn Stevenson's friend), The Germek Family, LaVerne Doll, Grace Ann Blundetto and mom (relatives of Arleen Schreiber's daughter), John Hogan, Madeline Keating (friend of Betty Hulsizer), Richard Green, Jean McCauley (friend of Mary Ann Miller), Iya Assouab (friend of Tim Samons), Andrea Imbimbo (relative of Carol Palmer), Bryan Palmer (son of Carol and Larry Palmer), Kathy Nolan (sister-in-law of Gayle Nolan)

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), Jim and Robin Brinkman (son-in-law and daughter of Bette Duesterdick), Josephine DeVito (mother of Carol Palmer), SPC Robert Rosado, Mary Corigliano (cousin of Carol Palmer)

NEWS FROM JOANN'S PANTRY



We would like to thank all of those in the church and community who donated to the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive that was held on May 8th.

The letter carriers said it was one of the most successful food drives they had ever seen, not only in our community of Avenel but in others around the county. It did so much to fill not only our shelves, but the shelves of the other food pantries in the area as well.

And again, thank you to all those who faithfully donate food each week to our pantry.

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



MEMORIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

May 19, 2010

I hope by now everyone has noticed the new, "bigger" sign in front of the church. The sign that was there for many, many years is now in front of the Sunday School building.

Our committee is in the process of refurbishing the area around the stone wall and the sign.

If you check out the photos on the Church website, you will see Suzanne Hatatah and me repainting the metal sign that sits on top of the stone wall. This is still a job in progress as we picked the hottest day of the year to start the job. We had to stop before we melted away. Suzanne will be doing all the touch ups very soon.

We are also planning to do some landscaping around the stone wall. Check the website for updated pictures on this project.

If you check out the Avenel St. side of the church, you will notice a small weeping cherry tree that was newly planted. This tree was planted in memory of one of our dear members, Gladys Menke, who passed away in 2007.

We are also planning a Dedication Ceremony this year. Check upcoming Stream Lines issues and the Sunday bulletin for more information as it becomes available.

Yours in Christ,

Carolyn Stockl, Memorial Committee Chairperson

A.P.Y. and T.R. Avenel Pres. Youth and Teachers "Rock"!!!



Thank "YOU" for giving to the Lord. "We" are the lives that are changed. Rich/me/we are soooo glad "YOU" gave. From the processional anthem, "Here I am to Worship to the Joy, Joy, Joy Down in my Heart" of the children, thru to the analogies of "God Is...", we have been blessed!

1 Cor. 3:6 says that one plants, another waters and God gives the increase. What an awesome blessing, having planted and watered, to begin to see the fruit of our labors in the seeds taking root and continuing to grow thru the Lord, in the Lord, to serve the Lord.

May God continue to bless you and grow you.

In thanksgiving and gratitude for you all,
Jan Gagnon

IN OUR DENOMINATION

SUNDAY MAY 30, 2010
PRESBYTERIAN HERITAGE SUNDAY



Presbyterian Heritage Sunday has been set aside by the General Assembly of the PC (USA) as an annual day to celebrate, reflect upon, and learn more about the long and rich history of the Presbyterian movement in America. It falls on the Sunday closest to the date of the opening of the first General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America in 1789, this year May 30, 2010.

Theme for 2010: OUT OF THE BELIEVER'S HEART SHALL
FLOW RIVERS OF LIVING WATER. John 7:38

In March 1837, Mary Longley Riggs (1813-1869) and her new husband, Presbyterian minister Stephen Return Riggs (1812-1883), set out from Massachusetts to take up their new posts as missionaries to the Dakota Indians. After a three month journey to Fort Snelling, in present day St. Paul, Minnesota, and a summer at the mission station on the banks of Lake Harriet, they headed almost due west to their new home at the Lac qui Parle Mission.

Stephen and Mary arrived two years after the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions established this far western missionary outpost and a year after the organization of a Presbyterian church there with seven native members. Mary described their first Sabbath at Lac qui Parle in a September 1837 letter to her mother:

Yesterday was the Sabbath and such a Sabbath as I never before enjoyed. Although the day was cold and stormy, and much like November, 25 Indians and part Indians assembled at eleven A.M. in our school room for public worship. Excepting prayer, all of the exercises were in Dakota and French, and most of them in the former. Could you have seen these Indians kneel with stillness and order during prayer, and rise and engage in singing hymns in their own tongue lead by one of their own tribe, your heart would have been touched.

Stephen and Mary Riggs spent the rest of their lives in Christian service to the Indians of the western plains.

SUNDAY JUNE 27, 2010

DISABILITY INCLUSION SUNDAY

People with disabilities have often felt alienated from houses of worship because they don't feel accepted or because there are barriers to their participation. Some accommodations, such as ramps and assistive listening devices cost money, but many accommodations and acts of hospitality and inclusion cost little or nothing and reap huge benefits in building community for everyone. Here are some things that we can do to be welcoming and inclusive:

- Sit down when talking with someone in a wheelchair. If you are seated next to someone who cannot stand up, remain seated yourself.
- When beginning a conversation with someone who is blind, tell them who you are (they might not recognize your voice), and say goodbye when you leave. Tell the person what you are doing if you want to shake their hand, pass the peace, hand them something or give them your arm to assist with walking somewhere.
- Guide dogs and other service animals are working. Do not pet or feed them without permission.
- If you are with someone who is hard of hearing, do not shout. Talk slightly louder, enunciate clearly and speak more slowly than usual. At times, going to a quieter room may be necessary to carry on a conversation.
- If someone is deaf and uses an interpreter, speak directly to the person, not the interpreter.
- Don't be afraid to ask, "May I help you?" Let the person with a disability decide whether they need help and how you can be of assistance to them.
- Most importantly, be inclusive. Persons with disabilities are persons first. Get to know them and build a relationship. Assist them in finding opportunities to serve, not just to receive help.

Presbyterians for Disability Concerns is a network of the Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association (PHEWA) and exists to affirm that all people are created in the image of God, to affirm, support and advocate the gifts, rights and responsibilities of persons with disabilities in the total life of the church, and to assist the church to fully accept persons with disabilities and embrace their gifts.

By making people feel at home in the House of God, we can do much to
build up the Body of Christ. We are all glorious gifts of God!

APRIL 29, 2010

PC(USA) LEADERS ADDRESS NEW ARIZONA IMMIGRATION LAW IN LETTER TO CONGRESS

Below is a letter to the United States Congress from the Office of the General Assembly of the PC(USA), dated April 29, 2010, stating its position on the immigration law in Arizona. Not all members of the PC(USA) will agree with this policy.

Dear Members of Congress,

We write to express our conviction that you must enact comprehensive immigration reform this year. As people of faith and the leaders of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we are keenly aware of the devastating effects our broken immigration system has on the lives of individuals, immigrant and non-immigrant families, and our communities. The bigotry, trauma, and fear that will result from the recent new law enacted in Arizona, SB 1070, which criminalizes those who are found "with" undocumented persons and requires law enforcement officers to identify and detain such persons, serves to underscore the necessity of action at the federal level.

Churches are on the front lines of caring for families being ripped apart by our broken immigration system. Traumatized citizen children left behind when parents are deported are but one example of the ways the current system destroys the fabric of community life, the integrity of healthy families, and the safety of individual persons. Church workers are also at the forefront of offering relief and services to immigrants, regardless of documentation status. Arizona's new law will put at risk those workers and others who are called simply to offer the most basic of humanitarian assistance. As Christians, we cannot stand by idly while our brothers and sisters die on our borders from exposure and thirst or languish in poorly equipped detention facilities, nor should we be required to do so by any law.

The new Arizona law also puts in jeopardy the public safety of immigrant communities, already wary of law enforcement for fear of deportation. Instead of new laws that induce fear and distrust, immigrants should be encouraged to participate with law enforcement, reporting crimes when they are victims and offering testimony when they are witnesses. Such trust and participation is impossible if local law enforcement is tasked with enforcement of federal immigration laws. SB 1070 will only foster more fear among immigrant communities, regardless of documentation status. Comprehensive immigration reform at the federal level is essential to override and counteract the damage done in Arizona by this new law.

In the Scriptures of Christians and Jews, we are commanded, "When an immigrant resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the immigrant. The immigrant who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the immigrant as yourself for you were immigrants in the land of Egypt" (Lev. 19:33-34). The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) therefore supports congressional action in 2010 on comprehensive immigration reform that creates a process for undocumented immigrants in the U.S. to earn their legal status; reduces waiting periods and upholds family unity; protects workers from exploitation; and provides efficient channels of entry for new migrant workers.

Sincerely,

Bruce Reyes-Chow – Moderator, 218th General Assembly (2008)
Linda Bryant Valentine - Executive Director, General Assembly Mission Council
Gradye Parsons - Stated Clerk of the General Assembly



JUNE MEMORY VERSE

I can do everything through him who gives me strength. Philippians 4:13 (NIV)

JULY MEMORY VERSE

Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." John 6:35 (NIV)



June Birthdays

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

- 01 Reagan Connolly
- 02 Randall Hunt
- 06 David Englert
- 08 John Hogan, Cindy Battito
- 10 Kimberly Durhan
- 11 Pete Allebach
- 12 Nathaniel Manente
- 13 Barbara Maxwell
- 14 Janice Cuntala, Karen Obuchowski
- 15 Vincent J. Meehan, Kacie Turnbull
- 16 Stephanie Pallas, Nicholas Schulz
- 17 Robert Woods, Julie Cohen
- 18 Nkenna Usuwa
- 19 Bill Walsh
- 20 Chineme Usuwa
- 21 June Sheehan, Carolyn Cullum
- 22 Eleanor Smith
- 23 Heather Battito
- 27 Al Knotts, Millie Knotts
- 28 Ryan Miller
- 30 Jim Sheehan, Nnamdi Usuwa



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
- 07 Charlie Kurowsky
- 09 Linda Sammartino
- 11 Doris Usiak
- 12 Esther Nielsen, Carolyn Stevenson, Katie Tucker
- 13 Regina Luntungan, George Fernet
- 15 Ruth Barrett
- 16 Elaine Ferrie-Kaczmarek, Kelly Maye
- 17 Frank Dodich
- 18 Erika Bladt, Caitlyn Germek, Anna Hallenbeck
- 19 Joseph Cahill
- 21 Mattison Chiera
- 22 Carrie D'Amato
- 23 Nancy McCann
- 24 George Terebush
- 25 Mae Dudas, Christian Marshello
- 28 Darla Hunt
- 29 Elizabeth Hulsizer, John Turnbull
- 31 Jean Vesey



Thought of the Month

Be the kind of woman that, when your feet hit the ground each morning, the devil says, "OH CRAP, SHE'S UP!"

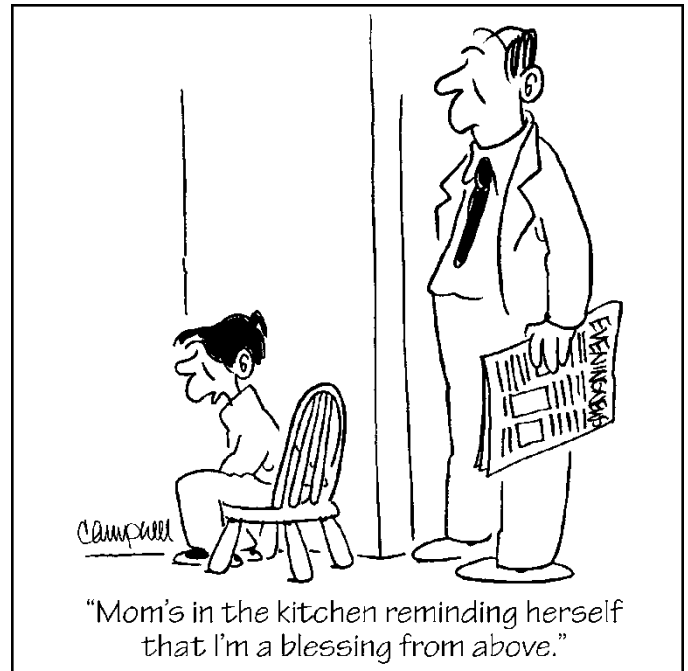
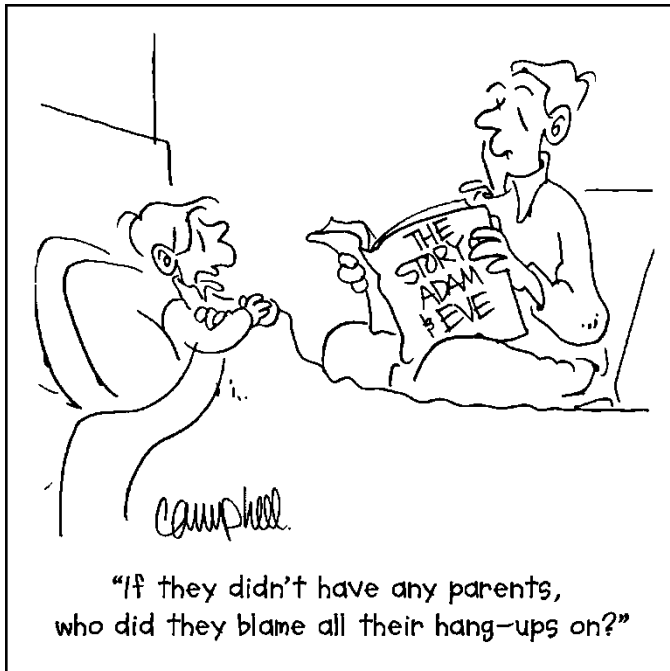


Kind hearts are the gardens
Kind thoughts are the roots
Kind words are the flowers
Kind deeds are the fruits.

- English Proverb -

COMIC RELIEF

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



Father's Day Humor

In the frozen foods department of our local grocery store, I noticed a man shopping with his son. As I walked by, he checked something off his list, and I heard him whisper conspiratorially to the child, "You know, if we really mess this up, we'll never have to do it again."

Dad had won a toy at a raffle. He called his kids together to ask which child should have the present. "Who is the most obedient?" he asked. "Who never talks back to mother? Who does everything she says?" Five small voices answered in unison. "Okay, dad, you get the toy."

Johnny had been misbehaving and was sent to his room. After awhile, he emerged and informed his father that he had thought it over and then said a prayer. "Fine," said the pleased dad. "If you ask God to help you not misbehave, He will help you." "Oh, I didn't ask Him to help me not misbehave," said Johnny. "I asked Him to help you put up with me!"

During the minister's prayer one Sunday, there was a loud whistle from one of the back pews. Johnny's father was horrified. He pinched him into silence and after church asked, "Johnny, whatever made you do such a thing?" Johnny answered soberly, "I asked God to teach me to whistle -- and He just then did!"

Things You'll Never Hear Dad Say:

Well, how 'bout that? I'm lost! Looks like we'll have to stop and ask for directions.

I noticed that all your friends have a certain hostile attitude. I like that.

Here's a credit card and the keys to my new car. Go crazy!!

No son of mine is going to live under this roof without an earring. Now quit your belly-aching and let's go to the mall.

Your mother and I are going away for the weekend. You might want to consider throwing a party.

What do you want to go and get a job for? I make plenty of money for you to spend.



Bruised Apples

A few years ago, a group of salesmen went to a regional sales convention in Chicago. They had assured their wives that they would be home in plenty of time for Friday night's dinner.

Well, as such things go, one thing led to another. The sales manager went longer than anticipated, and the meeting ran overtime. Their flights were scheduled to leave out of Chicago's O'Hare Airport, and they had to race pell mell to the airport. With tickets in hand, they barged through the terminal to catch their flight back home. In their rush, with tickets and briefcases, one of these salesmen inadvertently kicked over a table which held a display of baskets of apples. Apples flew everywhere.

Without stopping or looking back, they all managed to reach the plane in time for their nearly missed boarding. All but one. He paused, took a deep breath, got in touch with his feelings, and experienced a twinge of compassion for a girl whose apple stand had been overturned. He told his buddies to go on without him, waved good-bye, told one of them to call his wife when they arrived at their home destination and explain his taking a later flight. Then he returned to the terminal where the apples were all over the terminal floor. He was glad he did.

The 16 year old girl was totally blind! She was softly crying, tears running down her cheeks in frustration, and at the same time helplessly groping for her spilled produce as the crowd swirled about her, no one stopping, and no one to care for her plight. The salesman knelt on the floor with her, gathered up the apples, put them into the baskets, and helped set the display up once more. As he did this, he noticed that many of them had become battered and bruised. These he set aside in another basket. When he had finished, he pulled out his wallet and said to the girl, "Here, please take this \$20 for the damage we did. Are you okay?" She nodded through her tears. He continued on with, "I hope we didn't spoil your day too badly."

As the salesman started to walk away, the bewildered blind girl called out to him, "Mister!" He paused and turned to look back into those blind eyes. She continued, "Are you Jesus?"

He stopped in mid-stride, and he wondered. Then slowly he made his way to catch the later flight with that question burning and bouncing about in his soul: "Are you Jesus?"

Do people mistake you for Jesus? That's our destiny, is it not? To be so much like Jesus that people cannot tell the difference as we live and interact with a world that is blind to His love, life and grace. If we claim to know Him, we should live, walk and act as He would. Knowing Him is more than simply quoting scripture and going to church.

It's actually living the Word as life unfolds day to day. You are the apple of His eye even though we, too, have been bruised by a fall. He stopped what He was doing and picked you and me up on a hill called Calvary and paid in full for our damaged fruit. Let us all live like we are worth the price He paid.

WHY THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER IS IMPORTANT



1. *Newsletters help bind a congregation together.* A shared body of information helps to build congregational unity and cohesiveness. Many people depend upon the newsletter to learn about church events, activities and schedules. The newsletter helps church members to become informed about important needs, to pray for people, and to stay current about the life of the church.

2. *The newsletter helps to build redundancy into the communication process.* The newsletter plays an important role in reinforcing pulpit announcements and information in the church bulletin. People need on-going reinforcement in order to remember dates, needs and deadlines. Mentioning something one time is not enough. Redundancy or repetition should be built intentionally into the communication process. The newsletter aids that goal.

3. *The newsletter provides an outlet for the pastor to highlight specific themes and issues which are central to congregational life and spiritual growth.* On-going communication between the pastor and the

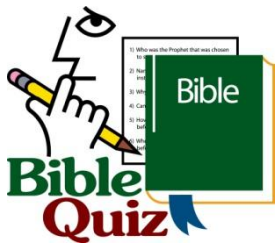
congregation should be carefully planned and reinforced. Use of the church newsletter should be a key component of that strategy.

4. *The newsletter helps the congregation to stay in touch with individuals who do not attend regularly.* That may include former members who have moved or new visitors who are still in the process of selecting a church. The newsletter plays an important role in helping new members to become aware of congregational activities. It enables them to become socialized into the on-going life of the church. At the same time, the newsletter creates a link with inactive members who do not regularly attend church. The maintenance of that link is critical to help nurture those individuals back into more regular participation. One article may kindle new interest by such a person and contribute to his or her returning to the church.

5. *The newsletter gets people involved.* A good newsletter can strengthen the spiritual life of congregational members by providing inspiration and invitations to participate in activities designed to aid both individuals and families in their spiritual pilgrimages.

6. *The newsletter can be used to help reinforce church goals, projects and support the overall mission of the church.* As a communication tool, the newsletter contributes to the fulfillment of the church's vision.

In conclusion, the church newsletter is vital to the life of the congregation.
Hopefully it is pleasing and helpful to everyone.



Monthly Bible Trivia Quiz

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

Quiz Title: Missing Words

1. For God so loved ___ ___ that he gave his only begotten Son.
2. Except ye be converted, and become as little _____, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.
3. Give us this day our daily _____.
4. Blessed are the ___ for they shall inherit the earth.
5. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of _____, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me.
6. In the beginning ___ created the heaven and the earth.
7. Father, _____ them, for they know not what they do.
8. I am the _____ and the Omega, the beginning and the ending.
9. It is better to dwell in the wilderness than with a contentious and angry _____.
10. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a _____ man to enter into the kingdom of God!

Answers to Monthly Bible Trivia Quiz

1. the world (John 3:16)
2. children (Matthew 18:3)
3. bread (Matthew 6:11)
4. meek (Matthew 5:4)
5. death (Psalm 23:4)
6. God (Genesis 1:1)
7. forgive (Luke 23:34)
8. Alpha (Revelations 1:8)
9. woman (Proverbs 21:19)
10. rich (Mark 10:25)

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