



May / June

2011

Stream Lines

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

Who's Who in the Church

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

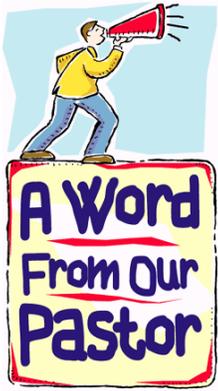
Rev. Jason P. Tucker
Katja Gruening
Mr. Charles Kurowsky
Mrs. Carol Palmer
Mrs. Susan Smolsky
Ms. Delia Culton
Mrs. Carol Palmer and Mrs. Cathy Shaffer
(Phone): 732-634-1631 (Fax): 732-634-1291
avenelpres@verizon.net
deliaculton@hotmail.com and avenelpres@verizon.net

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



"Go!"

There's an important (and necessary) question our church has been asking over the last few months. While this question hasn't always been verbalized, it has been on the tips of our tongues in session meetings, committee conversations, and parking lot huddles. The question is: If we're going to reach our community for Christ, how should we do it? It's a very practical question, but with a very deep theological core—because what we're really asking is: What does it mean to be Christ's Church?

In order to answer this question, we must first begin with the nature and character of the God we serve. The Church is the result of God's work on the cross. The Church's existence isn't, therefore, a human construct—it is the creation of God Himself. Are you with me so far? Good. Another way to put it is: If God hadn't done what He did, we would be nothing more than a philanthropic social club, not the Church. The Church is created by God, and belongs to God.

If this is true, then the Church exists to carry out God's purposes on earth. But then we begin to ask: How do we know God's purposes? The only way of answering this question is by looking at what God does in human history. Think about it: we have an historical faith. God has acted decisively in it. How do we know what God is like? Well, to borrow a bit from Forrest Gump, "God is what God does." Do you remember what Jesus said? He said, "If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him" (John 14:7). God is what God does.

And what does God do? God sends. Jesus is both the One who is "sent" by the Father and the One who "sends" us into the world. Our God is a God who sends (also evidenced in the sending of the Holy Spirit). God is a missionary God.

According to Matthew's gospel, when the women see the rock of the tomb rolled away, an angel appears and tells them: He is not here... go quickly and tell his disciples... indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him. Then, Jesus surprises them on the way and then says again: Go and tell my brothers... And at the end of Matthew, Jesus says this: Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... and remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

What is the purpose to which God has called our church? To go. We must do everything we can to meet people where they are and share the good news of Jesus Christ. That's why we exist. That's the meaning of life. That's the big answer. As a result, you may see our church doing things you haven't seen before: youth mission trips to West Virginia, new worship services, and a greater focus on serving the community. And, you will see our church doing things you have seen for years: JoAnn's Pantry, His Hands Closet, and special offerings.

This is our calling. This is our task. Let's go together and be the Church.

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 July/August 2011 issue of Stream Lines will be Wednesday, June 22, 2011 at 12:00 noon.

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

**From the
Editor**



The July/August issue will be available for online reading and printing on or about Wednesday, June 29, 2011 and will be available to those who have no internet service and pick up their copies in the Sanctuary on Sunday, July 3, 2011.



Session meetings changed: Wednesday, **May 25** at 7pm and Monday, **June 27** at 7pm.

May 5 - National Day of Prayer

May 7- annual Spring Clean Up

May 8 - Mother's Day and Youth Sunday

May 18- "Dinner for the Elite" at 5:00pm

May 30 - Memorial Day

June 5- Worship begins at 9am - annual "Family Picnic", noon to 5pm

June 19- Father's Day

June 26- last day to register for VBS

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



Our Military Servicemen, Servicewomen and Their Families

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

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



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

Prayer Requests

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



Recent Concerns

Rev. Jane Bartlett (friend of Wayne Dubin), Bob Ratner (friend of Lynn Dubin), Dave Malat, Michael Rodriguez (nephew of Ken & Aida Welch), Donna Sehest (friend of Ken & Aida Welch), Ron McKee (son of Bruce and Jane), Pete Allebach, Eleanor Smith, Ronald Herrington (husband of Linda), Frank Battito, Kelly Hogan, Jolan Farkas, Tom MacDonald (friend of the Stevensons), Emma Rothman (friend of Colleen-Little Fiddler teacher), Palmer family, Shelley Neiheiser (daughter of Bill and Barbara Morgan)

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), Eric LaGrand (neighbor of Julie Cahill), Ron McKee



Connor Strunk was baptized by Pastor Jason Tucker during the worship service on Sunday, May 1, 2011. Connor is the son of Kristin and Don Strunk.



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

Suzanne, John, Kevin and Kelly Hogan and their family and friends on the passing of Suzanne's mother, Ruth Boner.

Mary Ann, Patrick, Patrick Jr. and Kristin Lombardi and their family and friends on the passing of Mary Ann's mother, Helen Ostrowsk.

May Birthdays

01 Richard (Skanks) Menke
02 Belinda Kerchner
05 Rich Culton, Fran Henry, Laura Meehan
06 Delia Culton
07 Rachael Haggerty
08 Jan Gagnon
10 Michael R Howell, Rebecca Tarby, Chioma Usuwa
12 Rebecca Ballister
13 Huguette Exantus, Elizabeth Duesterdick, Billy Walsh
14 Kristy Englert
15 Jake Stockl
16 Heather Rienzo
18 Lacey Fowler
19 Anthony Battito, Linda Bisgaard, Matthew Haggerty, Caitlin Meehan
21 Bill Morgan
22 Matthew McCann
23 Kayla Fowler
24 Wayne Collins, Hanna Culton, Ryan Miller
26 Wayne Dubin, Jerry Sternesky
27 Jamie Sterlacci
28 Ronald Holtz, Marie Bertram
30 Rosemarie Eckhardt, Hailey Sammartino
31 Rob Eigenbrod, Mary Ann Lombardi, Krista Hallenbeck



June Birthdays

01 Reagan Connolly
02 Randy Hunt
06 David Englert
07 John Wattie
08 John Hogan, Cindy Battito
10 Kimberly Durham
11 Wilmer Allebach
12 Nathaniel Manente
13 Barbara Maxwell
15 John Lewis, Vincent Meehan, Kacie Turnbull
16 Stephanie Pallas
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 James Sheehan, Nnamdi Usuwa

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

Thank you!



Welcome New Members!
April 24, 2011

On Easter Sunday we were blessed to welcome new members to our church family!

Communicants: Christian Marshello, Erika Hallenbeck, Kelly Maye, Kimberly Durham

Adult members: Ann Nelson, Ellen Paloti, Graciela Goyco, Maritza Flores-Shah



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2011

JULY 18-22 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 18-22, 2011
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

Let's meet in the Bamboo Jungle to discover how God is wild about all of us!

REGISTER BY JUNE 26, 2011

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Child's Name: _____

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



June 19, 2011

Remembrance

The donations to the Father's Day Remembrance will be given to the Johnsonburg Camp Capital Funds Improvement Project.

GIVEN BY: _____

AMOUNT GIVEN: \$ _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARE COMMITTEE

The committee is planning several events for the membership of the congregation. On Wednesday, May 18th at 5:00 PM we will be hosting a "Dinner for the Elite" (special members over the age of 65). Invitations will be going out soon, so watch your mail boxes. On Sunday, June 5th between 12 Noon and 5:00 PM we will be having our annual "Family Picnic" at Merrill Park Grove # 2; there will be fun, games and fellowship. The committee will supply the hamburgers and hot dogs and beverages. There will be a sign-up sheet at the rear of the sanctuary for salads and side dishes you would like to bring. So, come on out and have some fun!

There are bowling nights being planned, so you need to watch the bulletin for dates and times. Other events being planned are: Coffee House, Men's Breakfast, and Potluck Game Night. Keep your eye on the bulletin and Stream Lines.

We are looking into a fishing trip on a party boat and we will need to know if and/or how many people would be interested. In the near future, there will be a fact finding sheet in the rear of the sanctuary. If you're interested, let us know.

You Membership Care Committee: Wayne Collins, Vilma Ambis, Bobbie Altieri, Shirley Benkert, Sophie Culton, Larry Palmer and Kathy Sturtz

Dear Avenel Family,

Let me briefly introduce myself for those who do not know me. I was the intern from Princeton Theological Seminary this year. I am in my final days of coursework and anticipating my first fulltime call into ministry soon.

Thank you so much for your hospitality in bringing on an intern after many years without one. I have felt so welcomed and appreciated. You have loved me, fed me, challenged me, taught me, listened to me, and shared yourselves with me – thank you!

The last 8 months have been an exciting time of re-starting Sunday evening programming for youth. We have had so much fun! I, along with the youth and other adult volunteers, have experienced many things for the first time as we played, worshipped, and learned about God together. Many thanks go out to Pastor Jason, Rick Severyn, and all the youth and their parents who made this year a huge success and a lot of fun! I'm eager to hear stories from the Mission trip this summer!

My prayer for Avenel is that you would continue to enthusiastically move forward, even when it means with fear and trepidation, trusting that Our Almighty Lord has brought you this far and will not let you go. I look forward to hearing about God's work among you next year and many years to come.

Thanks again for contributing to my preparation for ministry!

Blessings, Len Turner

KUDOS CORNER

Jacob Stockl was nominated by Carol Palmer as a United Way of Central Jersey "Hometown Hero" for all his outstanding volunteer activities here in Middlesex County and as a very active non-member of Avenel Presbyterian Church. Jake will be recognized at the Hometown Hero event on Thursday, May 12th at Middlesex County College. Jake, a very dedicated coordinator for the past 15 years of our own Joann's Food Pantry, spends at least 25-30 hours per month traveling to schools and organizations to pick up food donations, shopping for extra food, attending township meetings of "We Feed", stocking shelves and taking care of all the paperwork required by the government. Jake is also a go-to guy in our church helping out with the church fair and ushering during the Sunday service, to name just a few ways he gives of his time. He is also a volunteer two to three times a month for "Meals on Wheels" and is part of our "All Thumbs" musical group. Congratulations Jake and God bless you!

Congratulations to **Abigail Ragan** who was nominated by the Christian Education Committee for the Mayor's Youth Volunteer Award. Abigail is an active member of our church and is the coordinator for the Adventures in Worship program. Abigail has volunteered her time to help in Toddler care, host for Family Promise Program, was a shopkeeper for A Night in Bethlehem, and helped coordinate the cheering program for David's Challenge. Abigail also finds time to assist the Avenel Street School with various activities and fundraisers, working on the Avenel Middle School Wizards Fundraiser setting up snacks. She volunteers to work in the kitchen during the Colonia High School varsity football games and attends meetings of the Youth Leadership Program at Colonia High School. Abigail shows her concerns for her elderly neighbors by shoveling their walks in the winter. Abigail shows great leadership qualities and is a shining example of what God calls us to be.

Congratulations to our graduating seniors!



Sophie Culton will be graduating from John F. Kennedy Memorial High School and attending college in the fall with a major in History.

David Exantus will be graduating from John F. Kennedy Memorial High School and attending college in the fall.

Sarah Kosakowski will be graduating from Woodbridge High School and attending college in the fall with a major in Physical Therapy.

Steven Kosakowski will be graduating from Woodbridge High School and attending college in the fall with a major in Pre-Med.

KUDOS CONTINUED

Miss Avenel

Our very own Caitlyn Altieri was named Miss Avenel! You can see her in the Avenel Community Day Parade on Saturday, May 21 at noon along Rahway Ave. Caitlyn will then be presented afterwards at a picnic in Frank G. Pelzman Memorial Park.

Congratulations Caitlyn, we are so proud of you!

Deacons' Tea

The Deacons' Tea was held on Sunday, March 20th in the Gym of the Christian Education Building. Hope you were able to attend and meet your Deacon, relax and enjoy good food and fellowship. To those of you who attended, "THANK YOU FOR COMING".



"Bless You" and a big "Thank You" to those who donated sandwiches, desserts, and beverages and those who helped with the setup and cleanup.

Board of Deacons

Interactive Worship Service

For those of you who missed the opportunity to participate in the Worship service Good Friday evening, it was very special. Rev. Jason did a spectacular job of creating a 'Stations of the Cross' program of prayer and hands-on activities. It was very interesting and moving. I would hope he would repeat the program again next year. Thank you Jason for your time and effort!

-Bruce McKee

Kudos to Harry's Auto Repair Shop on St. Georges Ave. in Colonia for giving a "super size" discount on a tire for our aluminum can recycling trailer (Reinhart Thorsen's creation). Not surprising, as Harry's Shop is known for excellent service, repairs and prices- as can be attested by me and the Culton's with their fleet of vehicles. Again, thank you Frank and Harry, and God Bless!

-Ralph Price

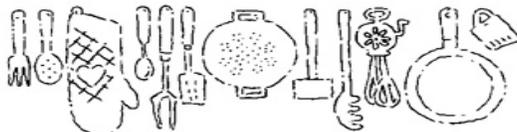
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 18-22, 2011 FROM 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

PandaMania is starting to come alive in the Bamboo Jungle! The jungle explorers are signing up. We need more jungle guides. We have two storytellers, our craft instructor, and our music coordinator. The gym is shaping up and our preschool and kindergarten staff is coming together.

Where are you? Come on board and help our young jungle explorers learn that "God is wild about them!" If you can help out during this adventurous week, please call the Church Office 732-634-1631. The jungle experience of a lifetime is coming to Avenel!!!!

KITCHEN ITEMS NEEDED



In an effort to clean up and organize the church kitchen, we are in need of specific new donations. Can you help? We are in need of pot holders, dish towels, dish cloths, 4 drying dish racks with drain boards in ivory color, scrub sponges and Brillo. Watch the weekly bulletin for additional items as we sort through the current items.

The Housing Authority of the Township of Woodbridge will continue to accept applications for senior/disabled housing through June 30, 2011.

As of July 1, 2011, until further notice, no additional applications will be accepted for placement on the waiting list. Our waiting list will be classified as "closed".

We will not accept new applications until such time that our established waiting list is expired. We expect that completion of this waiting list will take a number of years.

Eligibility requirements for application are as follows:

- Applicant or spouse must be 62 years of age or older
- Applicant or spouse must be near-elderly (50-61) and permanently disabled
- Applicant or spouse must be 18 years or older and in need of a wheelchair accessible unit

If you meet the eligibility requirements and would like to have your name added to our waiting list, please pick up an application today at the Woodbridge Housing Authority located at 20 Bunns Lane in Woodbridge. An application can also be downloaded on our Website at woodbridgehousingauthority.org.
