

# STREAM LINES

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



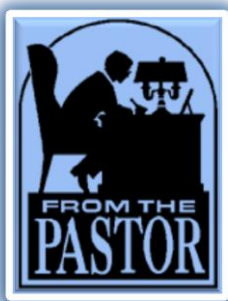
## OCTOBER 2010

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### October 2010

**"As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. - John 9:5-7 (NRSV)**

In the 1999 film "At First Sight," Val Kilmer plays Virgil Adamson, a man born blind, who receives his sight from a radical surgical procedure. The film explores the beauty and terror that Virgil experiences as he finally sees the world as it *really* is. Being blind his entire life, Virgil is quite well adjusted, as he's adapted his life around his condition. But when he gains his sight, his world is turned upside-down. The blast of light and color and dimension overwhelm him, and he nearly buckles under the burden of this "miracle." Imagine the terror of a baseball thrown in your direction, or the brilliance of sunlight, or the complexity of depth and color in your own skin. The truth is, at least initially, he's much *more* handicapped as a sighted person than he ever was as a blind man.

How brilliant and beautiful and terrifying is that light that wakes us from perpetual darkness! When faith awakes us to the world as it *really* is, and we gaze upon Jesus for the first time, we find ourselves thrust into the light that turns our world upside-down. For we are all, from the womb, deprived of this light that only Jesus can give. But be careful, that light changes everything.

You see, we've all learned how to cope with our blindness. We've adapted to life without the One True Light. Or, even worse, some of us refuse to believe there is anything *but* the blindness. And we live our life as if we can generate all the light we need through our good deeds, well-furnished homes, and handsome salaries. And yet... there is a lingering feeling that we are missing something.

Just like "the man formerly known as the man born blind," I have no idea how to explain my spiritual sight. It's just something God did *in me* and *to me* through reading His Word, hearing the Gospel, and sharing life with other Christians. In the story, when the Pharisees asked what happened, the man says (v. 11), "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." Later in v. 15, the Pharisees question him, and he repeats what happened. And then, when questioned again in v.25 about whether Jesus is a sinner, he answers (and I can hear the exasperation in his voice), "*I do not know* whether he is a sinner. One thing I *do* know, that though I *was* blind, *now* I see."

God's gracious work in our lives is a mystery. It's something only God really understands, one of those things that remain in the heavenly secret places. But, as Leslie Newbigin puts it, it's God's "open secret." The Light of Jesus Christ is accessible to *all* who call on the name of the Lord.

Have your eyes been opened? Can you see the splendor of God before you in a world shrouded in self-perpetuating darkness? Have you been washed in the water and filled with the light of Christ? It's not always comfortable. For the light is as terrifying as it is beautiful because it shows us the world as it *really* is. But, if we dare to have the courage to: *walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin* (1 John 1:7).

Have a wonderful month, church family. May God's Light shine through you!

In Christ's Service,  
Pastor Jason

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## STREAM LINES INFORMATION

**The deadline for the November 2010 issue of Stream Lines will be Wednesday, October 20, 2010 at 12:00 noon.**

Remember to email your articles to:

Susan Smolsky at [streamlines@comcast.net](mailto:streamlines@comcast.net) and  
Carol Palmer at [avenelpres@verizon.net](mailto:avenelpres@verizon.net)

**From the  
Editor**



The November issue will be available for online reading and printing on or about Wednesday, October 27, 2010 and will be available to those who have no internet service and pick up their copies in the Sanctuary on Sunday, October 31, 2010.

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## AUGUST SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

At a special Session meeting on August 1, the Elders:

- Accepted with regret the resignation of Elaine Ferrie-Kaczmarek as an Elder.
- Approved a request for the Czapelewski/Graybill wedding to be held in the Sanctuary on October 10.

At the regular August Session meeting, the Elders:

- Transferred the membership of Ruth Barrett to the First Presbyterian Church of Inverness, Florida, and received new members Cynthia and John Lewis (by profession of faith), Karin Tucker, Marianna

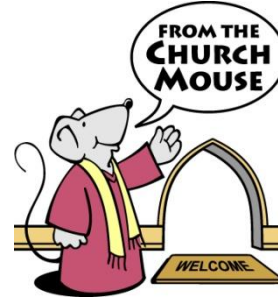
Wattie, Ferry Wattie and Pierre Wattie (by letter of transfer) and Virginia Chavan and Kevin Miller (by reaffirmation of faith).

- Approved a request from Presbytery to meet with representatives to discuss Presbytery's Mission.
- Elected Elder Collins as commissioner to the September 28 Presbytery meeting.
- Approved a call for the semi-annual meeting of the Congregation and Corporation for October 31 following worship.
- Approved various requests for building usage by non-member groups.
- Approved a recommendation from the Finance Committee that the duties of Assistant Treasurer and Financial Secretary be combined as Financial Secretary, and that this position be appointed by Session.
- Approved a Group Mission Trip to East Bank, West Virginia for July 10-16, 2011



### Fall Congregational Meeting

The Session has set the fall congregational meeting for **Sunday, October 31, 2010** immediately following the morning worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to present the 2011 budget, to elect officers, and to conduct any other business that may be properly brought to the attention of the congregation.



HICKORY DICKORY DOCK  
DON'T FORGET TO TURN BACK  
THE CLOCK!

Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on  
Sunday, November 7, 2010.



### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Pastor Tucker will be leading the Adult Sunday School class in Ken Hunt Lounge on Sunday mornings from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. beginning on Sunday, October 10, 2010 and continuing through Sunday, November 21, 2010. The planned lesson is from a book entitled "Crazy Love" by Francis Chan. No purchase of the book is necessary.

Toddler care is available. All are welcome!

### WEDNESDAY EVENING ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Tucker will be leading the Adult Bible Study in Ken Hunt Lounge on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. beginning on Wednesday, October 13, 2010 and continuing through Wednesday, November 17, 2010. The topic of study will be I Timothy.

Please join us!





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## WOODBRIDGE COMMUNITY CROP HUNGER WALK

**Sunday, October 24, 2010**

**Registration and Opening Ceremonies: 1:45 p.m.**

**The Walk: 2:00 p.m.**

**Fords Park, King George's Post Road, Fords, NJ**

What is a CROP Hunger Walk? It is neighbors walking together to take a stand against hunger in our world. Together we raise awareness and funds for international relief and development, as well as local hunger-fighting.

Walkers for this year's Woodbridge Area Crop Walk may register at Fords Park prior to the start of the walk.

Walk or sponsor a walker. It makes a difference for our community and the world!

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### **World Vision's 30 Hour Famine An Overnight Event to Raise Funds for World Hunger**

If you are currently in grades 8-12, you can sign up for our lock-in, with games, music, fun and activities centered upon world hunger. By going without food, students will get a taste of what the world's poorest children and families face every day.

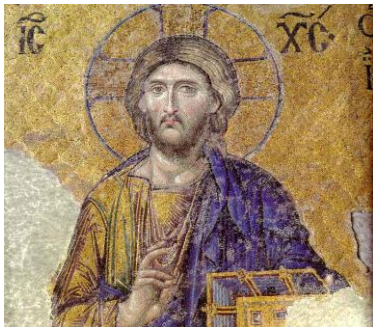


**Saturday, October 23, 2010 at 3:30 p.m. to Sunday, October 24, 2010 at 8:00 a.m.**

**The sign-up deadline is Friday, October 15, 2010**

**[Click Here to View Our 30 Hour Famine Promotional Flyer](#)**

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### *THE APOSTLE'S CREED* *A NEW 7-WEEK PREACHING SERIES*

**The Apostle's Creed** reflects the faith of the first century church. Candidates for membership in the church, having undergone a lengthy period of moral and doctrinal instruction, were asked at baptism to state what they believed. They answered with the words of this creed that begins, simply, with "I believe..."

During this **7-week series**, we'll take a journey through this ancient creed and discover its importance for Christians today.

#### **Series Schedule**

October 10	"I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER"
October 17	"AND IN JESUS CHRIST, HIS ONLY SON"
October 24	"CONCEIVED, BORN, SUFFERED, CRUCIFIED"
October 31	"ON THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN"
November 07	"I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT"
November 14	"THE CHURCH AND THE SAINTS"
November 21	"RESURRECTION AND EVERLASTING LIFE"

Join us for our Sunday morning worship service preaching series beginning Sunday, October 10, 2010 at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

## Pastor Appreciation Sunday

Rev. Jason P. Tucker

We Thank God for You!



Appreciate your pastoral leaders who gave you the Word of God. Take a good look at the way they live, and let their faithfulness instruct you, as well as their truthfulness. Hebrews 13:7 (MSG)

Pastor Appreciation Month is October, and Pastor Appreciation Sunday is always the second Sunday in October, this year Sunday, October 10, 2010.

### GOD'S FOOTPRINTS

By: Lisa J. Brown

He walks in the footprints of God  
His shoes are greatly worn  
From the time he was a child  
Heaven knew a pastor had been born

A new church to be founded  
Empty pews to be filled  
Lost souls to be saved  
A humble man to do His will

He walks in the footprints of God  
Choosing the straight and narrow  
He cares not for his own glory  
He is content in the Master's shadow

So he lifts his hands in praise  
Falls to his knees in prayer  
Embraces every opportunity  
The Lord's words to share

He walks in the footprints of God  
Heaven's door his destination  
Never minding the unpaved roads  
That lead to eternal salvation

### TO THE PASTOR'S WIFE

By: Anonymous

When we thank God for our pastor  
We must give Him thanks for two  
For when your husband came to us  
God also sent us you

A pastor's wife must be many things  
You have many hats to wear  
And we say thanks for all you do  
And lift you up in prayer

You adjust your life to meet the needs  
Of your husband's congregation  
And it seems that you can always cope  
With most any situation

Your presence blesses all of us  
Who know you from day to day  
As our pastor's wife, you are serving God  
In a fine and worthy way

"Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ." Ephesians 4:11-12 (NLT)

Pastor Jason,

For everything you do, in every season of our lives, THANK YOU!



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2010

Peace, hope, love, joy. It's amazing what you can fit in a shoebox! This Christmas, share the power of a simple gift and remind a child in need that God loves them and that they have not been forgotten.

**All boxes should be in by Sunday, November 7, 2010.**

### HOW TO PACK YOUR SHOE BOX

#### Shoe Box

Use an empty shoe box (standard size, please) or a small plastic container. You can wrap the box (lid separately), but wrapping is not required.

Pray for the child who will receive your special gift.

#### Boy or Girl

Determine whether your gift will be for a boy or a girl, and the child's age category: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. Print out the appropriate boy/girl label shown below. Mark the correct age category on the label and tape the label to the top of your box.

#### Fill with Gifts

Fill the box with a variety of gifts that will bring delight to a child. Use the gift list below.

#### Include Your Donation

Please donate \$7.00 or more for each shoe box you prepare to help cover shipping and other project costs. You can give online or you can write a check to Samaritan's Purse (note OCC on the memo line) and place it in an envelope on top of the gift items inside your box. If you or your family are preparing more than one shoe box, please make one combined donation. You can give online at <http://www.samaritanspurse.org/occ>.

#### Drop Off

Place a rubber band around each shoe box and lid and bring it to church or the church office no later than Sunday, November 7, 2010. **DO NOT** seal the box as it will need to be checked to ensure it meets Customs requirements.

### GIFT IDEAS

**Toys:** Small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch-A-Sketch, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky, etc.

**School Supplies:** Pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

**Hygiene Items:** Toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.

**Other:** Hard candy and lollipops (please double bag all candy), mints, gum, t-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries).

**A Personal Note:** In a separate envelope, you may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. If you include your name and address, the child may write back.

**DO NOT INCLUDE:** Used or damaged items, war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures, chocolate or food, liquids or lotions, medications or vitamins, breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers, or aerosol cans.

Mark the correct age category:			<b>BOY</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	2-4 Years Old			
<input type="checkbox"/>	5-9 Years Old			
<input type="checkbox"/>	10-14 Years Old			

Mark the correct age category:			<b>GIRL</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	2-4 Years Old			
<input type="checkbox"/>	5-9 Years Old			
<input type="checkbox"/>	10-14 Years Old			

You will also find these instructions on how to pack and wrap a shoebox, as well as the gift suggestion list, at the back of the Sanctuary.

If you have any other questions, please call Jan Gagnon or the Church Office.

**Do a shoebox – put a smile on a child’s face!**



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

Rev. Adam Tietje, Brian Ragas, Daniel Hedner, Anthony Battito, Robert Bartko, Michael Barany, Jovan Diaz, Justin Kitchen, Carson Severyn, Edward Merz, Michael Warren, Lauren K. Pfeifer, Bryan Palmer, Amy Updike, Jason Bone

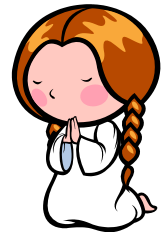
**FREEDOM ISN'T FREE.  
SOMEBODY PAID.**



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

**Prayer Requests**

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



**Recent Concerns**

Eleanor Smith, Mattera Family, Chris Thomas (friend of Joan and Wayne Collins), Rich Culton, Emma Torres, Tessa Campbell (niece of Arleen Schreiber), John Wehrle (friend of Jackie Turnbull), John Corigliano (cousin of Carol and Larry Palmer), Albert Jost

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

Edward and Betty Dobson, Jennifer Perez, Dorothy Piperi (mother of Carolyn Gilligan’s co-worker), Diana Dydak, Jeremy Hogan, Don Gilligan, Esther Nielsen, Phil Prasser, Marjorie Speath (sister of Barbara Morgan), Josephine DeVito (mother of Carol Palmer), Tessa Campbell (niece of Arleen Schreiber)

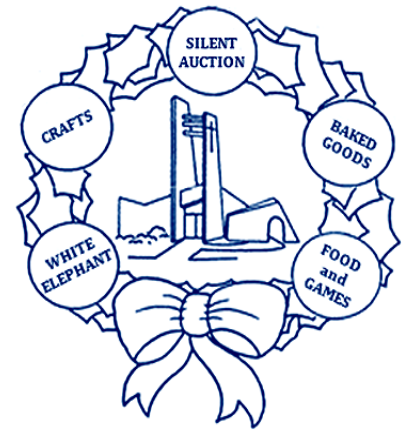
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## 42nd Annual Holiday Fair

**Saturday, November 13, 2010  
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

### **IT'S FAIR TIME AGAIN!**

This year our Annual Holiday Fair will be held on Saturday, November 13, 2010. We are still in need of books, DVDs, CDs, jewelry, new items for the Silent Auction, as well as your clean, unbroken attic treasures for the White Elephant tables. Our Fair runs on all your generous donations, so we urge you to start gathering things now. Donations can be left on the stage beginning October 16 through November 7. Please adhere to these dates as the stage is used for other purposes beforehand.



If you have any questions, please call Cindy Culton or Carolyn Gilligan at home or through the Church Office.

### **REQUEST FOR HELP IN ADVERTISING**

Let's advertise our 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Holiday Fair to our community, friends and relatives. You can help by taking small Fair posters and displaying them at your favorite local places of business. The posters will be available starting Sunday, October 24 in the back of the Sanctuary. Start thinking of how many posters you will need. Our hope is that everyone will take four or five. See Cindy Culton or Carolyn Gilligan about the posters.

We are hoping our date of November 13 will bring more people out to our Fair because they are thinking of the coming holidays. Due to the cooler weather, we've added hot apple cider along with the hot chocolate to our goodie/dessert table.

### **DONATIONS FOR THE DEACONS DINER**

The Deacons Diner is the place to get the best food in town – on November 13 at our Annual Holiday Fair. We are in need of bottled water, name-brand soda cans, napkins, large and small paper plates, one large bottle each of mustard, ketchup and relish, 8 large aluminum roasting pans, 1 roll of heavy duty aluminum foil, 6 large cans of Manwich, 3 cans of tomato soup, plastic soup spoons and finally \$2.00 or \$3.00 donations to go toward buying hotdogs, hamburgers, rolls, peppers, onions, etc. Please give your donations to Betty Hulsizer or call her if you have any questions.

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## **MEMORIAL DEDICATION CEREMONY**

The Memorial Committee is still trying to locate the addresses of several people in order to invite them to the dedication ceremony. We would appreciate any help you can provide in this area. We are looking for the names and addresses of relatives and friends of Teodora Feliz, who passed away in 2002, and Don Wenslow, who passed away in 1993.



If you have not already contacted Carolyn Stockl to let her know if you will be attending, you need to do so soon. Please let her know how many will be attending so that the Committee may better plan for the luncheon.

Thank you,  
The Memorial Committee



## JOANN'S FOOD PANTRY

### HELP NEEDED!

We are looking for volunteers willing to give an hour or two or three on the third Saturday of the month to help unload the truck that comes from the Food Bank in Hillside at approximately 8:30 a.m. We **DESPERATELY NEED HELP** for October 16<sup>th</sup>, November 20<sup>th</sup> and December 18<sup>th</sup>. The young men from Woodbridge High School that were helping us cannot make it on those dates because of school commitments.

There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the Sanctuary or you may call Jake Stockl at home or through the Church Office.

Thank you,  
Jake and Carolyn Stockl  
Coordinators of Joann's Pantry

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### **A Night in Bethlehem – An Interactive Walk**

Sunday, December 19, 2010

#### **Mark Your Calendars and Volunteer!**

Fall is just beginning, but A Night in Bethlehem is getting closer. We are looking for volunteers for this year's event. It will be on Sunday, December 19, 2010 in the evening. We need actors, decorators and set-up crews. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please feel free to call me at home or through the Church Office.

Last year was our first year, and we had a great turnout. This is an amazing way to reach out to the community and teach about the birth of our Savior.

Thanks,  
Karin Tucker, Coordinator



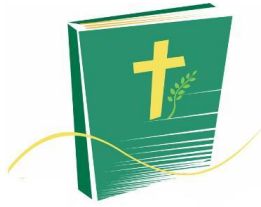
### *Family Promise/Interfaith Hospitality Network*

We hosted Family Promise the week of August 29 thru September 5, 2010 and once again, with all your help, it was a successful week. We began the week with 3 adults and 2 youth and ended the week with 5 adults and 5 youth. With the state of our economy, Family Promise is finding that more and more families are in need of temporary assistance. A majority of the families are working but just cannot make ends meet. What a blessing to be a part of a system that allows families six months of housing/food so that they can regain control of their lives.

We are committed to hosting three weeks a year, and our next week to host is December 26, 2010 thru January 2, 2011. If you have never volunteered to assist with Family Promise, we encourage you to pray about it and consider helping out during this next week. You will be blessed!

Blessings,  
Carol Palmer and Ryan Miller

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## October Memory Verse

Proverbs 16:2 (TNIV)

People may think all their ways are pure, but motives are weighed by the LORD.



## September Arrival

Congratulations to the Palmer family on the birth of a sweet baby girl, Emily Monroe.



## Thought of the Month

The soul would have no rainbow if the eyes had no tears.

Native American Proverb

## October Birthdays



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

Thank you!

- 01 Edith Cloidt, Cameron Battito
- 03 Courtney Kost
- 04 Julie Cahill, Breeanna Welch
- 05 Lorine Price, Ann Usuwa, Dawn Walsh
- 06 Ilene Nisbet, Diane Stulga, Caitlyn Altieri
- 07 Andrew Marshello
- 08 Nick Sammartino, Ariana Sterlacci
- 10 Lillian Thorsen, Susan Smolsky, Suzanne Hogan
- 11 Matthew Sternesky
- 12 Kevin Englert, Nina D'Amato
- 13 Maureen Nielsen
- 14 Spencer Severyn, Jason C. Tucker
- 15 Kevin Hogan
- 16 Dorothy Allebach, Bruce McKee
- 17 Edna Ely, Michelle Miller
- 19 Jane McKee
- 23 Shirley Benkert, Justine Schulz
- 25 Linda Gavor
- 30 Leslie Dudas



Autumn is the mellower season, and what we lose in flowers, we more than gain in fruits.

Samuel Butler

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## Church Pictorial

### POSTPONED

It is necessary to postpone the new church directory that is being planned. Photos, originally scheduled to be taken in October, will be taken at a later date. We will keep you informed of the new scheduling dates!



Thank you,  
Your Membership Care Committee

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### *Expect An Answer*

As a drought continued for what seemed an eternity, a small community of farmers was in a quandary as to what to do. Rain was important to keep their crops healthy and sustain the way of life of the townspeople.

As the problem became more acute, a local pastor called a prayer meeting to ask for rain.

Many people arrived. The pastor greeted most of them as they filed in. As he walked to the front of the church to officially begin the meeting, he noticed most people were chatting across the aisles and socializing with friends. When he reached the front, his thoughts were on quieting the attendees and starting the meeting.

His eyes scanned the crowd as he asked for quiet. He noticed an eleven year-old girl sitting quietly in the front row. Her face was beaming with excitement. Next to her, poised and ready for use, was a bright red umbrella. The little girl's beauty and innocence made the pastor smile as he realized how much faith she possessed. No one else in the congregation had brought an umbrella.

All came to pray for rain, but the little girl had come expecting God to answer.

**Feed your faith and doubt will starve to death.**

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## COMIC RELIEF

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

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### **Peach Brandy**

A Baptist preacher went to see a member of the community and invited him to come to church on Sunday morning. The man was a producer of fine peach brandy and told the preacher he would love to attend his church IF the pastor would drink some of his brandy and admit doing so in front of the congregation. The preacher agreed and drank up. Sunday morning came and the man came to church. The preacher recognized him from the pulpit and said, "I see Mr. Johnson is here with us this morning. I want to thank him publicly for his hospitality this week and especially for the peaches he gave me and the spirit in which they were given."



## What Goes Around...

Betty, the town gossip and self-appointed supervisor of the town's morals, kept sticking her nose into other people's business. Several local residents were unappreciative of her activities, but feared her enough to maintain their silence. She made a mistake, however, when she recently accused Ted, a local man, of being an alcoholic after she saw his pickup truck parked outside the town's only bar one afternoon.

Ted, a man of few words, stared at her for a moment and just walked away without saying a word. Later that evening, he parked his pickup truck in front of her house and left it there all night.



TOON FEVER by Tim Walburg – [www.toonfever.com](http://www.toonfever.com)



## IN OUR DENOMINATION

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2010  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS SUNDAY



### Theological Statement

Violence is contrary to God's intentions for the world. This reality demands the response of the church in these days of increasing danger to vulnerable peoples – children, youth, women, disabled and the elderly. Interpreting biblical teachings and responding to the leadership of Jesus Christ in our lives calls the church to pastoral and moral response through an active program of advocacy and resourcing for transformation.

My heart is in anguish within me; the terrors of death have fallen on me. Fear and trembling have beset me; horror has overwhelmed me. I said, "Oh, that I had the wings of a dove! I would fly away and be at rest." Psalm 55:4-6

### Theme for 2010: When the Line Has Been Crossed: Violence in Parent/Teen Relationships

By the Rev. Dr. Kevin E. Frederick, Presbyterians Against Domestic Violence Network (PADVN) Leadership Team

Hometown, USA. It is a Saturday morning and an angry single mother confronts her son with his curfew violation from the night before. This is not the first time it has happened and yet this time the argument becomes so intense that it ends with her son balling up his fist in her face and threatening his mother with physical harm. The scene is so alarming to the mother that she becomes greatly concerned for her safety but is unsure where to turn for guidance. . .

It is a weekday evening and a father discovers that his daughter has been secretly seeing a boy about whom the father has well-grounded concerns. The father has just learned that his daughter has violated his restrictions to not date the boy. An argument ensues that quickly becomes very heated and the father says some very hurtful things to his daughter in his anger that he knows have just erected some very substantial barriers with her. . .

Both of these scenarios are indicative of the level of stress that impacts the relationships between parents and teenage children every day for millions of American families. Verbal arguments come with the territory of parenting. On one hand, a parent needs to set clear boundaries of behavior for their child to function well within and, on the other hand, it is the very nature of teenage emotional and social development to push those boundaries and grow. But there are essential guidelines and boundaries that both parents and teens should have a clear understanding of, as a point not to be crossed. Otherwise, the well-being of the relationship between parent and child will be severely compromised and violated.

All should agree that any physical violence from either party has already crossed the line. But what about the emotional or psychological impact that crosses the line? How do you know when either you, or your child, have crossed the line from a relatively harmless display of emotional anger to a degree that psychological or emotional damage has occurred? Such a perspective is often at least partially subjective. One parent may think that a verbal threat of a child's hatred for him or her has clearly crossed an inviolable line, whereas another parent might interpret that same threat as the child's blowing off steam, believing the words were just an emotional outburst. Subjectivity also impacts the reaction of the teenager, as well.

However, there is a baseline that should be used to measure all parent/teen relationships. Parents and teens need to acknowledge that violence is not just of a physical nature. It can also be displayed psychologically. As a general rule, teens are at a more fragile and less mature stage of emotional maturity than their parents. A parent should be clear in his or her mind that any kind of put down or cruel comment that negatively impacts the self-esteem of the teenager has crossed the line from a healthy argument or display of will, and has entered the realm of an emotionally abusive action. Also, generally speaking, parents have more life experience and self-esteem to draw from and so the emotional impact of a tirade from a teen to parent is not likely to be as damaging as if it comes from the parent to the child. Having said this, any serious threat of physical violence from either parent or child to the other illustrates crossing the line to an unhealthy dimension.

When the line has been crossed, both parent and child need a cooling off period between them. Both parties should immediately stop the unhealthy engagement for a time-out period until both can talk more rationally with each other. But it is clearly the responsibility of the parent to initiate the process of reconciliation, if it is not forthcoming from the child. A parent should always be the leader in the relationship, regardless of who is at fault. The final responsibility rests with the parent to initiate a healthy restoration of the relationship. It is up to the parent to articulate to the teenager the boundaries that protect a healthy relationship between them, regardless of who crossed the line first. If the parent crossed that boundary, it is also up to the parent to admit his or her fault and ask the teen for his or her forgiveness.

Whether that forgiveness is readily offered by the teen, a genuine request by the parent demonstrates a clear desire for a restored relationship. If the teen has crossed the line of a healthy relationship, then the situation may require that the parent rationally explain to the teen what behavior had actually threatened or harmed him or her as a parent, and why that boundary is essential to maintain. Ideally, the parent should steer the conversation towards an agreement of what healthy boundaries are when having an argument.

Regardless of who crossed the line, it is again up to the parent to take the lead by communicating a genuine love and respect, not only for the well-being of the child, but also towards repairing and rebuilding a healthy relationship with him or her. And this needs to be done by affirming the deep and undying love of the parent for the child, along with identifying and commenting on the positive qualities

and talents of the child in a way that does not seem contrived or forced. Significant thought should be given to this conversation before it occurs, so that it is clear and well stated by the parent.

Finally, if the line of a healthy relationship has been crossed once, it may be the indicator of the need for family counseling with a professionally trained counselor who specializes in parent/teen relationships. But if the line is repeatedly crossed, then professional assistance from a counselor is essential to reorient the relationship in a healthy direction.

As a pastor and the parent of a two teenagers myself, I cannot conclude this article without providing a theological framework that forms our identities as Christian parents and teenagers. As Presbyterians, we recognize and acknowledge that all human beings are sinful humans; which helps us to remember that there is no perfect parent, nor is there a perfect child. That sets the framework to allow our relationships with our children to be formed by personal humility and molded by grace. In all likelihood, no one can expose the flaws and limitations of a parent as effectively as one's own teenager, while he or she is growing into a sense of self. But it is very comforting to remember that if we have raised our children, teaching them how to love others, and we have taught them how to forgive, those truths still live in their hearts even when it is not easily identifiable in their daily actions.

As Christian parents, we believe that God's grace and wisdom are available to us at all times through the presence of God's Holy Spirit, and that when we make mistakes with our children, grace will heal the hurt and help us to reconcile with those we love so deeply. God's great gift of wisdom teaches us not only to openly forgive our children but to be humble with them, admitting our faults and covenanting with our children to continue the process of growth as a Christian family, grounded in the love of God. As we struggle with that unfolding reality each day, it is comforting to know that God's Holy Spirit is our ally, and actively serves as an advocate that directs us towards an understanding of God's wisdom which helps us to experience forgiveness in our own hearts and in the hearts of our children.

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2010 WORLD FOOD DAY

The Presbyterian Hunger Program is a sponsoring organization of the World Food Day.

World Food Day is observed each October 16<sup>th</sup> in recognition of the founding of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 1945. The aim of the day is to heighten public awareness of the world food problem and strengthen solidarity in the struggle against hunger, malnutrition and poverty. In 1980, the General Assembly endorsed observance of World Food Day because "food is a requisite for human survival and well-being and a fundamental human necessity."

The theme for World Food Day 2010 is "United Against Hunger," chosen to recognize the efforts made in the fight against world hunger at national, regional and international levels. Uniting against hunger becomes real when state and civil society organizations and the private sector work in partnership at all levels to defeat hunger, extreme poverty and malnutrition.

### **The Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)**

#### ***Direct Relief***

More than 460 million people in the world suffer from severe protein-energy malnutrition. While malnutrition and starvation affect more people in developing countries, hunger also stalks the poor in the United States. As Christians, we demonstrate our love for sisters and brothers by supporting programs which ensure that food is available to those in need while also working on longer-term solutions.

PHP grants support food pantries and soup kitchens, communal feeding programs and homeless feeding programs.

#### ***Development Assistance***

PHP encourages and supports land ownership by the poor, appropriate agricultural technology, rural

community development, cooperative economic development, effective soil conservation, water resource development, equitable food distribution, community organizing, and nutrition education.

PHP grants support food cooperatives, job training, agricultural development, micro enterprise and micro credit, community organizing, nutrition education and water projects.

### ***Influencing Public Policy***

PHP recognizes that Presbyterians must stand for justice in those arenas where the voices of the poor are not heard. It supports organizations and coalitions which advocate for public policies that provide food for poor and hungry people and empower their self-development.

PHP grants and partnerships support advocacy for child nutrition programs, welfare reform that provides real opportunity, foreign aid directed toward the needs of the poor, sustainable agricultural practices and the survival of family farms, trade policies which protect the most vulnerable, and debt relief for the poorest nations.

### ***Lifestyle Integrity***

How we live our individual and family lives is a very personal matter, but it also has global implications. In this world where some go hungry because others consume too much, PHP encourages families, church groups and institutions to evaluate their own needs and develop new ways of being more caring and sharing of the world's resources in obedience to the Gospel.

PHP provides resources for simpler lifestyles, simpler observance of Christmas, spiritual development and sharing resources.

### ***Education and Interpretation***

Learning about hunger and our response to it begins with the Bible. The Old Testament abounds with stories, prophecies, and psalms about God's concern for justice for those who are oppressed and about God's desire that God's people will be instruments of that justice.

Likewise, the life and teachings of Jesus in the New Testament affirm his special love and ministry for the poor, the hungry and the downtrodden. As his disciples, we are called to follow him in this love and ministry.

PHP provides resources for studying these scriptures, educates the church about hunger-related issues, and shares stories from programs supported by PHP grants. Through these efforts, it nurtures the connections between Presbyterians and God's people around the world.

### **More about the Presbyterian Hunger Program**

Through giving to the annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering and year-round support of the Hunger Fund, Presbyterians provide the PHP with approximately four million dollars a year to support ministries of direct food relief, development assistance, public policy advocacy, education, and lifestyle integrity. The PHP seeks to fulfill its mission through strategic grant-making, print and web educational and worship materials, and participatory programs that allow us to recognize and love especially the most vulnerable of our neighbors next door and across the planet.

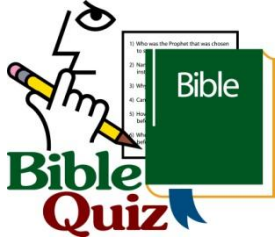


**WANTED:** One 15 inch auto or truck tire – mounted or unmounted

**IDEAL:** Mounted on a 5 hole rim with a 4 ¾ inch bolt pattern

**FOR:** Our aluminum can trailer

Please call Ralph Price at home or through the Church Office. Thank you.



## Monthly Bible Trivia Quiz

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

**Quiz Title:** Odd One Out

- 
1. Old Testament Books
    - a) Genesis
    - b) Jude
    - c) Psalms
    - d) Obadiah
  2. Sons of Noah
    - a) Shem
    - b) Ham
    - c) Japheth
    - d) Cain
  3. Twelve Disciples of Christ
    - a) Paul
    - b) Peter
    - c) James
    - d) Matthew
  4. New Testament Books
    - a) Revelation
    - b) Hebrews
    - c) Ecclesiastes
    - d) Luke
  5. Plagues upon Egypt
    - a) Frogs
    - b) Locusts
    - c) Darkness
    - d) Flood
  6. Judges
    - a) Gideon
    - b) David
    - c) Samson
    - d) Jephthah
  7. Friends of Job
    - a) Ahaziah
    - b) Bildad
    - c) Zophar
    - d) Eliphaz
  8. Prophets
    - a) Daniel
    - b) Ezekiel
    - c) Solomon
    - d) Jeremiah
  9. Tribes of Israel
    - a) Naphtali
    - b) Simeon
    - c) Zebulun
    - d) Joseph
  10. Ten Commandments
    - a) Do not kill
    - b) Do not steal
    - c) Do not covet
    - d) Do not hate

### Answers to Monthly Bible Trivia Quiz

1. Jude – Jude is a New Testament book, found just before Revelation    2. Cain – Cain was Adam and Eve’s son, not Noah’s son    3. Paul – Paul was an apostle, but not one of the 12 disciples – Romans 1:1    4. Ecclesiastes – Ecclesiastes is in the Old Testament    5. Flood – There were 10 plagues upon Egypt during the time of Moses, but flooding was not one of them – Exodus 7-13    6. David – David was a King of Israel, but not a judge
7. Ahaziah – Job 2:11 lists the friends of Job    8. Solomon – Solomon was a King of Israel, but not a prophet
9. Joseph – Joseph didn’t give rise to a tribe directly in name, but through his sons Ephraim and Manasseh
10. Do not hate – Hate does not appear in any of the 10 Commandments – Exodus 20/Deuteronomy 5

# STREAM LINES



OCTOBER 2010

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