



STREAM LINES

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

October 2013

From the Pastor

October 2013

GRIEVING TOGETHER, AND WELL

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness. -Lamentations 3:22-23

It is impossible for any of us to escape this life without suffering loss. Among the most traumatic losses we'll face is the loss of loved ones, which usually occurs amidst relatively ordinary circumstances of life. Yet we seem surrounded as well by people experiencing loss due to extraordinary circumstances: war, terrorism, random violence, runaway train wrecks, industrial explosions, and burning boardwalks. We are deluged with reports of losses from natural disasters in the form of tornadoes, wildfires, and raging floods. Though these losses may often be remote from us, last year's Hurricane Sandy, the anniversary of which we'll mark this month, reminds us how literally close to home such losses can hit. Losses like that bring to the fore that, in addition to the loss of those dear to us, we humans value many things with which we have some connection or bond, the loss of which we grieve: the familiarity and comfort of homes, treasured possessions, jobs, churches, and pets. We grieve loss of stability and security in our lives, or at least the perception thereof. This may range from our personal safety or security to that of our belongings, to opportunity for personal fulfillment from using our God-given gifts, skills, knowledge, and experiences, to our relationships — family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. We may grieve that things are no longer as they used to be — our independence, health, or ability to function, our community as we once knew it, or our church, whose membership, pastoral leadership, or ministries may have changed from what they were ten, twenty, or fifty years ago.

However loss visits us, we end up grieving, for grief is a natural response or reaction to loss. A range of emotions often accompanies grief. These emotions are normal. They may surprise us at times, either in their character or when they surface. Nevertheless, taking cues from and exploring these emotions and what lies beneath them can present a way forward toward healing and a state of normalcy.

Interim Pastor
The Rev. Robert C. Louer, III

Clerk of Session
Mrs. Darla Hunt

Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Stacey Castro

Stream Lines Editor/Webmaster
Mrs. Susan Smolsky

Stream Lines Assistants
Mrs. Cathy Shaffer and
Mrs. Stacey Castro

Pastor's Email Address
robert.louer@gmail.com

Church Office Email Address
avenelpres@verizon.net

Stream Lines Email Address
streamlines@comcast.net

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

Churches are organizations comprised of individuals with emotions. Just as individuals grieve, so do organizations (and even nations and the world, e.g. 9/11/01). Churches then, like this one for example, may grieve the loss of a beloved member or departure of a pastor. This is normal. The good news for the church is that members have each other with whom to process their grief; the church grieves as a community. Church members, including some who may be experiencing a certain loss differently or not at all, can gather around those who are processing a particular loss. They offer comfort by being physically and emotionally present and listening attentively to what their brother or sister is experiencing. Church members and the church as a whole can, by reading the Bible, God's word, and through prayer and song with the bereaved, seek, give, and receive comfort from God's promises and faithfulness (as at recent memorial services). Those who are able can support the grieving with acts of kindness and compassion.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. (1 Cor. 1:3-4)

This self-forgetful care for others powerfully bonds one to another. It can as well unite us in intimacy with God, who grieves with us:

Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread...because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; He will not fail you or forsake you. (Deut. 31:6)

And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Matt. 28:20)

As we grieve together the loss this summer of beloved members of the Body of Christ, and accompany those still grieving the loss of departed pastors and other losses, we'll experience the presence and love of our Triune God. That love is made manifest to us most visibly through the risen Christ Jesus, *Immanuel* (God with us), as the Holy Spirit lives in and acts through us, in love. This is a potent reminder to us that:

*The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,
His mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is Thy faithfulness.*

Bob Louer, Interim Pastor

STREAM LINES INFORMATION

The deadline for the November 2013 issue of Stream Lines will be Wednesday, October 16, 2013 at 12:00 noon.

Remember to email your articles to:

Susan Smolsky at streamlines@comcast.net

**From the
Editor**



The November issue will be available for pickup in the Sanctuary on Sunday, October 27, 2013. It will also be available for online reading and printing on or about Wednesday, October 23, 2013.

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



FAMILY PROMISE

We will be hosting Family Promise the weeks of September 29 thru October 6, 2013 and November 3 thru November 10, 2013.

Please contact Ryan Miller or Sandy Kosakowski if you can help feed and comfort our guests for one or both weeks. Thank you!



ANNUAL LADIES TEA

REMINDER

Saturday, October 19, 2013

2:00 to 4:30 p.m. – Jacob Morgan Hall
13 Years and Over

\$10.00 Donation – No Tickets at Door

RSVP October 1, 2013

Baptisms

Baptism signifies the faithfulness of God, the washing away of sin, rebirth, putting on the fresh garment of Christ, being sealed by God's Spirit, adoption into the covenant family of the Church, and the resurrection and illumination in Christ. - Book of Order W-2.3004

On Sunday, September 15, 2013, **JAKE RYAN KOST** was baptized by the Rev. Robert C. Louer, III during the morning worship service. Jake's parents, Jason and Courtney, as well as the congregation, committed themselves to nurture this child in faith.



GAME NIGHT/POT LUCK SUPPER

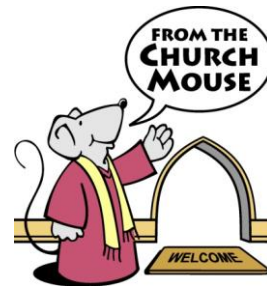
REMINDER

Sunday, September 29, 2013

Pot Luck Supper begins at 5:00 p.m. in Jacob Morgan Hall, followed by Game Night in the Gym.

Please bring a covered dish to share.

All Are Welcome!



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

Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 3, 2013. Don't forget to turn your clocks back 1 hour.

45th Annual Holiday Fair

Saturday, November 16, 2013
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



We hope you are looking forward to our Fair as much as we are! Soon you will be able to check out our tables of:

Delicious Baked Goods	Jewelry
Silent Auction	Crafts
White Elephant	Music table
Desserts and Beverages	

And the ever popular... **Deacons Diner**, where you can enjoy a full lunch menu including tasty soups.

Throughout the day, watch for our strolling musicians!

Please join us for this fun day of fellowship, great food and familiar faces.

Please note the time change that started last year. The Fair will end at 2 p.m.

We will NO longer being accepting BOOKS or TOYS

Fair Request

This fall, as you are reducing the "stuff" in your home, please place the clean, unbroken items in sturdy bags or boxes and drop them off, on the stage, from Sunday, October 20 thru Saturday, November 9. We will accept DVDs, CDs, jewelry, new items for the Silent Auction, household items of all sorts, and any craft items that you have made.

The Deacons Diner

The Deacons Diner would greatly appreciate donations of:

- Brand name soda in cans
- Water bottles
- Large and small paper plates
- 1 large bottle each of ketchup, relish and mustard
- 8 large aluminum foil pans, heavy duty
- 1 roll aluminum foil
- 6 large cans of Manwich
- 3 cans Tomato soup
- \$2 and \$3 dollar donations towards purchase of hotdogs, sausage, etc.

Donations can be given to Cindy Culton or Carolyn Gilligan.

HELP! Posters will be available in back of the Sanctuary shortly. Please help us advertise by taking a few and displaying them wherever you can.



Our Military Servicemen, Servicewomen and Their Families

Lauren Hansen, Jeffrey Hansen, Bryan Palmer, Edward Merz, Jovan Diaz, Anthony Battito, Michael Warren, Lauren K. Pfeifer, Amy Updike, Robert Bartko, Rev. Adam Tietje, Daniel Hedner

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



Eleanor Smith and Toni Anderson

Prayer Requests

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



Recent Concerns

Sandy Endrish and Family (friends of Pat Battito), Robert Toro, Julie Madsen, Susan Smolsky, Everett Rodkey, Brendan, Diana Atakora, Justina Owusa, Coutinho Family, Carmen Aponte, Myrna Martinez, Suzanne Hatatah, Jenny (Cindy Culton's neighbor's great niece)

Health and Healing

Pete Allebach, Maureen Nielsen, Harry Musselman, Jennifer Perez, Thomas Kurzeja

Those with On-Going Long-Term Concerns

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

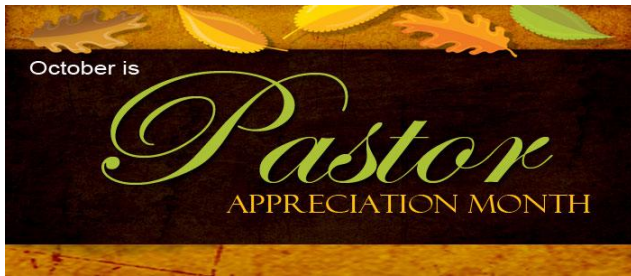


CALLED HOME

August 2013 – Dot Allebach, our friend and church member since May 27, 1956. Outside of church, Dot raised a family, worked as an Office Manager, and served as President of the Colonia Women's Club. She served faithfully in our church in numerous capacities, including Elder, Deacon and Asst. Financial Secretary. Our sympathies to Pete, his daughter Mary Lee, his son Dean, and the entire Allebach family and friends.

August 2013 – Eugene Breza, our friend and church companion. Gene served in the U.S. Army during WWII,

and then worked to support his family until retiring in the late 1980s. Our church food pantry is named after Gene's wife, JoAnn. The pantry was a deep passion of both Gene and JoAnn, and they worked side by side to feed those desperately in need. Our sympathies to Gene's daughter Sue and the entire Breza family and friends.



Pastor Appreciation Day
Sunday, October 13, 2013

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)

Rev. Bob

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

"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)



Please do not take graphics from the church website and post them to Facebook without permission. Not all graphics on the website are from the public domain.

Photographs from the church website may not be taken and posted anywhere under any circumstance. They are used with permission only on our website.

If you have any questions, contact Susan at churchwebsite@comcast.net.



THANK YOU!

Thanks to everyone who helped make the Fellowship kick-off barbeque a success! Donations of hot dogs, hot dog rolls, hamburgers, hamburger rolls, salad, chips, pickles, sauerkraut, cookies and drinks were all appreciated (and eaten). A good time was had by all!

SUNDAY EVENING YOUTH GROUP

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Jacob Morgan Hall
Grades 6-12

Our Youth Ministry offers youth a place to be themselves, meet and make new friends, explore their unique God-given gifts, learn about God's role in their lives, and choose, nurture and grow in faith.

Come join us for activities, games, food, worship and God's Word. Church membership is not required. And bring a friend!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. in Ken Hunt Lounge

The current study is the Gospel of Luke using the resource book, ***Good News for All: The Gospel of Luke***, by Carol J. Miller. It is never too late to start, and everyone is welcome! Please call the Church Office at 732-634-1631 for more information on the resource book.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

7:00 p.m. in the Church Office

Is your soul parched? Are you thirsty to know God? Why not come drink in God's living and active Word at "Oasis", our Wednesday evening study and discussion group. It just might be the refreshment you need. Edible refreshments provided too!



A New Old Way to Pray

An ancient Jewish form of prayer, still in use today, involves sprinkling one's day with short prayers of gratitude to God. The prayer typically begins: "Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who ..." and concludes with a phrase that fits the specific situation. Such a prayer works well in good circumstances and bad. For example:

- "Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who has provided clean water for my shower this morning."
- "Blessed are you, O Lord ... who brings friends to support me in my grief."
- "Blessed are you, O Lord ... who has blessed me with a keen mind. Please help me focus while I take this test."
- "Blessed are you, O Lord ... who holds my children in unconditional love."

Try using this form of prayer liberally as a way to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17) and to weave your faith throughout your day.

Christian Reflections

The Diver

A young man who had been raised as an atheist was training to be an Olympic diver. The only religious influence in his life came from his outspoken Christian friend. The young diver never really paid much attention to his friend's sermons, but he heard them often.

One night the diver went to the indoor pool at the college he attended. The lights were all off, but as

the pool had big skylights and the moon was bright, there was plenty of light to practice by.

The young man climbed up to the highest diving board. He turned his back to the pool and positioned himself onto the edge of the diving board. As he extended his arms out in preparation to dive into the pool, he saw his shadow on the wall. The shadow of his body was in the shape of a cross.

The man felt a strange sensation going through his body. It was as if someone was speaking to him. The words of his Christian friend filled his mind, and in his heart he suddenly knew the truth. Instead of diving, he knelt down on the diving board to pray and asked God to come into his life.

As the young man stood up again on the diving board, a maintenance man walked in and turned the lights on. The pool had been drained for repairs.

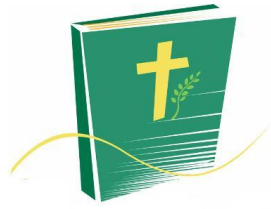


Did You Know?

1. The Internet was originally called ARPANet (Advanced Research Projects Agency Network) designed by the U.S. Department of Defense.
2. Sound travels almost 5 times faster under water than in air.
3. Toilets average 35% of indoor water use.
4. Koalas sleep around 18 hours a day.

Famous Firsts in New Jersey

1. The first ferry service in the U.S. operated between Hoboken and Manhattan in 1811.
2. The first seashore resorts opened in Cape May and Long Branch in the early 1800s.
3. The first Miss America was chosen in Atlantic City in 1921.
4. The first movie was developed by Thomas A. Edison in West Orange in 1889.



October Memory Verse

Lamentations 3:22-23 (NRSV)

²²The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; ²³they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness.



Thought of the Month

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

Native American Proverb



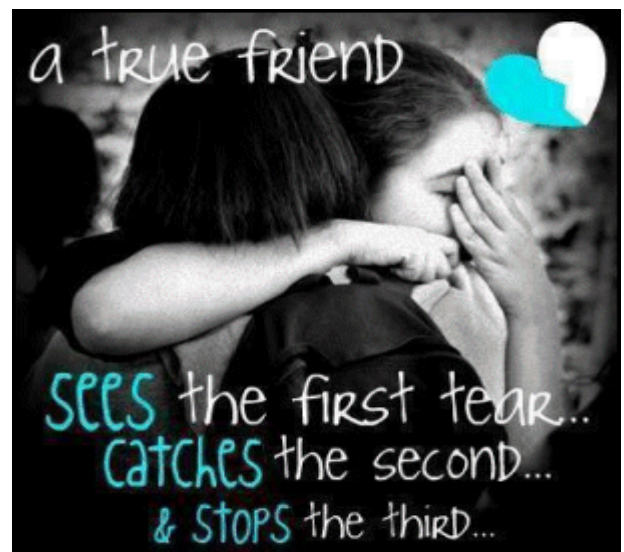
I can hear autumn's leaf following me down the asphalt surface of the street, cart-wheeling on pins, when suddenly... it stops, just to see if I'll turn to look!

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!

- 03 Courtney Kost
- 04 Breanna Welch
- 05 Heather Kooy
Ann Usuwa
Dawn Walsh
- 06 Caitlyn Altieri
Ilene Nisbet
- 07 Andrew Marshello
- 08 Nick Sammartino
Ariana Sterlacci
- 10 Suzanne Hogan
Susan Smolsky
Lillian Thorsen
- 11 Matthew Sternesky
- 13 Maureen Nielsen
- 16 Bruce McKee
- 17 Michael Howell
- 19 Jane McKee
- 23 Shirley Benkert
- 26 Lois Toro



In Our Denomination

Special Days and Emphases for October 2013



- October 06, 2013 – World Communion; Peacemaking Offering
- October 13, 2013 – Domestic Violence Awareness
- October 16, 2013 – World Food Day
- October 20, 2013 – Children’s Sabbath
- October 27, 2013 – Reformation Sunday

Domestic Violence Awareness

The theme for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2013 is: Stories of Hope and Restoration.

Violence in any form is a destructive force that damages and destroys life and well-being. When violence is woven into the fabric of family relationships, it distorts and destroys not only the relationships between the victim and the perpetrator, but the well-being and sense of self of each and every family member. So often, families enmeshed in violence have lost a sense of hope, and the prospect of healing and restoration seems to be a remote possibility.

When domestic violence occurs, hope and restoration are never easily attained. Sometimes they are decades in the making, especially if the victim or survivor of domestic violence and her family have no community of support to assist them on their long journey. This is precisely where the Church should be. As Christ’s agent of hope, we are charged to be “a light, shining in the darkness,” to those whose hope has been thwarted and do not know where to turn.

For more information and stories of hope and restoration, please visit the Presbyterian Church (USA) website at <http://pcusa.org>.

World Food Day

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

World Food Day 2013 is Wednesday, October 16. The day is observed every year around the world on October 16 in honor of the date of the founding

of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 1945.

The theme for World Food Day 2013 is “Sustainable Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition.” Today, almost 870 million people worldwide are chronically undernourished. Unsustainable models of development are degrading the natural environment, threatening ecosystems and biodiversity that will be needed for our future food supply. Calls for profound changes in our agriculture and food systems are becoming more frequent and more insistent.

How can you help? Our own food pantry is a lifeline to those less fortunate, and they need help. Bring in food. Help unload the food truck once a month. Help shelve the food. Check with Jake and Carolyn Stockl to see how you can serve and help ease the pain of hunger to those in need.

Reformation Sunday

Martin Luther (1483-1546) is considered the founder of the German Reformation. An ordained (and later excommunicated) priest, doctor of theology, and professor of biblical interpretation at the University of Wittenberg, Luther launched a movement, known as the Protestant Reformation, against the Catholic church’s practices in 1517 when he posted his 95 Theses, or Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences.

Some twenty years later, a French/Swiss theologian named John Calvin (1509-1564) further refined the reformers’ new way of thinking about the nature of God and God’s relationship with humanity in what came to be known as Reformed theology. This theology proved to be the driving force of the Reformation, particularly in Germany, France, the Netherlands, England and Scotland.

John Knox (1513-1572), a Scotsman who studied with Calvin in Geneva, took Calvin’s teachings back to Scotland. The Presbyterian Church traces its ancestry back primarily to Knox in Scotland and to England.

Luther also contributed to major theological reform by translating the Bible into vernacular German, which allowed people to hear and read the gospel of Jesus Christ in their own language.

The Church celebrates Reformation Sunday on the last Sunday of October, this year October 27, 2013.

STREAM LINES



October 2013

Fold Here ----- Fold Here

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

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization



STREAM LINES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AVENEL

October 2013