

Stream Lines

A monthly publication of the First Presbyterian Church of Avenel, New Jersey



September 2015

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“Faith Overcomes False Expectations Appearing Real”

Jesus said to His twelve disciples, “Why are you afraid? “Have you still no faith?” And they were afraid with great fear, and they said to one another, “Who is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him.” (Mark 4:40-41)

Here’s a proposition. For the next month, in the conversations you have with those who run in your professional and/or personal circles, and in the radio, television, print, and internet/social media you consume (in whatever segments you access: news, entertainment, sport, etc.), pay attention to people saying, *“I am/was afraid to/of/that... or I am/was so scared to/of/that...” as well as to any other references to fear.*

I posit that you’ll find plenty of fear talk. Note how often you or others speak about fear. What do you or others fear, and to what extent? Is the fear you or they express helping you or them thrive, or holding you or them back?

This article will focus on fears that hold us back, weigh us down, or control us, that tempt us to cling to the *status quo* when what we need is to effect change. Some-one, who, I know not, has developed a snappy acronym that sums up what’s behind many of our fears: FEAR - False Expectations Appearing Real. Think about what you fear. Is it possible that it’s rooted in assumptions you’re making about something you can’t *for sure* say is *true*? Could you have expectations that are anchored in something you’re *treating* as true, but that’s *really* false? You may have to coax yourself a bit to think about this, because after a while — for some it may even be years or decades — we may be so used to assuming these false expectations are true, it’s as if we need glasses to help correct our blurred vision. Challenge the validity of what you’ve been treating as the truth behind what you fear, and see if it holds up to scrutiny. Chances are, it won’t.

Remember when Jesus’ twelve disciples woke Him from a sound sleep in the dark of night, as the boat they were in was being pelted by wind and sea and swamped with water in a fierce storm on the Sea of Galilee? He clearly wasn’t afraid. He spoke to the wind and waves saying, “Silence. Be quiet.” Immediately stillness ensued. Then Jesus turned to His disciples and asked “Why are you afraid?” He had higher aspirations for His disciples than fear. He didn’t want them, nor does He want us, to be diminished by fear and kept from achieving the full potential for which He created us. Fear drains us of peace and joy. It isolates us. It keeps us from connecting with God and others.

“Who is this (Jesus), that even the wind and the sea obey Him?” He is God. He is a highly relational person who wants us to know that rightly ordered relationships connect with Him, and through Him, to others. He wants us to trust that we are unconditionally loved and accepted, and were made to love and be loved. Movement away from Jesus is a movement toward fear, chaos, and disconnection.

After His disciples woke Him, Jesus asked them a second question, “Have you still no *faith*?” In other words, “Why, after spending all this time with me and seeing all that the Spirit of God has done through me — preaching, teaching, healing the sick, and casting out demons — why do you still not trust that I love you and have your back? Jesus’ disciples had however, turned to Him in their hour of need. Perhaps their fear, their False Expectation Appearing Real, was that Jesus had to be *awake* to protect them from the storm. Nevertheless, what was it about Jesus that enabled Him to sleep as a storm raged around Him? What peace He had. What trust He had that He was in no danger. Jesus trusted in God’s love for Him. That same bond of relational trust rooted in God’s love is what He offers us with and in Him. Trust anchored in a loving, just, merciful and all-powerful God shines a bright light on the fears that shadow us. This frees us to thrive, to sleep soundly through the storms of life.

As we kick off an exciting new year of worship, Christian education, fellowship, and service to Christ’s church, the Avenel community, and the world, what fears, False Expectations Appearing Real, dog us? What False Expectations Appearing Real are personally shadowing you? Do you trust with all your heart and mind and strength that God loves and cares for you? Why not answer Jesus’ question, “*Have you still no faith?*” by reading Scripture and praying for Jesus to give you wholehearted trust to step out in faith with Him? Will you step out of your comfort zone and into the boat with this congregation, trusting that Jesus is right there with us? Will you pick up the oar that has your name on it and row (by contributing your time, talents, and financial support) in synch with us where Jesus leads? We all have comfort zones. You surely have learned from experience what Neil Donald Walsch has so concisely said, “Life begins at the end of your comfort zone.” By God’s grace, in September let’s begin anew our life together in Christ. All aboard!

Bob Louer, Pastor



Stream Lines Information

From the Interim Editor

The deadline for the October 2015 issue of Stream Lines will be Wednesday, September 23, 2015 at 12:00 noon.

Remember to email your articles to:

Carol Palmer at streamlinesnewsletter@gmail.com and
Tina Pinto at avenelpres@verizon.net



Why the Church Newsletter is Important

From the April 2002 issue of the *Church Secretary's Communiqué*, published by Christian Ministry Resource s, PO Box 2301, Matthews, NC, 28106.

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 ongoing 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.* Ongoing 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 ongoing 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.

I believe that Stream Lines fulfilled the 6 points made in that article and am hopeful that you all believe that as well.

Unfortunately, I cannot continue as the interim editor and my last issue - and sadly, it appears, the **last and final** issue of Stream Lines-- will be published in October 2015.

Fortunately, if you are a person who is creative and loves to write, this is a perfect opportunity to serve your Lord and your church. The newsletter and its format and frequency would be up to you. Get creative, have fun with it, and continue Stream Lines' legacy.

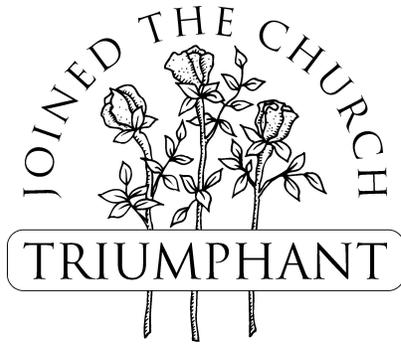
ARE YOU THAT PERSON? Is God calling you to this ministry in the church?

Actually, there is a 7th reason why a newsletter is important to the church. The church's history is printed monthly or bi-monthly and recorded forever. Check old issues of Stream Lines to find out when we began giving Bersey Scholarships, when we had our first Bake-off, when we first... truly the list is endless and Stream Lines is our archive.

Please join with me in prayer that someone is led to continue this important outreach to our church.

Blessings,
Carol Palmer, Interim Stream Lines Editor





Our sister in Christ, Esther P. Nielsen, passed away peacefully on Friday, August 7, 2015. Esther was a long-time member of 59, serving as a Sunday School teacher, Fellowship advisor for Whales & Termites and junior high groups, co-superintendent and teacher for Vacation Bible school, deacon, choir member, and long-time chair of the Annual Holiday Fair. Esther also led neighborhood Bible studies. Please keep Lynn, Roger and their families in your prayers.

NEWS & *Notes*

The church office will be closed Monday, September 7, 2015 in observance of Labor Day.

Kick-off Sunday, September 13, 2015! Mark your calendars. Call the church office to register your child at 732-634-1631. All are welcome so please invite your friends.

Toddler Care – Beginning Sunday, September 13, 2015, Toddler Care will be provided in the Toddler Care room in the Christian Education Building.

Pot-Luck Supper and Game Night will be held Sunday, September 27, 2015. Pot Luck Supper will begin at 5:00 pm followed by Game Night.

Annual Ladies Tea – Saturday, October 17, 2015. Invitation is available on the last page of this issue. Please mark the date on your calendars.

Choir Rehearsal

Chancel Choir will resume in the fall.

Carol Choir for grades K-4 will resume in the fall.

New voices are always welcome! For more information about the music programs at the church, please contact Debbie.

Annual Holiday Fair will be held Saturday, November 14, 2015 in the gym. Mark your calendars. Call Cindy Culton to donate your treasures. We will once again have tables filled with baked goods, jewelry, CDs, DVDs, crafts, white elephant and the delicious foods at the Deacon's Diner. Beginning October 18, 2015 you can start bringing your items to the stage in Jacob Morgan Hall.

Oasis Bible Study continues to meet in the manse every Wednesday night at 7:00 pm. The study is on going and you can join at any time.

Session Minutes
First Presbyterian Church of Avenel
August 18, 2015

The monthly session meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Avenel was held on Tuesday, August 18, 2015 in Ken Hunt Lounge. After food and fellowship, Moderator Rev. Robert C. Louer III opened the meeting with prayer and devotions at 7:25 p.m.

Elders Present

Class of 2015: Barbara Ciocci, Gene Hallenbeck, Darla Hunt, Bob Toro

Class of 2016: Wayne Dubin, Carolyn Gilligan, Carol Palmer, Carolyn Stevenson

Class of 2017: Shirley Benkert, Delia Culton, Mark Tarby

Guests: Belinda Kerchner & Dawn Walsh (Youth Mission Trip)

A quorum was affirmed.

The Consent Agenda was approved

Clerk's Report

Active membership as of July 21, 2015		187
Funerals	0	
Deletions	0	
Transferred to other churches		0
Transferred from other participant to active		0
Weddings	0	
Baptisms	0	
New Members		0
Active membership as of August 18, 2015		187

Committee Action Items

Finance/Treasurer's Report

Ed Benkert will attend the September meeting.

Christian Education

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1.) Sunday School Curriculum: from PCUSA "Growing in Grace and Gratitude" (downloadable multi-age format) be purchased for \$130. **APPROVED**
- 2.) Youth Fellowship Curriculum: digital version from Simply Youth Ministry be purchased for \$125. **APPROVED**
- 3.) The following teachers/staff be approved for the 2015-16 year: Belinda Kerchner (also Superintendent), Cheyanne Kerchner, Barbara Altieri, Nick Altieri, Margaret Christopher, Shirley Benkert, Tammy Salambine, and Kathy Sturtz. **APPROVED**

- 4.) Youth Fellowship to go on a beach day at Ocean Grove, NJ on Saturday, August 22, 2015 leaving at 11 am and returning approximately 3pm.

APPROVED

- 5.) An Advent workshop with pot luck supper in JMH be approved for Sunday, November 22, 2015 at 5pm **APPROVED**

- 6.) Approval for Chick-fil-a calendars/coupons to be sold as a fundraiser for Christian Education programs. **APPROVED**

Suggestion to increase Michael Sipla's salary/travel expenses (haven't been increased in 3 years) discussed.

Fellowship & Spiritual Life no recommendations

Personnel

Review/updating policy re: sick leave for full time employees

Stewardship

BUILDING USAGE RECOMMENDATIONS:

FOR LITTLE FIDDLER ACADEMY 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR (Gail Marciniak, director)

10/30/15 Gym for Halloween Parade 8am-12pm

11/18/15 & 11/19/15 JMH for school pictures 9am-2pm

11/24/15 & 11/25/15 JMH for Thanksgiving shows 10am-12:30pm

12/16/15 & 12/17/15 JMH for Holiday shows 9am-9pm

4/13/16 classrooms for parent meetings 7pm-9pm

6/14/16, 6/15/16 & 6/16/16 JMH for promotions/graduations 9am-9pm

6/21/16 & 6/22/16 gym for carnival 9am-6pm

ALL DATES APPROVED

An issue with leaving a candle burning in the chapel after the Indonesian Christian Church was discussed with their leaders and resolved.

An issue with child-size footprints on the walls of the stage was discussed. The thought was that it could have occurred during VBS. Adult supervision is needed to prevent this.

Worship no recommendations

Old Business

Discussion: second draft letter to congregation re: definition of marriage

RECOMMENDATION: that we accept the second draft letter with the addition of "In Christ's Service, the Session of the First Pres. Church of Avenel" (with Session member's names listed, and Rev. Bob's name with moderator in parenthesis), in paragraph 3 change "policy" to "practice", spell out The First Presbyterian Church of Avenel in the same paragraph, and that the letter be sent/handed to all members on Sept. 13, 2015.

APPROVED 9 ABSTENTIONS 2

New Business

Belinda Kerchner & Dawn Walsh from the Youth Mission Trip:

Plans for next year's trip to Woonsocket, RI includes fundraisers, budget, adult chaperones (1 adult for 5 teens)

Cost for each teen: \$625.

Dates: July 24-30, 2016

January 2016 – 50's theme fundraising dinner (date TBD)

March 2016 – Italian night fundraising dinner (date TBD)

Shop Rite bagging (Wednesdays 3:30-8:30pm)

Super Bowl Sub Sandwiches sale – February 7, 2016

Breakfast in JMH in conjunction with Fall cleanup day (date TBD)

Cookie Exchange: cover charge as fundraiser, bring 4 dozen cookies and swap, give cookies to veterans.

Suggestion: to buy cookies by the pound/ by the tin and open it up to the community.

Mixed Bags – October & April

Restaurant Fundraising Nights (6)

Car Wash – June 2016 (date TBD)

Also plan to help at church functions (Tooling Around Town, cleanups, working with the Youth Fellowship, etc)

Recommendation: that the Youth Mission Trip advisors have Session approval to go ahead with the above plans, making the congregation aware of their activities/fundraisers as the year progresses. **APPROVED**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 pm with prayer by Pastor Bob Louer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darla Hunt, Clerk of Session





JESUS CHRIST IS GREATER THAN...

CHEMISTRY: HE TURNED WATER INTO WINE.

BIOLOGY: HE WAS BORN WITHOUT THE NORMAL CONCEPTION.

PHYSICS: HE DISPROVED THE LAW OF GRAVITY WHEN HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN.

ECONOMICS: HE DISPROVED THE LAW OF DIMINISHING RETURN BY FEEDING 5000 MEN WITH TWO FISHES & 5 LOAVES OF BREAD.

MEDICINE: HE CURED THE SICK AND THE BLIND WITHOUT ADMINISTERING A SINGLE DOSE OF DRUGS,

HISTORY: HE IS THE BEGINNING AND THE END.

GOVERNMENT: SACRED SCRIPTURE SAID THAT HE SHALL BE CALLED 'WONDERFUL COUNSELOR'--'PRINCE OF PEACE'.

RELIGION: HE SAID NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH HIM.

SO. WHO IS HE?

The Greatest Man in History! Jesus had no servants, yet they called Him 'Master'. He had no degree, yet they called Him 'Teacher'. He had no medicines, yet they called Him 'Healer'. He had no army, yet the heads of governments have always feared Him. He won no military battles, yet He conquered the world. He committed no crime, yet they crucified Him. He was buried in a tomb, yet He was resurrected and lives today. Christ has conquered throughout history--and will continue to do so today. His kingdom will NEVER end--and this should give all Christians comfort in the difficult times in which we live...

September Birthdays

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

Thank you.

- 09/02 Justin Kooy
- 09/03 Patrick Lombardi, Sr.
Leslie Yuhasz
Lynn Merz
Melissa Kosakowski
- 09/04 Vilma Ambis
- 09/09 Cheryl Mock
David Exantus
- 09/10 Barbara Morgan
- 09/12 Jacob Manente
- 09/13 Kiersten Shannon
- 09/14 Richard Olsen
Sophie Culton
Emily Palmer
Sierra Musselman
- 09/15 Gisela Olsen
Felicia Bannerman
- 09/18 Joseph Shannon
- 0920 Dani Juarez
- 0922 Christopher Exantus
- 0924 Vincent Meehan
- 09/28 Frank Battito
- 09/29 Ilene Dodich
Susan Haggerty



Happy Birthday!

September Memory Verse

You are my refuge and my shield;
I have put my hope in Your word.

(Psalm 119:114)



Pastor Bob and Carrie will host an open house immediately following the worship service on Kick-Off on Sunday, September 13, 2015. All are cordially invited.

Richard and Gisela Olsen recently celebrated their 50th Anniversary. Congratulations.



"A Township Remembers"
9-11 Interfaith Memorial Service
Friday, September 11, 2015
6:00 pm Service

9-11 Memorial Park
Woodbridge Township Municipal
Building
1 Main Street Woodbridge NJ



Our Military Servicemen, Servicewomen and Their Families

Rev. Adam Tietje, Daniel Hedner, Jovan Diaz, Michael Warren, Lauren K. Pfeifer, Amy Updike, Lauren Hansen, Jeffrey Hansen, Edward Merz, Rob Zaradona

FREEDOM ISN'T FREE.
SOMEBODY PAID.



Eleanor Smith

Prayer Requests

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



Recent Concerns

Mary Jo, Eleanor Smith, Maria, Ruth Killinger, Arleen Schreiber, June Donnelly, Darryan and Terry.

Health and Healing

Pete Allebach, Thomas Kurzeja, Harry Musselman, Jennifer Perez

Those with On-Going Long-Term Concerns

Diana Dydak, Tessa Campbell (niece of Arleen Schreiber), Jennifer Perez

Youth Mission Group – 2016

All high school teens are invited to join us for our 2016 Youth Mission Group trip to Woonsocket RI on July 24 – 30. We will be holding two informational meetings, with an opportunity to register, for those who may be interested in coming with us next year.

Please join us in Jacob Morgan Hall on either Wednesday September 9th or 23rd at 7:00 PM.

Campers who attended prior years will be there to talk about their experiences and we will answer all questions. There are currently 20 spots open and \$100.00 non-refundable deposit will be required to hold your spot. We will outline fundraising opportunities for the rest of the money. One parent MUST attend this meeting in order to register.

So, why would teenagers want to sacrifice time and money to serve people they don't even know? Good question. Here's the answer: Because unconditionally serving others is a life-changing experience. Our youth personally discover how they can make a difference in the world and live a Jesus-centered life—one that loves God and loves people.

Teens will have a good time, make new friends, learn new skills, and laugh a lot together. They will create friendships that will last a lifetime. Please come and see what it is all about.





You are cordially invited to attend an afternoon
Ladies Tea*
(Please feel free to invite your friends)

At the
First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

Saturday, October 17, 2015

Jacob Morgan Hall

2:00 pm – 4:30 pm

No Tickets will be available at the door

RSVP by October 1, 2015

*Thirteen years and older

Please return this portion to:

Barbara Ciocci
C/O First Presbyterian
Church of Avenel
631 E Woodbridge Ave.
Avenel, NJ 07001

Please make all checks payable to:
First Presbyterian Church of
Avenel (also note "Tea" on check)

Donation \$15.00 per person
(Please include donation with
response)

Number attending _____

Donation Enclosed _____

If you are paying for more than yourself, please list the names of your guests also.

Reservations must be made early; we are limited to 80 people in JM