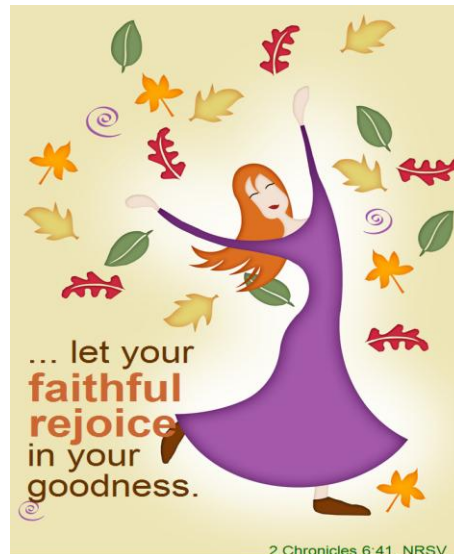


Stream Lines

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



September/October 2011

Who's Who in the Church

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

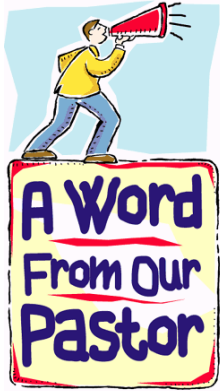
Rev. Jason P. Tucker
Kate Satterstrom
Mr. Charles Kurowsky
Mrs. Carol Palmer
Mrs. Susan Smolsky
Ms. Delia Culton
Mrs. Carol Palmer and Mrs. Cathy Shaffer
(Phone): 732-634-1631 (Fax): 732-634-1291
pastorjtucker@gmail.com
avenelpres@verizon.net
deliaculton@hotmail.com and avenelpres@verizon.net

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



Sept/Oct 2011
Rev. Jason Tucker

Cha-Cha-Cha-Changes...

Well, it's finally here. It's September...and we find ourselves on the cusp of a changing season—both literally and figuratively here at Avenel Church.

Back in 2007, a Mission Study was taken—a congregational assessment of where we've been, where we are, and where we'd like to be. One of the results was to "do something" about reaching out to new people, particularly younger generations. As the church continues to age, there are fewer and fewer younger members to replace them and continue the

good work God has given them to do. Since the 1950's, First Pres. has experienced a 750% membership loss. In the last 20 years, we've experienced a net loss of 235 members, 129 in the last 5 years alone.

So, the next question was: "What do we do about this?" There is a mountain of research that has been done on churches that are growing v. churches that are declining. What the research reveals is that there are (at least) 3 commonalities most growing churches share: 1. *They offer contemporary worship services as well as traditional*, 2. They have developed small group ministry opportunities, and 3. They are heavily involved in mission

In the Fall of 2009, our Church Session called for a task force to investigate adding contemporary worship opportunities. The task force was broad in its representation (e.g. age, worship preference, and theological position). The task force worked during the winter/spring of 2010, visited many churches, discussed, studied, and finally presented a recommendation for the Session to consider.

The Session, after a great deal of deliberation and prayer, unanimously approved the new schedule, effective Sept. 11, 2011: 9am Traditional Worship, 10:15am Sunday School, & 11:15am Contemporary Worship. Although the congregation had been informed of the session's decision shortly after it was made (May 2010) via letter, it was deemed important to allow for a time to voice concerns/confusion over the new schedule and its consequences on current membership. After lively discussion, it seemed a consensus (although not unanimously) that the church needed to step out and take a risk for the sake of reaching people with the gospel, and strive to grow the church.

In February, the session met again to prayerfully discern God's will for the mission of the church. A key verse that seemed to keep coming up over and over again was from Isaiah 43: *18 Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. 19 I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*

Changes like this aren't without their bumps. But we are excited about the road ahead, for this church to continue doing God's work for years to come!

May God bless our church family! 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 Nov/Dec 2011 issue of Stream Lines will be Wednesday, October 19, 2011 at 12:00 noon.

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

**From the
Editor**



-
- Contemporary Service Launch- Sunday, September 11
 - Youth Fellowship Begins- Sunday, September 11
 - Ladies' Tea- Sunday, September 25
 - Men's Breakfast- Saturday, October 1
 - Recognizing long time members- Sunday, October 2
 - Bible Study Begins- Wednesday, October 5
 - Game Night Pot Luck- Sunday, October 16
 - Fair Donations begin being accepted- Sunday, October 16
 - Annual Holiday Fair- Saturday, November 19
-



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

A photograph of a wooden cross standing in a field under a blue sky with a single white cloud.

Modern Music ~ Relevant Messages ~ Casual Atmosphere ~ Real People

Simply
Jesus.

A photograph of a wooden cross with a string attached, resting on a white surface.

A New Sermon Series
Beginning September 18
9:00am & 11:15am

FPCA YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Fellowship Begins & Sept. 1!



Krista, Olivia, and Erika in the "Hurricane Machine"

That's right, boys and girls – all youth grades 6-12 are invited to our weekly fellowship! What happens at youth fellowship? It's a place where we hang out and share the 3 F's: Fun, Faith, and Food!

On Sept. 11, we'll start our first Fellowship of the year off right with a Pizza Party!

Fellowship goes from 6-8pm, and make sure you wear comfortable clothes! See you there!

Important Dates:

Youth Fellowship:

Sept 11:	Kick-off Pizza Party 6-8pm
Sept 18:	Fellowship 6-8pm
Sept 25:	Fellowship 6-8pm
Oct 2:	Fellowship 6-8pm
Oct 9:	*Family Game Night 5pm
Oct 16:	Fellowship 6-8pm
Oct 23:	Fellowship 6-8pm

*Family Game Night:

On Sunday night, October 9, we'll take a break from our regular Fellowship, and join in an all-church potluck dinner and family game night! Our very own Ed Benkert will help lead some fun and sometimes challenging games the whole family can enjoy! Watch for details in the coming weeks!

Youth Mission Trip:

September 30: \$50 Deposit deadline.

This year we're going to Sutton, NH -July 14-21!
For details, see our Workcamp page.

"Growing in Christ, Making Him Known"

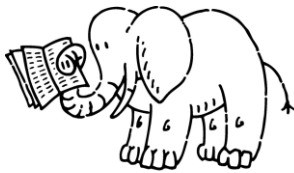
Welcome to our new intern, Kate Satterstrom!

While we were sad to say goodbye to Len Turner last spring, we are so excited to welcome our new youth ministry intern, Kate! Kate is an experienced youth minister who is currently pursuing a dual degree at Princeton Seminary (M.Div./M.A. Youth Ministry).

Kate is excited to meet all of you, and we'll make sure we introduce you properly when she arrives!

Stay connected with us online at www.avenlpresbyterianchurch.org

And follow us on Facebook by searching for our group: First Presbyterian Church of Avenel.



Fall Memory Verse

“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”
1 Thessalonians 5:18



With Sincere Sympathy

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

The Chomiak family and friends on the passing of Paul Chomiak, who completed his earthly journey in August.

September Birthdays

- 01- Suzanne Warren
- 02- Sean Battito
- 03- Renee Germek, Patrick Lombardi Sr., Leslie Yuhasz, Lynne Merz, Melissa Kosakowski
- 04- Vilma Ambis
- 07- Dawn Connolly
- 09- Cheryl Mock, David Exantus
- 10- Barbara Morgan
- 12- Jacob Manente
- 13- Kiersten Shannon
- 14- Richard Olsen, Sophie Culton, Sierra Mussleman
- 15- Gisela Olsen
- 17- Jenny Holtz
- 18- Joseph Shannon
- 20- Danetta Juarez
- 21- Karen Severyn
- 22- Chris Exantus
- 24- Vincent Meehan
- 25- Vic Stulga
- 27- Erika Ferrie
- 28- Frank Battito, Briana Tarby
- 29- Ilene Dodich, Susan Haggerty, Jessica Kaczur
- 30- David Pallas



October Birthdays

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

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



Our Military Servicemen, Servicewomen and Their Families

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

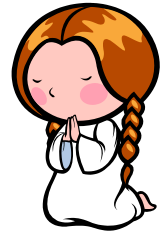
**FREEDOM ISN'T FREE.
SOMEBODY PAID.**



Eleanor Smith and Toni Anderson

Prayer Requests

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



Recent Concerns

John Guarracino, Frank Dodich, Nicole & James Siebert's twins Alexander and Isabella (niece of Barbara Ciocci), Arlene (friend of Carolyn Gilligan), Darla Hunt, Bob Roth, Carol Wolf (friend of Kathy McKelligett), Jim Lawrence, Eleanor Smith.

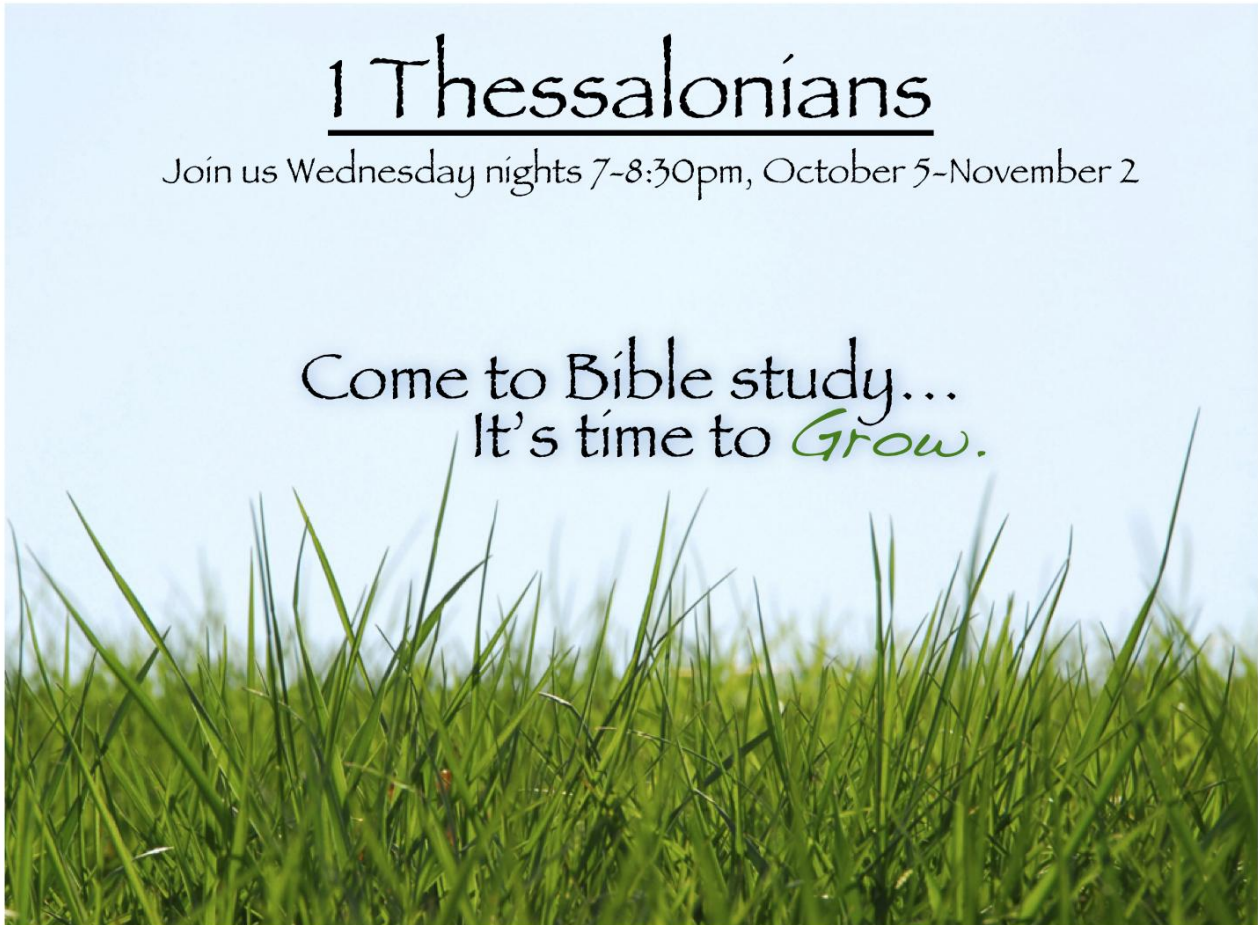
Those with On-Going Long-Term Concerns

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) and Ron McKee.

1 Thessalonians

Join us Wednesday nights 7-8:30pm, October 5-November 2

Come to Bible study...
It's time to *Grow*.



JOIN US ON OUR YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO SUTTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE!

JULY 14-21, 2012



All youth currently in 8th grade and up. Cost is \$450 (less fundraising and \$50 deposit due Sept. 30)
For details visit: www.avenelpresbyterianchurch.org



Membership Care Committee

The Membership Care Committee has two Great Events planned for the Month of October; so don't forget to mark your Calendars. In addition, on October 2, we will be recognizing two of a long time members: Barbara Ciocci and Betty Dobson.

Men's Breakfast: Men! Men! Men! Young and Not so Young come on down to JMH join us for a Men's Breakfast on Saturday, October 1, 2011 at 9:00 AM. There will be plenty of good eats and fellowship. In addition there will be a mystery guest speaker, actually he will be announced later. So keep an eye on your bulletin for more information.

Game Night: On Sunday, October 16, 2011 from 5 PM to 9 PM there will be a spectacular Game Night Covered Dish. Come on out and bring a dish. The Membership Care Committee will supply the beverages; bring a dish or a dessert than we will play games by a master game planner. Check the bulletin for more details.

Thank You!

PandaMania at Avenel Pres. was grrreat!

We had 93 children that attended VBS this year. Thanks to our 37 teachers and helpers, our jungle adventures made lasting impressions. Parents, grandparents and children complemented our program and staff. Everyone had a wonderful time!

We adopted a family in need from our local community as our missionary project. We collected \$518.60 for this family with medical and financial needs. We also collected aluminum tabs for Ronald McDonald House in New Brunswick and our campers stocked JoAnne's Food pantry with many needed supplies.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following people who donated their time and talents to make our VBS a huge success:

Pastor Tucker, Regina Luntungan, Karin Tucker, Caitlyn Germek, Jordan Swierk, Victoria Swierk , Cindy Culton, Sierra Musselman, Catherine Stockl, Jamie Sterlacci, Cheyanne Kerchner, Alexis Zwidinger , Jackie Turnbull, Rachel Haggerty, Molly D'Amato, Carolyn Stockl , Renee Germek , Rachel Stockl, Ed Benkert, Alyson Rasimowicz, Sarah Benkert , John DellaLuna, Delia Culton, Krista Hallenbeck, Shirley Benkert, Kathy Sturtz, Gisela Olsen, Gracielo Goyco, Courtney Kost, Christian Marshello, Brandon Gallup, Joan Benkert, Vilma Ambis, Arlene Schreiber, Jan Gagnon, Wayne Collins, Sophie Culton and Carol Palmer .



Thank you all, for your dedication and willingness to serve.

Carolyn Gilligan
VBS Coordinator



(Please feel free to invite your friends.)

At the First Presbyterian Church of Avenel

Sunday, September 25, 2011

Jacob Morgan Hall

1:00-3:30pm

Proceeds will be used to update the kitchen

No tickets will be available at the door

RSVP by September 16, 2011

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

**Thirteen years and older only please*

Please return this portion to:

Barbara Ciocci
c/o First Presbyterian Church of Avenel
621 E. Woodbridge Ave.
Avenel, NJ 07001

Make check payable to:
First Presbyterian Church of Avenel
(note "Tea" on check)

Donation \$10 per person
(Please include donation with response)

Number Attending: _____

Donation Enclosed: _____

ANNUAL HOLIDAY FAIR

November 19, 2011

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.



Mark your calendars for our 42nd Annual Holiday Church Fair to be held on Saturday, November 19, 2011. Donations for the fair will be accepted starting Sunday, October 16 through Sunday, November 14th. All donations can be placed on the stage in JMH. Please do not put anything on the stage before this date, as Little Fiddler may be using it. Items that are needed include books, DVD's, CD's, jewelry, new items for our silent auction table, and clean, unbroken white elephant items.

Request for HELP... In the beginning of November we will have posters advertising the Fair, in back of the sanctuary. We would like everyone to take a few and ask your favorite businesses to display them. This will be a big help in advertising the Fair.

Deacons Diner... As always the best place in town to get lunch on Fair day is at the Fair! The deacons prepare a big selection of delicious lunch items. We can all help in cutting down the cost by making a small donation of:

cases of bottled water

cans of name brand soda!

napkins

large and small paper plates

1 large bottle each of ketchup, mustard, 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

\$2.00 and \$3.00 donations toward purchase of hotdogs, sausage etc.

Donations can be made to Betty Hulsizer.

Please join us for this festive day of fellowship.

Cindy Culton and Carolyn Gilligan

Co-Chairs Fair Committee

Learning From Erin

Read: 1 Cor 12:21-25

Erin's life was so different from that of most 8-year-olds. While other kids were running and playing and eating ice cream, Erin was lying in a bed being fed through a tube- able to see only the brightest lights and hear only the loudest sounds. Her life consisted of needles and nurses and hospital visits as she battled ongoing illnesses and profound disabilities.

Surrounded by a remarkable family who cared for her with compassion and filled her life with love, Erin died before reaching her ninth birthday.

What can be learned from a precious child like Erin- one who never spoke a word or colored a picture or sang a song? A friend of Erin's family put it best: " We are all better for having had Erin in our lives. She taught us compassion, unconditional love, and appreciation for the little things."

Children such as Erin also remind us that this world is not reserved for the perfect, the wealthy, or the athletic. Each person, no matter their physical, mental or emotional condition, is created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27) and is of equal value and significance. Our Lord has compassion for the weak, the broken, and all He has made (Ps. 145:8-9), and we should mirror that concern (Eph. 5:1-2). Is there an "Erin" in your life who can learn from?- Dave Branon

*People in whom the world sees no value,
But only as burdens to bear,
Teach us great lessons of God's sovereign
power-
He loves them as treasures so rare.
- Carbough*

The previous passage inspired the following poem, written by **Ilene Nisbet** in memory of her sister Helen.

I had a sister once, a precious one to me
A girl whose very presence would calm a
stormy sea
The mission that God gave her as an
instrument of Love
Is reaching its fulfillment as He calls us from
above.

Tho' she has long since gone away
We cannot help but know,
A part of her was left with us
To grow and grow, and grow.
His spark of Love has blossomed
Within this family small
And as we search ourselves we see
Only He could start it all.

He took the trials and temptations
The impatience and regrets,
And then he took her sufferings
Then placed them in a net.

Now God has deemed to cut the strands
With his own pruning shears,
And reveal to us the meaning
Of all her infirm years.

Oh how we thank him for her life
No more to feel a loss,
A life we know was all for gain
And glory beyond the Cross.