



FIRST CHURCH NEWS

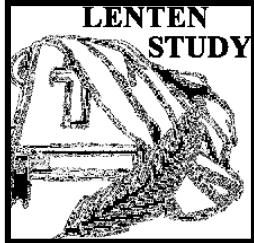
FEBRUARY 2010

"Helping all people build life-transforming relationships with God and each other."

Friends,

During the season of Lent (the 40 days preceding Holy Week and Easter), Christians reflect upon the life and ministry of Christ, especially as it relates to his life of sacrificial service. Lent is a time for repentance, self-examination, prayer, study, fellowship -- all geared toward a renewed commitment to service in Jesus' name. As one writer has noted, "*Lent is thus not giving up something but rather opening ourselves to God's grace so that we may worthily participate in the mystery of God-with-us.*"

Lent always begins with Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on February 17th. Plan now on beginning your journey through Lent with your fellow sisters and brothers in Christ on **Ash Wednesday at 7:30pm**, when we will gather for a **Service of Wholeness**, which will also include the imposition of ashes.



On the following **Wednesday (Feb. 24th) at 7:30pm** in Room 120, we will begin a 10-week study entitled "The Way of Discernment." Part of the Companions in Christ series published by Upper Room, "The Way of Discernment" offers a biblical, theological and practical framework for understanding the practice of discernment. "*From deep within us there is a desire to do the right thing, to make wise choices, to live in a fruitful manner. There are simple steps anyone can take that will open understanding. The scriptures repeatedly acknowledge the existence of a sure pathway in life. So, how do you discover God's guidance for personal and congregational decisions? Discover the way to greater clarity in a 10-week study for small groups. More of a journey in discernment than a how-to guide, this study gently leads to a prayerful path for a richer, wiser life.*" Don Brown, pastor of the West Caldwell Presbyterian Church, and I will be sharing in the leadership of this study.

Why not go ahead and put this study in your calendar and make it a priority for your devotional time this Lent? You'll be hearing more about it as we draw nearer to Ash Wednesday.

Pete

CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 7TH

The 1st Pres Planning Team invites the congregation to participate in a survey which will be administered during worship on Sunday, February 7th. Plan to add your voice to describe who we are.

The Planning Team will be using the US Congregational Life Survey to take a snapshot of our congregation. Data from that survey will be used by our Planning Committee as we...

- ...find out who are worshippers are and what they value;
- ...develop a strategic plan;
- ...anticipate changes as we move forward into 2010 and beyond.

The US Congregational Life Survey provides a picture of religion in America. Almost 300,000 worshippers in more than 2,000 congregations across the US have participated in this survey. With this survey we will be able to identify our own congregation's unique strengths in comparison to other congregations and find ways to build on those strengths. Hundreds of congregations from a wide variety of denominations have used this process to plan their future in ways that fit their unique size, community, history and dreams.

The survey will ask worshippers about four fundamental building blocks of congregational life: 1) spirituality and faith development; 2) involvement with groups and leadership roles in the congregation; 3) community involvement; and 4) congregational priorities and future directions.

The survey is designed to be given as a part of worship on a typical Sunday. Fifteen minutes will be allowed at the conclusion of the worship service on February 7th. Members who require help with reading or small print will be assisted to answer. The survey is anonymous, and they will be collected as you leave. The survey will also be available during the week of February 8th-12th in the church office during regular working hours if you are unable to be in worship on February 7th. And finally, if attendance at worship on February 7th is significantly affected by bad weather, we will offer the survey again on February 21st.

Jaime's Youth News

Youth Ministry Spotlight

Our church is blessed to have so many people involved with youth. Each person has different gifts they are able to offer our students – and it is so exciting to see how each person is used in a unique way to minister to our youth. Over the next few months I want to spotlight a few of these awesome leaders. I encourage you to read about each of them, and maybe even prayerfully consider whether you would be willing to join our youth ministry team and share your gifts!

Joe Ball – 7th Grade Sunday School Teacher

Joe Ball grew up at First Presbyterian, having moved to West Caldwell in 1956 when he was in first grade (he went to Washington School!) Growing up he was a member of the church choir and was active in the high school group, “Westminster Fellowship”. He was also a Junior Deacon and in charge of the Youth Budget.

He moved out of the area for some time, but returned to First Presbyterian in 1999. He has been married to his wife, Pearl, for 30 years. They have three children: Lillian, James, and Louise. He teaches middle school and high school at Newark Academy. He was a Middle School Principal for five years, but recently returned to the classroom to teach World Cultures (8th grade) and Ancient History (9th grade). When he is not at work, Joe enjoys yoga, meditation, reading, bicycling, current events, chess, and garage sales!

Joe also has many responsibilities at our church! He is currently an elder and a member of the Christian Education committee. He has taught 7th grade Sunday school for five years (and taught 6th grade Sunday school before that!) Joe says the thing he loves most about teaching 7th grade Sunday school is the energy and intellectual curiosity of middle school students. He loves the freedom to talk openly with his Sunday school students about how God, the Holy Spirit, and Jesus Christ are always present and active in our lives, guiding us even when we don't know it. He feels that he was called to teach Sunday school and has been blessed to have the opportunity.

The Youth Committee and Jaime Staehle are newly responsible for the Jr. High Sunday School classes! This has been an exciting transition and we are excited to work with such wonderful Sunday school teachers – thanks Joe!

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY Summer Service Opportunity

All Young Adults (18-25) are invited to join us for a wonderful **Summer Service Opportunity** in Washington D.C. Sunday, June 6th– Friday, June 11th! We will be working with YSOP, an organization dedicated to combining meaningful volunteer work with orientation and reflection. We will provide vital services to people in need and at the same time be able to reflect on our experiences and broaden our perspectives. *The cost for the week is \$375 and the deadline to sign up is Sunday, February 7th with a \$50 deposit. Please contact Jaime Staehle at 973-954-8404 with any questions.*



PITTSBURGH PROJECT DATES

Let's get started meeting, Feb. 5, 2010 @ 7:30pm

Jr. High July 11-16

Sr. High July 24-31

FORMS AND DEPOSIT DUE FEB. 5TH

JUNIOR HIGH MINISTRY

Thursday, February 4th

Snow Tubing at Mountain Creek 4:00pm-7:30pm

We'll be heading up the mountain for a fun evening of snow tubing! Sign up with \$20 to Jaime by Wednesday, February 3rd to attend.

Thursday, February 11th

Crazy Games – 6:30pm-8:00pm

We'll be playing games and making rootbeer floats - mmmmmmm yum!

Saturday, February 20th

Community Service Day – 10am–2pm

We'll be serving Jesus by serving others today—namely our community! We'll be doing a variety of different community service projects. *Sign up with Jaime by Wednesday, February 17th.*

Thursday, February 25th –

Garbage Ball – 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. -

We're breaking out the garbage cans again for an awesome game of garbage ball. Never played?? Come see what the commotion is all about.



SR. HIGH MINISTRY

Wednesday, Feb. 3rd, 6:30-8:00pm Health Kits for Haiti

Community Youth at Congregation Agudath Israel

“I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me” Matthew 25:40 We will meet at Agudath Israel (20 Academy Road, Caldwell) to join youth from several other congregations in our community to help assemble Health Kits that will be sent to Haiti. All 9th-12th grade students are invited to attend-bring your friends! Dinner will be served.

Friday, February 26th – 8:30pm – 11:00 pm

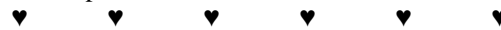
Sr. High Ice Skating

We'll head down to Floyd Hall Arena for a fun night of ice skating! Bring money for admission and skate rental if you need them! *Sign up by Wednesday, February 24th to attend.*

Sunday, February 28th - 11:15-1:00 pm

Sr. High Out To Lunch

This month we'll be delving into the life of the Old Testament prophet Nathan as we discover how God calls us to a life of love and justice. Meet at the Christian Ed desk immediately following the 10am worship service to head out to lunch!



CONFIRMATION CLASS NEWS

Parents and mentors– please continue to be aware of what your student is learning during our class time!

February Schedule for Confirmation:

February 7 – 8:30am - The Liturgical Year

February 14 – No Class

February 21 - Alternative Worship – Liquid

Church – *Meet at our church at 9:45am to*

head down to Liquid Church. Please plan to

bring \$15 for lunch at the Famished Frog.

We will return to church by 2:00 pm

February 28 – 8:30am – Matthew 25 Project



HOST CHURCH FOR CHOIR TOUR

This year's Choir Tour heads through Pennsylvania to Illinois and Indiana. Check the list below, if you have family and or friends nearby be sure to let them know about these performances! It has been such great fun in the past to meet folks with connections to Caldwell on Tour.



Feb 13th

Second Presbyterian Church
528 Garland Dr., Carlisle, PA
Jeff Gibelius' church

Feb. 18

Park Place Church of God
501 College Dr.
Anderson, IN

Feb 14th

Hampton Presbyterian Church
2942 East Hardies Rd.
Gibsonia, PA

Feb. 19

First Presbyterian Church
of Pittsburgh
320 6th Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA

Feb. 16

North Northfield Methodist
Church
797 Sanders Road
Northbrook, IL

Please note, all shows on the road are scheduled for 7:00pm. Phone numbers available from the office.

BUILDING PEACE IN ISRAEL/PALESTINE!

On Thursday, February 18, 2010 at 7:00pm in Room 120, Rev. Joan Deming from Madison, WI will present a program about Building Peace in Israel/Palestine. With the help of slides, photos and the sharing of the latest information, you will hear the story of Archbishop Elias Chacour and his schools in Ibillin, Galilee, Israel.

30 years ago Father Chacour founded from scratch on the side of a hill (formally the city garbage dump!) a Christian School for all children-Muslim, Christian, Jewish and Druze. Today, these schools (K-12) are recognized for their quality education and inter-faith opportunities for all children in Israel/Palestine.

Bob Pryor, our Parish Associate, has served for the past 15 years with Joan Deming on the Board of Directors of the Pilgrims of Ibillin, an American support organization for Building Peace in the Holy Land. Other peace groups that P.O.I supports will also be introduced. Father Chacour's biography, *Blood Brothers*, will be available. He has been nominated three times for the Nobel Peace Prize. Middle Eastern refreshments will be served. You are invited to bring your friends and neighbors to this informative program.

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN OUR PRAYERS

We share the joys and sorrows of life and in all things give thanks to God for his blessings to us.

HEALING AND SUPPORT TO ...

- ◆ Harry Coppens
- ◆ Ellie Dolphin
- ◆ Jack Gesell
- ◆ Edith Jipp
- ◆ Emmy Rose
- ◆ Marion Schuetz
- ◆ Laura Winter



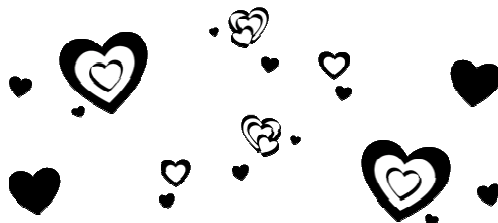
CONGRATULATIONS TO...

- ◆ Chris and Lauren Sheanon on the birth of Abigail Emma, January 2, 2010. Grandparents are Tom and Nancy Paterson, great-grandmother, Jean Thyren.

SYMPATHY TO...

- ◆ Mike Maguire and family on the death of his father in Florida recently.
- ◆ Maud Werner and family on the death of her husband, Raymond on January 14, 2010.

A card or call will say you care.



NOT YET FOR PLEASANT

The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell

326 Bloomfield Ave., Caldwell, NJ 07006

Office Hours M – Th 9:00am – 5:00pm F 4:00pm

Phone: 973-228-0310 Fax: 973-228-0629

E-mail: fpcaldwell@aol.com

Web page: www.firstprescaldwell.org

Dr. Richard N. Sommers, *Pastor/Head of Staff*

Rev. Barbara Jo Piercy, *Minister of Music*

Jaime Staehle, *Director of Youth Ministry*

Noel Piercy, *Associate Director of Music*

Nancy Felter, *Office Manager*

Nancy Paterson, *Secretary/Receptionist*

Tom Paterson, *Building Manager/Head Sexton*

Leland Roberson, *Sexton*

Marybeth Intili

Director of the Weekday Nursery School 973-226-6674

Kenneth Kamper

Superintendent, Prospect Hill Cemetery 973-228-4410

Deacon's Inspirational Phone Line

973-228-2604

Rev. Ross Warfield

Pastoral Counselor





973-228-0310 / 973-763-2091

Dr. Robert R. McGruther, *Pastor Emeritus*

Rev. J. Robert Pryor, *Parish Associate*



FEBRUARY 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 9:30a Staff 6:00p Youth Musical Dress Rehearsal 7:00p Deacon Officers 7:30 Session Comms	3 3:45p Youth Club 6:30p Sr. Highs to Agudath Israel to pack Health Kits for Haiti 7:00p Chapel Bells	4 7:00a Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Caldwell Diner 12:00p Women's Fellowship Luncheon 4:00p Jr. Highs Snow Tubing trip, Mt. Creek 6:30p Chancel Handbells 8:00p Chancel Choir	5 7:00p Jr. & Sr. High Pittsburgh Project Meeting Deposits Due	6 8:00a DADS With a Mission @ Rockin' Joe
7 SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY 8:30a Worship Service 8:30a Confirmation 10:00a Worship Service & Sunday School 11:00a Coffee Hour 11:30a Adult Ed Classes 1:00p Youth Musical PRE-SHOW @ 1st Pres!	8 7:30p Tree of Life Meditation class	9 9:30a Staff 5:00p Finance 7:00p Deacon Comms 7:15p Deacons 7:30p Youth Comm	10 3:45p Youth Club 7:00p Chapel Bells 7:45p 1st Church Ringers	11 7:00a Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Caldwell Diner 9:00a Old Guard 6:30p Jr. High Crazy Games 6:30p Chancel Handbells 8:00p Chancel Choir	12	13 8:00a Choir Tour Leaves for Chicago 8:00a DADS With a Mission @ Rockin' Joe 6:00p Soup Night at West Caldwell
14 8:30a Worship Service 10:00a Worship Service & Sunday School 11:00a Coffee Hour 11:30a Adult Ed Classes 	15 HOLIDAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  8:00p Nursery School Advisory Board	16 9:30a Staff 7:30p Session	17 ASH WEDNESDAY 3:45p Youth Club 7:30p Worship Service of Wholeness 	18 7:00a Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Caldwell Diner 7:00p International Program	19	20 8:00a DADS With a Mission @ Rockin' Joe 10:00a Jr. High Community Service Day 7:00p Choir Tour returns
FIDDLER ON THE ROOF goes on the road! Choir Tour to Chicago area.						
21 8:30a Worship Service 8:30a Confirmation to Liquid Church, Morristown 10:00a Worship Service Sunday School 11:30a Adult Ed Classes 11:00a ANNUAL MEETING 6:30p Esther Bible Study	22	23 9:30a Staff	24 3:45p Youth Club 7:00p Chapel Bells 7:30p <u>Lenten Bible Study</u> <u>The Way of Discernment</u> 7:45p 1st Church Ringers	25 7:00a Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Caldwell Diner 9:00a Old Guard 6:30p Chancel Handbells 6:30p Jr. Highs Garbage Ball 8:00p Chancel Choir	26 8:30p Sr. High Ice Skating@Floyd Hall	27 8:00a DADS With a Mission @ Rockin' Joe 8:30a Soup Kitchen
28 8:30a Worship Service 8:30a Confirmation 10:00a Worship Service & Sunday School 11:00a Coffee Hour 11:15p Sr. High Out to Lunch & Bible Study 3:30p Pilgrim choir 5:30p Westminster choir	<p>SOUP NIGHT 2010 AT WEST CALDWELL PRES There is nothing like a hot bowl of soup on a cold winter's night. On Saturday, February 13th, at 6:00pm, West Caldwell Pres will host their annual Soup Night in their Fellowship Hall. This longstanding tradition consists of people/families bringing a pot of homemade soup or a dessert to share, with bread and beverages provided by the hosts (Jeanne Thiemann and Karen Intili). A donation of \$3 per person is requested to cover expenses (\$5 in advance if you cannot bring soup).</p> <p>Any profit from this event will be sent to benefit Haitian disaster relief. If you care to donate to this effort, please place you donation in the basket at the door.</p> <p>Please RSVP to the church office, 973-226-5723 by Feb. 9th for those planning the event. If you are available, volunteers will be setting up for the Soup Night at 2pm in the afternoon on the 13th. You are welcome to help!</p>					