

February, 2010



The Grapevine

Growing Deeper This Lent

This Lenten season there will be a variety of special opportunities to grow in Christ. Beginning Sunday February 21 there will be a special class on “What is the Bible” taught by Dr. Shane Berg of Princeton Theological Seminary. Dr. Berg will lead us through the fascinating and miraculous story of the Bible and how it came to be. The sacred scriptures have significance beyond any other resource for revealing to us the character of God. I hope you will all come to learn more about the history of our story.

Also on Monday nights beginning the 22nd, Ashley Birk will lead a class on “The Lord’s Prayer”. This class will explore the most important prayer in our faith and will include practical opportunities to pray and experience prayer.

On Tuesday nights the sanctuary will be open for anyone who desires to simply come and be in the presence of God. There will be a few instructions and suggestions for meditation, contemplation and prayer, but mostly it will be simple unstructured time to gather with other believers and seek and experience the presence of God.

These two evening experiences will support the subject of our Lenten worship theme “The Prayers of Jesus” as we examine some of the places in scripture where we actually experience the Lord at prayer and overhear his intimate conversations with the Father.

I look forward to “growing in Christ” with you through this holy season of the church year.

Growing In Christ,

Stephen

Coming Up....

Pancake Night at APC - Feb. 16th

Everyone welcome! Proceeds to benefit the Friends of Crossroads.

Time: 5:00 pm-7:30 pm

Cost: \$4.00 (13 years +)

\$2.00 (under 13 yrs old)

Free (children under 2 yrs old)

\$20.00 (maximum per family)

Ash Wednesday Worship February 17, 2010—7:30 PM

Little Tree Preschool Registration

Open House Feb. 10 -

Call Jill Kurzeja at 259-9005 for information

In Session— January, 2010

At its seventh stated meeting of the program year, the Session received reports from the Clerk, the Children's and Family Ministry, Little Tree Preschool, Music and Worship, Property and the Youth Ministry, the Treasurer and Financial Secretary, the Personnel Committee, and Mission.

The Clerk reported that the following baptisms were recorded: Peyton Roberta Ann Burgy, and Mackenzie Brooke Bendas. Maureen Harshman, Director of Children's and Family Ministries, appeared before the Session to provide an overview of children's programs, namely Sunday School, ROCK and CaringKids. Did you know that 133 children are registered in the pre-K through Fifth Grade Sunday School program. ROCK and CaringKids have 62 registrants and an average of 45 children enjoy programs weekly; 26% of the attendees are from the greater Allentown community. The Clerk reported that by e-mail the Session approved a contribution from the Mission budget and a special offering for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to benefit Haiti. At a Congregational Meeting on January 10th, the terms of call for Rev. Dr. Stephen J. Hienzel-Nelson were approved, and the Congregation voted to proceed with plans to sell 21 High Street with a cross-access easement. Indications of interest in the property should be submitted to the Session by February 15th.

The Session took the following actions:

The Session approved the engagement of Westfield Architects & Preservation Consultants to prepare a preservation plan for the 1837 Sanctuary funded primarily by a grant from the NJ Historic Trust.

The Session approved the extension of the assembly use by Allies, Inc. of Crossroads through the end of the 2009 - 2010 program year.

The VIP mission presented a financial plan setting forth the funding priorities for its program in 2010; the Session approved the plan

The Session approved funding support to send 20 youth and four adults to the Presbyterian Church USA's Youth Triennium to be held at Purdue University this summer.

At the request of the Youth Ministry, the Session approved a Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, February 16th, to benefit the Youth Ministry program.

The Session approved some tree removal work in the Cemetery if the way be clear; it is intended to plant new trees to replace any taken down.

The Session wants to encourage members who can help offset the Church's per capita apportionment which supports the Presbyterian Church USA which is \$35 per active member; blue envelopes in the pews should be used for any contribution.

Youth Ministry!



crossroads youth ministry

February 16th — **Pancake Night at APC**

Everyone welcome!

Proceeds to benefit the Friends of Crossroads.

Time: 5:00 pm-7:30 pm

Cost: \$4.00 (13 years +)

\$2.00 (under 13 yrs old)

Free (children under 2 yrs old)

\$20.00 (maximum per family)

No Middle School Youth Group. Pancakes instead!

February 17th **Ash Wednesday Worship Service (Please join us!)**

Time: 7:30 pm High School Youth Group will meet as regularly scheduled.

February 18th

Shepherd Training with MARK DEVRIES!

No Middle School Youth Group.

February 26th

Middle School Winter Dance

Time: 7:30 pm-10:00 pm

Cost: \$8.00

Students pay at the door but must have original tickets signed by parents. Tickets are available to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students at Youth Group.

Save the Date! April 16th-18th

Spring Retreat at America's Keswick

Children's Ministry News

Sunday School Calendar :

Feb 4-Feb 14: Our children continue to explore the ministries of Jesus.

Feb 21: Our LENT series of lessons begins

Feb 28: ACT week. All Classes come Together to hear a story together!



Parent volunteers are always needed in Sunday School. Please contact your child's teacher if you can assist...Come spend an hour with our children!

FEBRUARY: No Communion Class



MARCH 7th: Communion Class in Schulte Hall. (Keep working on those stoles!)

MARCH 21: Special 5th Grade Sunday School Class: Parents of 5th grade students are invited to experience a "Seder" meal with their children during the SS hour.

Hosted by our very own Ginny Chech and Steve Eisenberg. More details to follow!!

KinderWorship volunteers needed. Please contact Suzanne Foley.

Nursery donations needed: Goldfish and Apple Juice. Thank you!

ROCK news:



Rock On Christian Kids

R.O.C.K. ("Rock On Christian Kids"; 3rd-5th graders):

The Spring '10 session of ROCK has begun and it's not too late to join in the fun!

Be with friends as we explore the story of Moses and the meaning and life application of the Ten Commandments!

The Caring Kids have some wonderful international service projects planned and the Choir Kids will be rehearsing our Spring musical: "Holy Moses!"

COME JOIN THE FUN Thursdays at 5:00 in Schulte Hall.

Coming Up: ROCK Lock In: Friday night, March 12th. Mark your calendars!!

Coming up!

A CELEBRATION OF HYMNS

Presented by members of the Monmouth County Chapter—American Guild of Organists

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2010— 3:00 PM

The Presbyterian Church on the Hill

10 Cold Springs Rd.

(where Deal Rd. crosses over Rt. 18)

Ocean, NJ

You are cordially invited to come sing (or simply listen to) well-known hymns!

The program will also include brief narration and related hymn-based organ repertoire.

A reception will follow the program.

FREE—ALL ARE WELCOME— BRING A FRIEND!

Deepen Your Faith This Lenten Season!

We hope you will prayerfully consider attending one or both of our special adult education offerings this Lenten Season: **What is the Bible? Taught by Dr. Shane Berg of Princeton Theological Seminary**

Sundays at 9:45 AM in the Adult Education Room

February 21 ~ March 28

Lord, Teach Us to Pray—Living the Lord's Prayer

Monday Evenings— 7-8:15 pm

February 22 ~ March 29—Adult Education Room

Led by Ashley Birk, Seminary Intern

Properties Report...

As previously stated, Allentown Presbyterian Church has been awarded a \$15000 grant from the Garden State Historic Preservation Trust Fund. The official letter of the award was received this past week. With this award in hand, APC entered into a Contract of Professional Services with Westfield Architects and Preservation Consultants on January 27, 2010. This will allow us to do an exhaustive study of the Sanctuary from a structural and mechanical perspective. Buildings and Grounds has also authorized me to pursue long overdue repairs and service to our clocks and bell tower. Our Church is synonymous with the image of Allentown and we must do every thing in our power to preserve and enhance this beautiful landmark.

Buildings and Grounds also approved the first step of improvements in the Academy kitchen. A new floor will be installed in the next two weeks and we are seeking Session approval for other updates and improvements.

The contract for the tree removal in our Cemetery has also been signed. Aspen Tree Expert Company should begin the work any day. Upon completion of the tree work, a fence is to be installed at the end of the Cemetery adjacent to the Little Tree play yard. This will, hopefully, eliminate the pedestrian traffic and related vandalism issues from the daily traffic generated by the schools opposite the Church on Rt. 539.

The Session is also moving forward with the pending sale of the property at 21 High Street. Alternate arrangements have been made for the Sunday School class that meets there when the need arises.

In Him,

Pat Gagnon

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GROWING IN CHRIST

Core Values:

Glorify God in worship;
Gather together in fellowship;
Gain greater faith in discipleship;
Give of time, talent, money;
Go out as missionaries into the world.

Decisions, Decisions, Decisions!

Recently, one of our 3rd grade Sunday School students/ROCK kids celebrated her 9th birthday.

She carefully designed and made the invitations to her party. It would be a fun celebration!

But, with a twist. She did not request any gifts. In fact, she asked for no gifts. Instead, she asked that each party guest bring a bag of groceries for the Allentown Food Pantry.

That was a hard decision, but not the way you think! It was not difficult for this young servant to decide that others needed food more than she needed presents. What WAS difficult was her decision about WHICH organization would receive the donation! The Food Pantry? HomeFront? Anchor House? Sunday School and Caring Kids time taught her about ways to help others. She collected 7 bags of food for the food pantry. Her eyes and her heart are open to the needs of others...

Another young 10 year old Sunday School student and ROCK kid decided that he didn't want anything for Christmas. His heart was so moved after a presentation on VIP at ROCK that he immediately shortened his Christmas list. All he wanted was...a GOAT. In fact, he made sure his relatives, who usually gave him presents, knew of his wishes. He received 22 goats for Christmas. His eyes and his heart are open to the needs of others...

These are just two of the many examples of the children in our midst who we are developing servant's hearts. A love for Jesus and love for others.

We don't raise our kids alone. We make a decision at baptism to have our children join the family of Christ. We make a decision to give them opportunities to encounter Christ...in worship, at Sunday School, at ROCK, at Youth Group, on mission trips, ... And, as members of God's family, we make a decision to help to raise these children...as active members of the church serving in the many ministry programs.