

May, 2010



The Grapevine

Every Sunday Is Special

As we turn for the homestretch of the church year, there are many reasons to make attending church a priority. In addition to all of the ways God meets us in worship on a weekly basis through the music, messages and fellowship of our time together; this month offers a plethora of other significant events that help to enliven our time together.

- On May 2 we gather at the table with our children who are coming to the table for the first time.
 - May 9 we honor our mother's.
 - May 16 is the Sunday we welcome our Confirmation students into the life of the church.
 - May 23 is the amazing ROCK musical, "Holy Moses!" and
- May 30 we remember those who have served us as part of the Memorial Day weekend.

I appreciate all of the positive feedback about the messages concerning the Ten Commandments. Sometimes it is helpful to get back to the basics and these messages are doing that for me. It is interesting how sometimes things that are so familiar begin to take on new contours when we have stepped away from them for a while and then come back with fresh eyes and ears. That is how I feel about this series.

I look forward to seeing each of you in church this month!

Growing In Christ,

Stephen

Summer schedule begins **June 13th**—
one service at 9:30 AM followed by the
annual congregational meeting
Get your year-end reports in!!

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New Member Class begins
9:45 AM (Cornell House)

*If you would like to find out more about APC ...
this informative class is for you!
Everyone is invited to attend!*

Baptism's 2010

- Mackenzie Bendas
- Peyton Burgy
- Olivia Low
- Cal McClave
- Anna Nolan
- Chase Havens
- Deven Kinney
- Caroline Davis
- Gunnar Szul



In Session— April, 2010

At its tenth 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, Buildings & Grounds, the Deacons, the Endowment Committee, Promised Land Ministries and Villages in Partnership.

The Inclusive Ministry presented its concerns for integrating children with special needs into the life of the Church. A particular concern is for food allergies. The ministry representatives proposed a policy for the Session to consider that addresses certain foods onsite. The Session referred the policy to the Administration Committee. The following baptisms were recorded: Chase Tyler Havens and Deven Kinney. Other items of interest reported included the plans for the Water Walk, the Alban Institute's workshop on grant writing and incorporating nonprofits, scheduling the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation, the status of the plans to sell 21 High Street, and the use of APC facilities by for profit entities..

The Session took the following actions:

- The Session invited the Communion Class to assist in the Service of the Lord's Supper on May 2nd.
- The Session approved the Buildings & Grounds proposals to improve the electrical and lighting systems in the Academy kitchen, to replace the furnace in the Manse and convert to natural gas, and to resurface the Manse driveway. To replace the trees removed in the Cemetery and to add Dogwood and Red Bud along the pond bank
- The Session agreed to offer the Financial Peace University program next fall.
- The Session approved a one year contract with Rapid Response for technology support.
- The Session approved, if the way be clear, a contract of sale for 21 High Street between The Allentown Presbyterian Church and Nancy L. Tindall.
- The Session changed the Worship Schedule such that one service only would begin June 13th at 9:30 A.M.
- The Session called the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation for the purpose of hearing the annual reports and the report of the Nominating Committee, electing Church officers, and approving the sale of 21 High Street for Sunday, June 13th, following the regular Worship Service, in the Sanctuary.

Properties Report May 2010

In conjunction with our grant from the N.J. Historic Preservation Trust Fund, engineers and architects from Westfield Architects spent April 26th at our Sanctuary. For six hours, they examined and photographed our Church from top to bottom. Thankfully, most of their observations were very positive. While pointing out a few items of concern, the overall analysis was a testament to our founding fathers skill and thoroughness in the construction of our beautiful house of worship.

The Manse at 118 South Main St. is set to get a new heating system this summer. After examining the options, a new high efficiency gas heater and hot water heater will be installed. The existing system is over 35 years old and in need of extensive repairs. Our contract with Petro Oil Company expires at the end of June, allowing a smooth and cost effective transition. The Manse also received a driveway resurfacing and some landscape improvements. Buildings and Grounds would like to thank Heidi Fusco for her expertise in the ongoing cosmetic enhancements at the Manse.

As a part of the continuing Cemetery enhancements, 5 large shade trees have been purchased to replace the recently removed trees. In addition, 6 new flowering trees will be planted along the lake at the rear of the property. Session also approved contracting Heritage Guild Works to restore and repair several of the old monuments. The Inlay Plot at the rear of the Cemetery is also getting some repairs as a part of our perpetual care obligation.

In anticipation of the Little Tree Preschool moving a class into the Nursery, I met with an electrical contractor to discuss lighting improvements. After examining the replacement costs, I changed all 9 fixtures to a more efficient and much brighter T-9 configuration. At about a \$300 dollar investment, the conversion satisfied all parties and a considerable savings.

The Session has also approved Phase One in our planned Kitchen upgrade. This summer, there will be extensive electric improvements and new lighting installed. There will be new pantries and some other upgrades as well.

Pat Gagnon, Director of Properties

Youth Ministry!



InnerSection

Special thanks go to Mr. Pete for working so diligently with our awesome 7th grade band, InnerSection this year. It has been a gift to have praise and worship music as a regular part of our Tuesday nights at Crossroads. InnerSection will be leading us in worship in the sanctuary on May 2, 2010 and we would like to thank all our 7th grade musicians for sharing their gifts this year. InnerSection musicians and vocalists include: Patience Boston, Cora Firkin, Zach Klopman, Marcus Lang, Craig Mallet, Sam Meerwarth, Ryan Skinner, and Emily Smith.

Mentor Dinners

The Middle School Youth will host the Mentors at Crossroads on May 18th and May 20th. The Mentor Dinners are a highlight of the youth calendar and provide an opportunity for our youth to return the hospitality they have been shown by the mentors throughout the year. Mentors can expect to receive detailed invitations in the mail.

Calendar Update

There **will be** Middle School Sunday school on May 23, 2010 but Crossroads will be closed Sunday May 30, 2010 for Memorial Day weekend.

Youth Group Closing Celebrations

The middle school youth will *ECHO* God's story at our youth group closing celebrations on May 25th and May 27th. The closing celebrations will be filled with fun, food, prayer and reflection on His story before our community scatters for the summer. All 6th, 7th and 8th grade students are welcome!

High School Youth Group BEACH CLOSING!!!

Wednesday night, May 26th the High School will meet at Crossroads at 6pm to drive to the beach for our last youth group of the year. We'll eat fish tacos at the Gazebo in Manasquan and enjoy the shore. Students, please bring \$10 to contribute to senior gifts.

Coffeehouse for a Cause

Saturday night, May 8th the High School Leadership Team is hosting Coffeehouse for a Cause. Doors open at 7pm. Admission is \$10 and all proceeds go to supporting retreat scholarships. Come out and hear young musicians from our community share their talent with us as we support Crossroads.

Confirmation Dessert

Friday evening, May 14th Confirmation Students and their families are invited to the Confirmation Dessert, where the Session of Allentown Presbyterian Church will hear our Confirmands statements of faith and welcome them into membership at APC.

Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, May 16th at the 11am service the Confirmation students will be officially welcomed into membership at APC before the congregation.

Shepherd's Grazing

Wednesday, June 2nd we will have our second ever "Youth Group for Shepherds" at 6:30pm in Crossroads. Come for a time of sharing food and fellowship and for a chance to grow deeper in faith with your fellow shepherds.

A student recently shared this about Crossroads...

Crossroads has given me the opportunity to learn about who I am. It is a unique place. Others may say its odd, but I say it's a different place because everyone is accepted for who they are. Crossroads is unexplainable.

Children's Ministry News

May, 2010



Sunday School Calendar:

5/9 and 5/16: Regular Sunday School at 9:45.

5/23: ROCK musical in worship: Holy Moses! Sunday School IS IN SESSION!

5/30: Memorial Day weekend: No Sunday School

6/6: Last week of Sunday School at 9:45; Classroom parties!!



Communion Class:

Congratulations to our Communion Class as they were invited to the Lord's Table on Sunday, May 2nd: Brian Abrahams, Ethan Blaser, Peyton Ann Burgy, Aidan Caldwell, Jillian Cary, Cole Dammann, Lisa Dammann, Ally Decker, Grace Dreher, Jordan Ferrier, Paul Fortunato, Adam Gill, Erin Gray, Russell Gutter, Courtney Hicks, Madison Hill, Deven Kinney, Courtney Krajcsovics, Robert Lotito, Juliana Matwiow, John Molnar, Joseph Molnar, Anna Nolan, Bryce Peterson, Zachary Poppe-Brubaker, Isabella Potocny, Camille Ricci, Reece Rodriguez, Julianna Shaltis, Gunnar Szul, Madison Wade, and Hope Wargo. Many thanks to our awesome Communion Class Instructors: Jill Kurzeja and Lisa Hendricksen!



One Great Hour of Sharing:

Many thanks to the children and families who participated in the Sunday School mission to participate in "One Great Hour of Sharing." God has MULTIPLIED your gifts! The Sunday School children have donated \$313.26 to help others in need around the world!



MAY IS TOOTHPASTE AND TOOTHBRUSH MONTH!:

The Sunday School is collecting toothbrushes and toothpaste (with screw caps only) for our missionaries going to Guatemala! Please bring them in all month and give them to your Sunday School Teachers or place them in the box in the back of the church.

SHOES FOR THE KIDS IN GUATEMALA!

The Sunday School is also collecting new and gently used shoes for our mission team to take the kids in Guatemala! Please send them in with the kids to Sunday School!



NURSERY and KinderWorship NEWS:

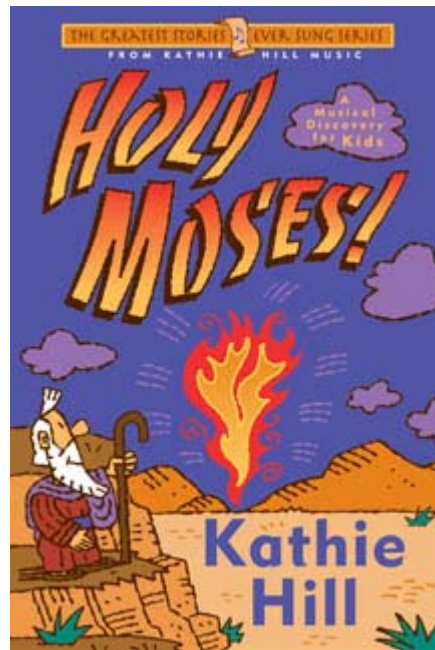
If the weather is nice, look for the children on the Little Tree playground out back!



Little Tree Preschool Registration for 2010-11
Call Jill Kurzeja at 259-9005 for information

Coming up!

The ROCK Choir program from APC invites you to join the cast of "Trading Places" at a Hebrew home and an Egyptian palace where Page Turner, Hildi Vine, Frank Incense and Ty Kwando assist kids in discovering the story of Moses. But there's no redesigning history in this musical as kids learn about the plagues, the Passover, the Exodus and the Ten Commandments through clever lyrics and memorable music. As in his own life, the emphasis of this musical is not on Moses, but the God of Moses -- the Great I AM!



Evening Performance: Friday, May 21 at 7:30 PM

Sunday Performances: May 23 at 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM



VBS is COMING! "Galactic Blast!"

Mark you calendars now: June 28- July 2nd.

**If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Carolyn German at
758-7981 or via email at germannj@verizon.net.**

ALLENTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

20 High Street
PO Box 122
Allentown, NJ 08501

Phone: (609)-259-7289
Fax: (609) 259-1022
Email: info@allentownpresbyterian.org
www.allentownpresbyterian.org



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.

One Great Hour of Sharing.... A special thanks to our Sunday School children who helped us reach an offering of \$3,869 that we will be sending to PCUSA to benefit Presbyterian Disaster, the Presbyterian Hunger program and the Self Development of People program. Thank you for your generosity.

New Jersey Historic Trust has awarded a grant to the Allentown Presbyterian Church to fund a preservation plan for our 1837 sanctuary. The Session engaged Westfield Architects and Preservation consultants to prepare the plan. The intent for creating a preservation plan was to first, investigate the condition of the building and any structural deficiencies, and, second to provide guidance for future maintenance and repair. After an initial visit by a structural engineer, the preliminary findings are that the sanctuary is in very sound condition. This is great news! We'll keep you informed of the progress in the development of the plan.