



GOOD TIDINGS

A Monthly Newsletter of The Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains

May 2011

Special points of interest:

- Happy Mother's Day!**
- All Women—All Ages Presbyterian Women's Spring Dinner at 6:15 on May 6. Sign up now to attend.**
- Men's Breakfast on Saturday, May 14 at 8:30 am. Free!**
- March with our FLOAT in the parade on 5/28**
- Pentecost and Confirmation Celebration will be held on June 12**
- Summer Worship at 10 AM Begins on June 12**
- Church Picnic is on June 12 after worship**
- Continued prayers for the Pastor Nominating Committee who have been busy searching for the pastor God is calling to lead PCMP into the future.**

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Great News from our Pastor Nominating Committee

Let me begin by telling you the background information from your PNC. Your Pastor Nominating Committee has been meeting for almost a year. Since November, we have been meeting weekly.

We have read approximately 200 Pastor Information Forms, the information that prospective pastors send to us via the Presbyterian Church (USA) web-site or through the regular mail. We made initial inquiries to the 17 candidates we felt would be the best fit for our church. We spoke directly to 12 candidates about their vision and goals for our church and had lengthy and detailed second interviews with 8 candidates. We also listened to their taped sermons.

From there we selected four candidates to visit. We invited three candidates to visit us. Two candidates did come for a weekend and spoke at a neutral pulpit nearby.

God does indeed work in the most marvelous of ways.....and on Monday, April 11, your PNC took a vote.

And now for the wonderful news.....Your PNC has selected the next pastor(s) and the details for the Terms of Call are now being worked out. **Should the Terms of Call be accepted, our pulpit will be filled, as we had hoped, before the end of Spring.**

I can tell you this... we heard from a wonderful young man early in our search, who had an amazing background and seemed the perfect fit. Many of our PNC selected to interview him right away from his written PIF. As we got to know him through phone interviews, we found his answers to our questions to be straight forward, articulate and to the point. He sent us his sermons, and we were impressed by his Biblical knowledge, his great stories and his creativity.

But there is so much more to tell. You see, his wife is also a pastor. She is young and her enthusiasm is contagious.

She has great energy and loves working with young people. Another of her strengths is in the area of mission. The best part is that the reverends have a vision of working together and serving a church as co-pastors.

So our PNC decided to learn more about the concept of Co-pastoring, and found that it is being carried out successfully in many churches. **We found many plusses to the idea of having co-pastors and felt the spirit of God moving us in that direction. We learned that co-pastors are two pastors answering one Call and receiving one salary that is shared.** Each works part time and each is considered to be a head of staff. Each brings his/her Spiritual Gifts to the position, and we feel our church would be doubly blessed to have co-pastors.

The reverends came to visit Morris Plains and fell in love with our church and our community. Our committee was excited by them and felt that they would be a wonderful fit for our church. The Reverends are young, enthusiastic, and have very diverse backgrounds and experiences. Throughout our times with them, we felt the hand of God leading us in our decisions.

There will be so much more to share in the coming weeks. We will be asking them to come soon and to lead a service. We will be hosting a reception for all to meet and greet them. **And should you, the congregation, decide to vote for them as your new pastors, they will soon be with our congregation.**

We ask that you keep us in your prayers as we work on all of the details that have to be put in place. We ask that you pray for them and for us that things do work out and that we can proceed as scheduled. Hopefully, you will feel the hand of God here in Morris Plains as the hard decisions continue to be made.

Thank you so much for your continued prayers during this exciting time of transition for our church and community.

Your PNC, Susan, Ruth, Suzanne, Tom, Bill, Brendan and Richard

Notes from the Pastor

The Days After Easter

"when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" He continues with, "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit..."

(John 20:19)

How is it that the early church ever began? The disciples had heard stories that Jesus was alive, that the tomb was empty, that he had risen, and yet, they gathered behind locked doors and were afraid. God's story does not end with the Good News of the Resurrection, it continues onward and involves people that are scared, people that doubt, people that lock the doors to keep others out. Thankfully, even when we lock the doors Jesus can still enter and confront us.

The early church would never have had a chance if it was only a gathering place, but with the power of the Holy Spirit and Jesus' words of "I am sending you" the disciples were lifted beyond their fear, beyond their doubts, and exited the locked room.

Does the church still have a place in today's world? As long as we remember that we are not only a people that are to gather together in worship, but also a people to be sent out,

empowered by the Holy Spirit, God will continue to use the church for God's greater purpose.

Over this year and a half, we can celebrate how the work of the Holy Spirit has truly sent us out into the world despite our fears, concerns, and doubts. Maybe we didn't think we would raise enough money for the various mission trips that happened last summer. Or maybe we didn't think enough food would come in for our Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter baskets. Or maybe we didn't think we would have enough helpers for Family Fun Day. Or maybe we didn't think we should do as much because we are in this time of transition and uncertainty. **But we did and we can celebrate being a congregation that has taken risks and moved out beyond our fears to share God's love with the greater world around us.**

With the risk of always leaving something out: **Let us celebrate** our involvement with: Market Street Mission, the Jersey Battered Women's Shelter, Homeless Solutions, Interfaith food pantry, the Community Soup Kitchen, the NJ Blood Bank, youth group mission trips, Walsh Hand Bell trips and concerts for the greater community, Vacation Ventures, Joyful Noise Preschool, Family Fun Day, the Boy Scouts, plus all of the other places and ways our members volunteer in the greater community. **Let us cele-**

brate our various ministries and the work they have done for the Glory of God. Praise God we do not gather behind locked doors looking at this world with fear. Breathe in the Power of the Holy Spirit and know that God can use you to make a difference in the world around us.

Peace and Blessings,
Carie

Thank You!!!!

How can I even begin to say "Thank You" for the incredible **Baby Shower** the women of the church had for me? Well, I can begin by saying: Thank You – what a joy filled day it was and I do believe my head is still spinning from all the wonderful gifts and gift cards that you all showered me with. The generosity was overwhelming. Westminster Hall was beautifully decorated, the food was fantastic, the cupcakes- decorated like babies – were adorable. Some leftover punch was sent home and Andi Mac was allowed a special treat. She really liked mommy's party drink and wanted more. Jeff, Andi Mac, and I have truly felt blessed to be a part of this congregation and we can't wait to show off "baby Morgan" when the time comes. We are so glad that you all have helped us celebrate our new bundle of joy!

Peace and Blessings,
Carie

Students

Youth Groups

We would love to see you actively involved in youth group throughout the year. Bring a friend or two! We know your schedules are busy and homework loads can be heavy. Join us when you can!!!!

Youth Group—Grades 8-12

Make new friends, explore your faith & have fun! [See the schedule online](#) at www.mppresby.org and join "**Morris Plains PYC**" on Facebook to get all the latest news and schedules.

Club Fifty6

Youth Group for **Grades 5—7** meets during the school year on Wednesday nights from 7:30 to 8:30 PM in The Attic. The [Club Fifty6 schedule](#) can be found on the church website!

RELAY FOR LIFE—Join Team GiGi and Club 56 on this walk to end cancer. In Parsippany at Veteran's Memorial Park on Rt. 46. May 14 beginning at 2 PM. COME, WALK WITH US!

Sunday School Schedule

May 1: Kid's Own Worship 9:00 downstairs in fellowship hall

Grades 3 and up come upstairs for communion

Scripture: Matthew 27:27-56, 28:1-10
Theme: The Resurrection: Jesus Comes Back to Life

May 8: Children begin upstairs in Worship then Sunday School

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:3-9
Theme: Peter Explains Belief in Jesus

May 15: Children begin upstairs in worship

Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1:1-11
Theme: Jesus Returns to Heaven

May 22: Kid's Own Worship 9:00 Downstairs in Fellowship Hall

Scripture: Psalm 23 and Acts 2:42-47
Theme: Christians care for one another

May 29: No Sunday School

June 5: Kid's Own Worship 9:00 downstairs in fellowship hall
Grades 3 and up come upstairs for communion

June 12: Pentecost/Confirmation 10 AM Worship with your Family. Celebrate the 8th graders joining the church. Followed by the Picnic!

Joyful Noise PreSchool

With spring in the air we are enjoying being outside when we can. Visions of digging in the sandbox, climbing and sliding, riding trikes, and drawing with chalk on the pavement fill our heads! At the same time, we will continue to encourage literacy with our *Rollin' into Reading* program.

To date, Joyful Noise families have read over 5,000 books to their preschoolers at home. Now through the end of the year, parents will also be visiting our classrooms to read to all of the children.

As always, we thank you for your prayers and support!
973-539-9514

Jane Whitehead, *Dir. Of Joyful Noise*

REGISTER NOW for our summer VBS program, Vacation Ventures!
Week 1 is "Hometown Nazareth!"
Week 2 is "Shake It Up Cafe!"

MEETING MAY 3 at 7 pm for anyone able to help in any way with Vacation Ventures. Please join us in the Parlor

Celebrations

*A very special
congratulations to our
oldest church member,
Grace Fretwell*

*who turned
105
on April 28th!*



| | |
|----------------------|--------|
| Heckman, Cecelia | MAY 1 |
| Risko, Ted | MAY 1 |
| Eapen, Audrey | MAY 2 |
| Contreras, Katherine | MAY 3 |
| Lanza, Virginia | MAY 3 |
| Thorne, Connor | MAY 3 |
| Altemose, Claire | MAY 5 |
| Caccavale, Kelly | MAY 5 |
| Frazzano, Jack | MAY 5 |
| Ludwig, Reed | MAY 5 |
| Morrison, Eric | MAY 5 |
| Mueller, Mary Ann | MAY 5 |
| Rider, Casey | MAY 7 |
| Smith, Kim | MAY 9 |
| Barner, Debbie | MAY 10 |
| Mull, Derek | MAY 10 |
| Ramirez, Gabriel | MAY 10 |
| Falcone, Kari | MAY 11 |

| | |
|---------------------|--------|
| Olson, Matthew | MAY 11 |
| Becht, Thomas | MAY 12 |
| Crain, Avery | MAY 12 |
| Eisnagle, Margaret | MAY 13 |
| Hutchinson, Tyler | MAY 14 |
| Ramirez, Leonardo* | MAY 14 |
| Studer, Abigail | MAY 14 |
| Barwick, Marcie | MAY 15 |
| Blaicher, Herbert | MAY 16 |
| Moore, Cliff | MAY 17 |
| Grossmann, Caroline | MAY 18 |
| Burke, Elizabeth | MAY 19 |
| Case, Tom | MAY 20 |
| Cumming, William | MAY 21 |
| Lipka, Lorri | MAY 21 |
| Romano, Heidi | MAY 21 |
| Stabbert, Ava | MAY 21 |
| Vorsheim, Linda | MAY 21 |
| Bushong, Beth | MAY 23 |
| Engel, Amy | MAY 23 |
| Hill, Colleen | MAY 23 |
| Jackson, Ian | MAY 23 |
| Toye, Brody | MAY 23 |
| Close, Parker | MAY 26 |
| Roos, Jean | MAY 26 |
| Olson, Michael | MAY 28 |
| Stock, Erich | MAY 29 |
| Frost, Chip | MAY 31 |

Please let us know your birthday and anniversary dates so we can update our church family database. Thank you!
If you'd like to know the secret to a successful marriage, just ask any of the following couples . . .

Happy Anniversary to:

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Tom & Andrea Case | 25 Years on May 4 |
| Frank & Cathy Poage | 47 Years on May 9 |
| Jeff & Ginny Fisher | 26 Years on May 25 |
| John & Lois Chambers | 55 Years on May 26 |

May 7th Wedding Wishes & Prayers to: Susan McManus and Donald Spidell

Presbyterian Women Plan Ocean Grove Getaway September 17 & 18

Share in creating joyful memories at our Ocean Retreat this Fall. REGISTER TODAY... for PW's "Getaway Retreat" at the Grove Hall Retreat Center – just an hour away at the Jersey Shore. Questions? Call Laurie Fu at 973-605-8602.



Presbyterian Women Annual Spring Dinner "The Things We Carry" Friday, May 6 at 6:15 pm

The history of purses will be celebrated. Bring your mothers, daughters, sisters, aunts and friends for an evening of fellowship and fun with PW! Due to space limitations, you must purchase your ticket in advance. Contact Laurie Fu or the church office immediately to see if the dinner is sold out.

Mission Trip News

On A Youth Mission Trip...

It's amazing what a little hard work with new friends can do in the lives of youth. It's a faith-building adventure they never forget. Teens learn valuable skills doing home repair-basic carpentry, roof repair, painting, and drywall. All they really need is a willing heart...the rest can be learned.

There's something very powerful about serving others in need. When teens develop a relationship with someone in need-**they change**. They see people in need as real people-rather than just "the poor or needy." They develop friendships. And with a little guidance from the camp program -teens take great leaps of faith and character.

It's amazing what happens when students encounter new places, cultures, and different ways of life. They develop closer relationships with each other, and best of all, with God. As a result they come home with a new sense of unity, understanding, and respect for each other.

Teens enjoy the evening programs...a series of high-impact nightly programs featuring great music, top-quality videos, games, worship experiences, and chal-



lenging presentations-all designed to help kids take the next step in their Christian faith.

The goal of every Group Workcamp is to connect teens and the residents they serve to Jesus. From Bible studies to interdenominational evening programs to devotions and service projects, everything is directed toward changing lives.

27 people are signed up for the mission week in Auburn, NY this July. We continue to fundraise so that each team member only has to pay \$300 to go on our mission trips.

Will you help us meet our goal by purchasing a "Piece of the Road?"

With thanks for your support you are invited to a Celebratory Report-Back Party on Sunday, August 14th after Worship.

We'll supply the ice cream and other goodies as well as the stories of our experiences in Auburn. Please come and help us celebrate being the hands and feet of Jesus in Auburn, NY.

Thank You for Your Prayers!

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

TURN IN YOUR ARTICLES EARLY!

RE M I N D E R :

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IS

MAY 24

office@mppresby.org

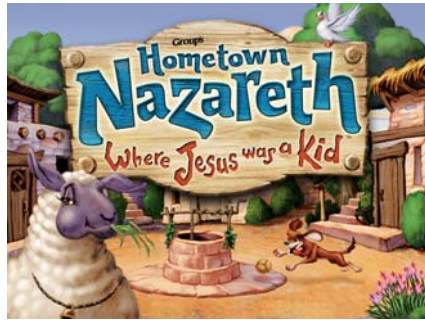
Register NOW for Hometown Nazareth and Shake It Up Cafe!

Vacation Ventures:

For Grades Rising 1st to 4th



Join us this summer for Vacation Ventures. This year, we will be offering two different programs for the two weeks. **Join us for one week or join us for both.** 5th Grade+ contact Pastor Carie if interested.



Week One:

Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus was a Kid

July 11 – 15 from 9-1
Registration cost \$50

- Day 1: Jesus had a family
- Day 2: Jesus had a name
- Day 3: Jesus had a home
- Day 4: Jesus went to church (or temple)
- Day 5: Jesus served others



Week Two: Shake it Up Café

July 18-22 from 9-1
Registration cost \$50

In this kid-friendly café full of chef's hats and aprons, pots and pans, checkered tablecloths, and chalkboard menus, kids explore the Bible as a cookbook filled with recipes for living out God's word. Through interactive lessons, that are easy for kids to apply to their lives today, boys and girls will celebrate biblical festivals that reveal ingredients for being a follower of God.

- Day 1: be ready for God
- Day 2: Give happily to God
- Day 3: Believe fully in Jesus
- Day 4: Remember Jesus often
- Day 5: Celebrate God forever

Adult and teen volunteers are needed to help out too. We can use people all week or for just one day.



Please contact Pastor Carie if you are available! Thanks –

MEETING on MAY 3 at 7 pm for anyone able to help with Vacation Ventures. Please lend a hand! Join us in the Parlor on May 3. Thank you!

Looking Ahead...

Summer Worship Hour Begins, Pentecost, Confirmation and the Church Picnic....

What do these all have in common?

They all begin at 10 AM on Sunday, June 12th.

Mark your calendars now!

Community News

Old Groups! New Groups! Any Groups!

Are you looking for your next study topic? Wondering which study guides are worth your time and effort?

Not only do we already have a great library of group study books and DVDs, we also have an **available team of advisors**, Joan and David Lioi, who can help you select an engaging and meaningful study. Joan and David have some years of experience in choosing curricula and may be able to suggest strategies for formulating good questions which can stimulate effective group discussion.

Just give them a call at **973.627.9210** or send them an email at joda62869@verizon.net to confer about selecting a study suitable for your group.

Calling All Softball Players and Fans:

Our Church will again be participating in the North Jersey Christian Softball League.

We are looking for players (16 or older) and FANS (of all ages).



The season starts the week of April 18th and ends by mid July during which we play a 12 game semi-competitive schedule usually 1 night per week.

Home games are played at Morris Plains Borough School on Thursday nights starting at 6:30.

At the end of the regular season, there are playoffs and an Annual Charity Softball Tournament. This past year league participants made donations of \$800 to the Morris County Food Pantry and \$800 to the Morris County Habitat for Humanity.

Additional information about the league can be found at the league website: www.njcsll.org.

If you're interested in participating or have questions please contact either Mark Ruiz (201 602-9583), Rob Hill (201 874-4239) or Eric Huff (917 902-4300).

We'll see you at the ball game!

Copy Cats

Copy Cats Luncheon will meet on Tuesday, May 24 at Brianna's at 12 noon. Contact Caral Harrison to sign up. 973-887-7964

Men's Ministry

Our next breakfast will be Saturday, May 14 at 8:30 AM. Our meetings are held the first and third Mondays at **8:00 PM. All men are welcome!**

Nursery Child Care for the Summer

Are you able to provide child care in the AIR CONDITIONED Nursery during the 10 AM worship this summer—even for one week? If you'd enjoy rocking a little one while listening to worship through the Nursery Room speaker, please contact Becca Swope at swopes@att.net

Book Club Welcomes You

On Monday, May 23 Book Club will meet to discuss The 19th Wife: A Novel by David Ebershoff. The author skillfully weaves a tale back and forth between the roots of nineteenth century polygamy and a modern day polygamist murder mystery. This book is woven with so much historical fact and it becomes hard to separate fact from fiction. Come join us at 7:30 PM in the parlor.

Young & Old of All Ages



Come visit camp this spring! Here are some upcoming events at Camp Johnsonburg:

Spruce Up Day, May 7, 9AM-4PM:

Come help us for a day of work and fellowship as we prepare the site for the summer. There are projects for all skill levels. Free lunch is included. So we can plan accordingly, please let our executive director Kurt Oelschlager know if you can make it (kurt@campjburg.org or 908-852-2349).

Open House, May 14, 10AM-3PM:

Come see our beautiful site and meet our staff. This is a great opportunity to learn more about our program if you've never been here before, or to introduce a friend to the camp you already love!

Camp J-burg Alumni Reunion, May 27-30:

We welcome back all former campers and employees for a weekend of catching up with old friends and making new ones. Lodging is available. Please RSVP on our website or by calling our office by May 1.

There is also still time to register for our **summer camp program!** Please see our website or contact our office for more details about event availability and other program information.

See you soon! **Johnsonburg Presbyterian Center** (an active part of Newton Presbytery!) **908-8852-2349**
www.campjburg.org
info@campjburg.org



Youth Retreat

Retreat for Grades 6 thru 8 At Camp Johnsonburg May 20-22, Cost \$99

The Power of Prayer is the theme for the weekend. Join us for some

fun at Camp J-burg as well as for prayer. These retreats fill us FAST **so please register now.** k.smith@mppresby.org

Retreat for Grades 4 & 5 At Camp Johnsonburg

June 3-4, Cost \$58

Event: I Thought You Were My Friend
For Whom: 4th and 5th Graders

Friendships can be complicated and this retreat will give us the opportunity to look at what it means to be a friend and what to do when our friends don't act like friends.

Begins on Friday evening at 8 pm and runs until 4 pm Saturday afternoon.

Register with Kim Smith now at k.smith@mppresby.org

Parents are always welcome to join us.

Club Fifty6

... our middle school youth group will be participating in the Parsippany **RELAY FOR LIFE** for the American Cancer Society.

This walkathon fundraiser begins on **Sat., May 14 at 2 PM** and people take turns walking laps throughout the night into the morning.

Club 56 has joined Virginia Lanza's team, Team GiGi. If you'd like to participate in any way, contact a middle school participant, Kim Smith or the Lanza family.

Sunday
June 12
Is a Big Day!



Pentecost
Confirmation
All Church Picnic
and the Beginning
of 10 AM Summer Worship!

A Momentous
Day in the
Life of
PCMP!



News to Share

Magic Pennies—Scrip Program

Did you know that if each family bought only one \$100 grocery store gift card each month that it would bring in over \$4000 in 2011?

Gift cards are available each week during Coffee Hour for gas stations, grocery stores, restaurants, American Express, hotels, stores and even online stores such as Amazon.com + more.

Stop by the Magic Pennies table in Westminster Hall to **see just how easy and convenient** this program is and how it can benefit **your church!**

Contact Susan Weismantel for info at psaweismantel@optonline.net or visit the www.glscrip.com website for full details.

Affordable Groceries for Anyone

Every family can use a break on the cost of groceries. The Market Street Mission now participates in a national grocery program called Angel Food Ministries.

Everyone is welcome to participate and place an order.

Visit the Angel Food website at www.angelfoodministries.com for info.

a huge thank you to the following servants for loving and caring for our children throughout the year

Did you know how many wonderful people have given their time and love to our Sunday School children? **We thank:**

Andrea Hartle
 Debbie Hill
 Christina Frazzano
 Kristin Granade
 Pat Hill
 Cheryl Bohn
 Emily Van Eeuwen
 Connie Deschaine
 Kari Falcone
 Mike Falcone
 Becca Swope
 Casey Rider
 Shannon Baloche
 Michelle Rosenfeld
 Nancy Hulst-Rubin
 Katherine Hernandez-Robinson

Suzanne Young
 Elissa Minor
 Ruth Otey
 Carie Morgan
 Steve Johnson
 Kim Smith
 Becky Hitchcock
 Debbie Rossetti
 Ben Lanza
 Jennifer Thorne
 Lynne Rider
 Kristin Becht
 Wendy Dilemma
 Shannon Cancilla
 Peter Van Eeuwen

Can we add your name to the list for this summer or next school year?

Per Capita Update

As we have noted in previous messages, the PER CAPITA apportionment is a PER MEMBER charge that we pay annually to Newton Presbytery. It represents our church's share of the administrative costs for PC (USA).

The Per Capita for 2011 is \$30 per member. Children are not included.

To date we have received \$5,288 representing under 40% of total membership. **If we could get another 60 members to pay their Per Capita we could meet the amount budgeted for 2011.**

Thank you for your consideration, from the Financial Services Ministry



Morris Plains Memorial Parade
Saturday, May 28
9 am—Meet behind Borough School with our FLOAT to MARCH, throw candy, wave flags & have fun!
 Emma Hendrickson, aged 102, in the parade!

