

Good Tidings

The Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains

Special points of interest::

**JANUARY 10
WELCOME
NEW INTERIM PASTOR
CARIE MORGAN!**

A special welcome reception will be held during Coffee Hour.

Also Jan. 10th: Your help is needed to take down the Christmas Decorations after worship. Thank you.

**ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

JANUARY 31

9 AM WORSHIP

10 AM MEETING

THEN BRUNCH

PLEASE ATTEND

Homeless cycle never ends . . .

The bank teller, the cashier, the waitress, the man picking-up your recycling. These are the faces of the hidden homeless in Morris County. People who are living their daily lives just like you and me, but they aren't like us. Every evening, we go home, but they go to a homeless shelter. In Morris County there are more that 140 homeless mothers, fathers, and children who are in county shelters, transitional housing programs, and dozens of others who have no place to call home. They may be staying in motels, or with friends and family, and most likely are moving from place to place. We don't see them, so we think that they don't exist. They are hidden homeless. They are not the man sitting on the corner of a building, and they are not the woman carrying her bags around. They are working parents who are homeless with the most vulnerable, their children.

Think about these people. Linda and Dave are parents of twins. They both work full time jobs. They met in high school and dream of white picket fences and geraniums out front. They want their kids to be healthy and happy. They worry about having enough money for college and medical expenses. Michele is a single woman. She also has a full time job. She wants to go to school to be a nurse and to find someone nice and get married. Now she works at the local fast food restaurant. Steve is only 24, but since he was diagnosed with mental illness a few years ago, he cannot work. He too, has dreams. He would like to get better and maybe live on his own. All of these people have at least two things in common: they live in homeless shelters and they live in poverty.

So, who deserves to be housed? If you had to decide, to whom would you give housing? Would you pick the family or the single woman? Maybe the man with mental illness, but he isn't working and doesn't have children. Does he deserve to be housed over a family with children? Of course, they all deserve affordable housing. Housing is a right not a privilege, but in this country, that doesn't seem to be the case.

Did you know that there isn't one state where you can work a 40-hour week earning the minimum wage and afford a two-bedroom apartment. If you earned minimum wage in Morris County, you would need to work at least 133 hours per week to afford a one-bedroom apartment, and there are only 168 hours in a week.

Families often repeat the cycle of homelessness, because they live a daily life of poverty. Poverty means unending struggles, sacrifices and difficult choices. Poverty is living without resources and limited opportunities.

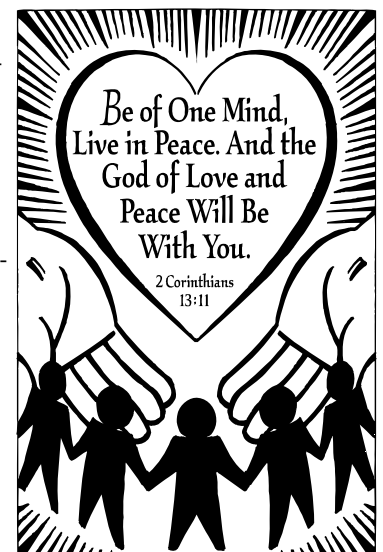
In a country as rich as ours, why are there so many in poverty? What is our obligation to fight poverty? Why do some have so much and others not even have basic human rights? This is what makes poverty a moral issue. We are all responsible to stop the cycle of poverty and homelessness. We have a responsibility to our children, friends, neighbors and ourselves. What we need is a shift in thinking that poverty is O.K. We need to look within ourselves, work proactively and make a difference.

Joann Bjornson

Executive Director of Interfaith Council for Homeless Families of Morris County

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**UPCOMING
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
EVENTS . .**

SAVE THE DATES!

LENTEN BREAKFAST

**Wednesday, February 17, 2010
9:45 am, Westminster Hall**

Join us for our annual Ash Wednesday breakfast program in observance of the beginning of the Lenten Season.

ANNUAL SPRING BANQUET

**Friday, May 7, 2010 - 6:30 pm,
Westminster Hall** Always a wonderful evening of faith and fellowship for women of all ages!

OCEAN RETREAT

"Down the Shore"

May 15-16, Ocean Grove, NJ

Don't Miss This!!! Plans are underway for this Ladies' Overnight Getaway to scenic Ocean Grove. The retreat will provide an opportunity to nurture old friendships and build new ones, while we take a break from our hectic lives to refresh and renew - and grow closer with God in the beautiful surroundings of His creation. **PLEASE plan NOW to JOIN US!!!** *Reservations will be taken soon!*

Welcome to New Interim Pastor: Carie Morgan

WELCOME to PCMP! Carie begins her interim time here on January 6, 2010. We look forward to a wonderful year with Carie as our Pastor!

Carie grew up in Wilton, CT and was involved with soccer, track and field, skiing, and her church youth group. Every summer since she was in the 6th grade through college, she spent a week volunteering with MATE (Mission at the Eastward) in Starks, Maine. It was through this experience and serving on her church's APNC that she began to hear the call to ordained ministry.

Carie attended Davidson college in NC and majored in Anthropology. After college

she volunteered with VISTA (volunteers in service to America) and taught English as a Second Language to migrant farmworker families in Florida. She also taught middle school special education for two years before entering seminary.

Carie graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary in 2000. She has served a church in Charlotte, NC as the associate minister for youth. Feeling called to return to the northeast she has been serving churches as an interim minister. Carie met her husband, Jeff, just shortly after moving to NJ four years ago. They have been married for three years and have a one year daughter,

Andi Mac. Carie and Jeff enjoy traveling, scuba diving, skiing, and of course, playing with Andi Mac. Carie is also learning to quilt and knit, but is finding little hands make these hobbies a little too challenging right now. As a pastor, Carie has enjoyed attending the Montreat Youth Conference in NC, the Triennium youth conference, mission trips to Mexico, traveling to Nairobi, Kenya with the Presbytery of Newton, and serving on the Nairobi Partnership Committee. Carie's heart in ministry is in mission outreach whether it be teaching English as a Second Language, volunteering at the soup kitchen, or sorting winter jackets for a clothing drive.

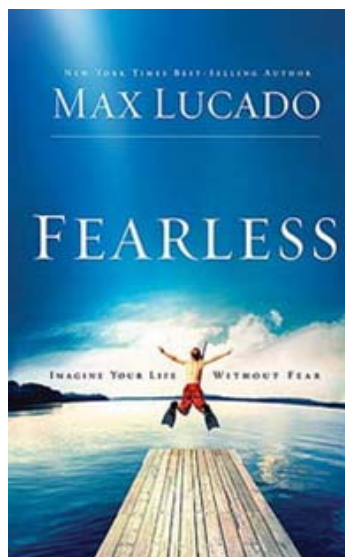
Max Lucado's "Fearless"

You're invited to join in a study of Max Lucado's book *Fearless*. In these six sessions, Max Lucado addresses some of our biggest fears and shows us how the solution may be easier than we think.

This timely study will guide us on a journey to the day when we can trust more and fear less.

Topics include: Why Are We Afraid?, Fear of Not Mattering, Fear of Disappointing God, Fear of Life's Final Moments, Fear of Global Calamity, Fear of God Getting Out of My Box.

The sessions will be structured



with DVD clips and conversation. Participants will be asked to read a chapter between each session. Look for more information in the January Good Tidings Newsletter.

This small group will begin meeting on Monday, January 11th from 7:30-9:00 PM and will continue every other week for six sessions.

See Jess Fisher or Art Huhn for more information or to sign up!

Two Boxes

I have in my hands two boxes which God gave me to hold.

He said, "put all your sorrows in the black and all your joys in the gold."

I heeded His words, and in the two boxes both my joys and sorrows I store but though the gold became heavier each day, the black was as light as before.

With curiosity I opened the black. I wanted to find out why and I saw in the base of the box a hole which my sorrows had fallen out by. I showed the hole

to God, and mused aloud, "I wonder where my sorrows could be?" He smiled a gentle smile at me. My child they're all here with Me.

I asked, "God, why give me the boxes, why the gold and black with the hole?"

"My child the gold is for you to count your blessings, the black is for you to let go."

Author Unknown

Have a Blessed New Year

Save the Dates

**Live! Here! Saturday
February 27 at 7 PM**

COMEDIAN

Charles Marshall

Tickets: \$15 in advance
\$20 at the door.

**Thursday, March 25
Dinner & Tricky Tray
at the Hanover Manor.**

Tickets sold in advance.
\$40 per person.

Sponsored by the Youth Group

New Women's Bible Study on Esther Begins January 14

Morris Plains MOPS is sponsoring a Bible study for all women of the community. So, bring your sister, your mom, a friend, a neighbor.

"Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman" explores God's providence and the hope He offers women facing challenges in our society. Esther includes 10 video sessions and nine weeks of personal study. **Beth Moore** explains how God placed a young Jewish woman who fulfilled her destiny "for such a time as this" and saved the Jews living in a pagan culture from certain destruction. Esther, though a queen, lived as an outsider in a hostile environment. Her life

offers an example for today's woman who finds it difficult to live in someone else's shadow, to see physical beauty take precedence over character, to face life-altering decisions, to move from self-preservation to brave determination, and to see mean-spirited people prevail. You will learn strong lessons of faith that will equip you to live a courageous life. Going up against heavyweights bent on her destruction, Esther trusted God and landed a blow that saved her people. The Old Testament story of Esther is a profile in courage and contains many modern parallels for today's

woman. Esther's destiny can be yours as you know more deeply the God who is in your corner." - Publishers' Note

Child care will be provided at no cost, and we are offering the study books at a reduced cost of \$10, normally \$18.99. **The study will start January 14, 9:30-11:30 am and will run 10 consecutive weeks, ending on March 18, 2010.** Don't worry if you miss a session, your book will keep you connected! To register **contact Shelly Housel** as soon as possible, books must be ordered in advance. Shelly can be reached at publicity@morrisplainsmops.org or by phone, 973-627-2256.

Children's Ed

Winter & Spring Leaders Needed For Our Children

Kids Own Worship, with a half hour of worship and then a half hour of follow-up classroom time, has been working wonderfully for our children. Stop downstairs and worship with us!

One of the benefits of our new program is that the children are getting to know their teachers and vice versa! Will you take a turn at leading a group for the winter or the Spring?

Book Club

BOOK CLUB will meet on Monday, January 25 at 7:30 PM to discuss The Shack by William Paul Young.

Everyone is talking about this popular book. It is a novel which invites you to come in close to a God of mercy and love. Join us for our discussion.

Everyone welcome.

Copy Cats

Ladies Luncheon will meet on January 26. Call Joan Morgan at 973-538-6077 for reservations.

Men's Ministry

Second Saturdays Free

Men's Breakfast & Praise

8:30 to 9:30 am

Downstairs

January 9

For Men of ALL AGES & the children in their lives.

Retired Men



Lunch will be held on January 14th at 12:30 pm in Morris Plains at Tiffany's Restaurant.

RSVP to Omer Curtis at 973-539-7218.

All retired men are welcome to join us for lunch.

January Birthday Wishes

Nutter, Owen	JAN 1
Poage, Frank	JAN 3
Sweet, Sarah	JAN 3
Housel, Madison	JAN 6
Annuik, Zachary	JAN 7
Windt, Katelynn	JAN 8
Barwick, John	JAN 9
Arthur, Rob	JAN 10
Chambers, Lois	JAN 10
Minor, Carolyn (Cara)	JAN 11
McManus, Chris	JAN 12
Case, Phyllis	JAN 13
Graziano, Nicholas	JAN 14
Ragan, John	JAN 14
Bergeron, Alex	JAN 15
Wright, Andrew	JAN 15
Wright, Beth	JAN 15
Wright, Craig	JAN 15
Eisnaugle, Harry	JAN 16
Vigilante, David	JAN 16
Falcone, Nicholas	JAN 17
Frazzano, Cristina	JAN 17
Cate, Michael	JAN 20
Kieliszewski, Laura	JAN 20
Arthur, Jennifer	JAN 21
Lindsay, Elliot	JAN 21
Hill, Andrew	JAN 22
Kavaja, Amanda	JAN 22
Housel, Bailey	JAN 23
Lombardo, Jonathan	JAN 27
Opsasnick, Kathy	JAN 27
Silvestri, Taylor	JAN 27
Hill, Ed	JAN 28
Robinson, Sabrina	JAN 29
Headden, Pamela	JAN 30
Traetto-Mendez, Holly	JAN 31

Ladies Exchange & Game Party

GAME NIGHT & "RE"-GIFT EXCHANGE Party
Friday, Jan. 22, 2010
7:30 pm Westminster Hall

(NOTE: This is a date change - Originally schedule for Jan. 8)

GAMES!

Join us for an evening of simple fun and fellowship as we share some favorite board games and group games. (You may even win a PRIZE!)

AND...

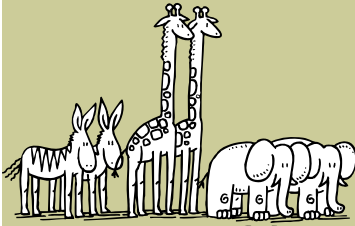
Holiday RE-Gift Exchange...

Here's your chance to trade in that "special" gift that you received for Christmas that you just aren't sure what to do with - doesn't fit?...already have one?...not your style?... can't use it?... not exactly sure *what* it is??? Bring along a wrapped gift item for a fun, post-Christmas "Grab Bag".

SNACKS will be provided too!



Mrs. Jeanne Frost



Children's Christian Daycare

Joyful Noise PreSchool & Daycare

- a ministry of our church to the community — appreciates your prayers and support. Call 973-539-9514 for enrollment info.

Every Sunday...

Kids Own Worship
(Sunday School)
at 9 AM

Worship at 9 AM
with the
Chancel Choir

Worship at 11 AM
with the
Praise Team

Childcare Available
for Pre-Schoolers
and Infants
at 11 AM

With Gratitude, Love and Best Wishes on Retirement

The following letter was given to Joyful Noise parents back in September by Jeanne Frost. It announces her plans to retire. Due to the sudden loss of our pastor, Personnel asked Jeanne to stay on a while longer, thus delaying her plans. We are very grateful to Jeanne Frost!

"After long consideration and earnest prayer, I have decided that this Spring of 2010 will be the best time for my retirement from Joyful Noise. After 31 years at Joyful Noise, I have decided that it is time for me to do some of the many things I have been putting on my "To Do List". Joyful Noise is a large, multi-faceted program and keeping up with the many demands that it has presented to me has made me grow as an individual and as a servant of God. It has been a great joy and a commitment of love. It has been a commitment that I never could have succeeded at without the terrific support of time, work, advice and love of my husband and so many wonderful Joyful Noise families and staff members. God will provide Joyful Noise with a faithful, capable, enthusiastic director and I know that the Joyful Noise community will be open to His gift and will work hard with the new director to take Joyful Noise to even better new programs. We hope to have a new director in place by the first of the year, and I will not be leaving until the Spring. This will give us an over lap of several months so that the new director can slowly begin to take over the Joyful Noise program and become very comfortable with the Joyful Noise staff, all of the families, and the children before I actually leave. I hope to give everyone the gift of time so that they can become comfortable and enthusiastic about the wonderful opportunities that my retirement will bring to the school. Joyful Noise is an excellent, strong program, served by one the best, most dedicated, and professionally accomplished staffs and I am confident that the school will continue to serve the families of this community with excellence and love for many, many years to come.

Thank you all for letting me be a part of your children's early education and part of your family's life for the past 31 years. "

Grace and Peace,
Jeanne Frost

New Director & Head Teacher of Joyful Noise Preschool

The Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains is accepting applications for the full-time, year-round salaried position (minimum 35 hours/week) of DIRECTOR and HEAD TEACHER of its Joyful Noise Preschool and Day Care program (NAEYC accredited). For over 40 years, Joyful Noise has developed an enduring legacy of developing confident students by using a wide range of educational tools and social interactions. This position would oversee over 35 staff members and coordinate the educational activities of over 200 children. The position of Director and Head Teacher includes the following position responsibilities and educational requirements:

Key Responsibilities:

- Supervise all activities of the Center involving the nursery school program, the extended day program, and the day care program.
 - Prepare and update curriculum, educational goals and objectives, guidelines, and program criteria for the school's various aged programs.
 - Advise and oversee financial concerns of the program including budget management, long-term planning, and monthly reconciliations
- Maintain positive relationships and support of the center's families, the pastor(s), the church, and the community.

Position Requirements:

- Proven strength required in written and oral communication skills, leadership and supervisory skills, ability to lead and coach staff in implementing DAP (Developmentally Appropriate Practices) and Christian based curriculum, financial management, and organizational skills.
- A minimum of 5-6 years of documented professional experience with young children.

Experience with the NAEYC accreditation process preferred.

Educational requirements:

Degree in ECE or related field with at least 9 credit-bearing hours of specialized college-level course work in leadership, administration, and management which can be in school administration, business management, communication, technology, early childhood management, or administration, or some combination of these.

All resumes should be emailed to joyful.noise@mppresby.org or submitted to the Joyful Noise's main office.

What is Per Capita?

The PER CAPITA apportionment us a PER MEMBER charge that we pay annually to Newton Presbytery. It represents our church's share of the administrative costs for Newton Presbytery, the Synod of the Northeast and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

The Per Capita for 2010 is \$29.00 per member. It does not include children who have not yet joined the church. That means if there are three church members in a family, the per capita amount would be \$87.00.

By paying your per capita amount, you enable this church to use all of your pledge mon-

neys for operating expenses, church programs and mission commitments. The total amount owed to Newton Presbytery for 2010 is \$16,849 (\$29 x 581 members).

Special Per Capita envelopes are located in your box of offering envelopes. If you do not have offering envelopes, you will find special Per Capita envelopes located in the pews beginning in January.

Thank you for your consideration.

Andrea Karr
Financial Services Ministry

2010 is here

Have
You
Pledged?



Your pledge, no matter what amount, is VITAL to planning the 2010 budget. Operating expenses such as utilities and payroll must be met each week. Ministries also depend on us. **The majority of our church family have not made a pledge for the year. Please prayerfully consider making a pledge for 2010. Thank you.**

Wed. AM Study

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study meets in the Adult Studies Room at 9:30 AM each week. **The new study will be on ESTHER.** See the article on page 3 for more details about this study. **Child care is provided.**

This warm and welcoming group would love to have you join them for lively discussion.

No experience or prior study is required—just come on over and join in.

Midweek Worship Confirmation

Wednesday Night Praise, a half hour of worship for all ages, **will resume on December 30th** from 7 to 7:30 PM. The Potluck Dinner will also be held at it's regular time of 6:15 to 7:00 PM every Wednesday.

**Can't be here this Sunday?
Join us for Mid-Week Worship!**

It's a half hour that will surely lift you up and remind you of the joy of loving and being loved by Jesus Christ.

Confirmation and Commissioning Class 2010 for all interested students in grades 8 through 12 is now forming.

An ORIENTATION MEETING will be held in Fellowship Hall at 10:30 AM on JANUARY 24 for all teens and one or both parents. RSVP to Sue Cate at 973-539-3491 or s.cate@mppresby.org.

C&C will begin with an evening retreat on Saturday, Feb. 6 at 7 PM. Confirmation will take place on Pentecost, May 23.

Use Gift Cards Everywhere You Go

Magic Pennies Gift Cards are available each week during coffee hour. **Gift Cards are available for just about everywhere! Gas Stations, Hotels, Visa, Restaurants, Stores, even online stores like Amazon.com.**

You can purchase cards we have in stock or you can order cards for delivery the following week.

Please consider using gift cards for your regular purchases. Your usage will augment the church's income.

You purchase the cards for face value and the church receives a percentage of each sale.

You can give the card as a gift or use it to do your shopping.

The discount varies by vendor. The complete list of vendors is available at the Magic Pennies table or you can go online to www.GLSCRIP.COM.

Any questions, contact Susan Weismantel at 973-343-2025 or psaweismantel@optonline.net

Scout Sunday

January 31

All Scouts are invited to participate in worship and to wear their uniforms.

Contact Jessica Fisher to sign up for Scout Sunday
J.fisher@mppresby.org
973-539-3481

Annual Meeting

The Session announces a call for a Congregational Annual Meeting to be held on **Sunday, January 31** immediately following the 9 AM worship. The meeting will be followed by a time of fellowship and a meal. Please plan to attend this important event. **Special Note:** 11 AM Worship will not be held on Jan. 31 so everyone can attend the meeting and brunch.

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**TURN IN
YOUR ARTICLES
EARLY!**

RE M I N D E R :

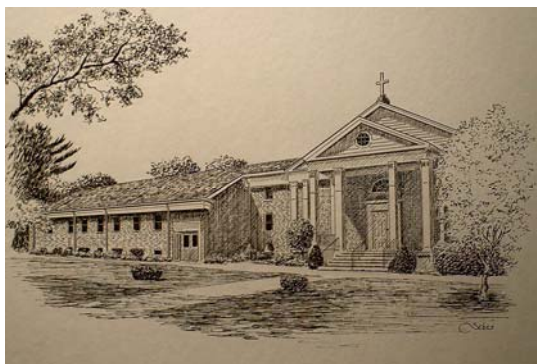
**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES IS**

JANUARY 25

The Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains

400 Speedwell Avenue
Morris Plains, NJ 07950

Phone: 973-539-3481
Fax: 973-539-1225
Email: office@mppresby.org



TO:

Joyful Celebration . . . Discover the Joy 

We're on the Web: www.mppresby.org

EVERYONE is welcome here to worship the Lord!



Upcoming Youth Group Meetings for students grades 8–12:

- Jan. 3: **No Meeting**
- Jan. 10: **Meeting 7 to 9 PM**
In The Attic
- Jan. 17: **Spaghetti Dinner**
2 PM Set up. Wear Black and White and bring a dessert to be served to our guests. Parents: your help is also needed.
- Jan. 17: **Lock-In** Stay overnight after the Spaghetti Dinner for an evening of fun. Parents: Pick up your teen by 8 AM on Jan. 18.
- Jan. 24: **Meeting 7 to 9 PM**
- Jan. 31: **Meeting 7 to 9 PM**

Use center front doors and meet upstairs in The Attic for regular meetings.

Our **Youth Group** meets on most Sunday evenings from 7 to 9 PM upstairs in "The Attic" and welcomes new members and friends in Grades 8-12. Don't hesitate to become a part of the **Youth Group!** Make new friends, explore your faith & have fun!

CLUB 56

Youth Group for Grades 5–7 meets on Wednesday nights from 7:30 to 8:30 PM in The Attic. **Stop by and get in on the fun!**



Did you receive new electronics for Christmas?

DROP OFF all Cell Phones, PDA's, MP3 Players, Lap Tops and Cameras in the collection bin. The Youth Group will recycle them for you and receive a small percentage of their value. Thank you for supporting our youth programs.



January 17 Spaghetti Dinner

5, 6 and 7 PM
Call 973-539-3481
Fellowship Hall
Walk-Ins Welcome
Take Out Available
Youth Group Fundraiser

**January 10
Please Help**
After Worship to take down the Christmas Decorations. Many hands make light work!

**Everyone is
Welcome Here!**

Worship Schedule

**Wednesdays
7 to 7:30 PM**
With the Praise Team
(Pot Luck Dinner 6:15)

**Sundays
9 AM**
With the Chancel Choir
11 AM
With the Praise Team

**2nd Saturdays
WILL BE HELD
JANUARY 9
8:30 to 9:30 AM**
At the MEN'S
BREAKFAST & PRAISE