



GOOD TIDINGS

A Monthly Newsletter of The Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains

September 2010

Special points of interest:

- NEW MEMBER CLASS begins soon. Contact Bob Lipka at rlipka@optonline.net or Carie Morgan at c.morgan@mppresby.org.**
- SUMMER WORSHIP Ends on Sept. 5**
- RETURN TO TWO WORSHIP TIMES BEGINS ON SEPT. 12 at 9 AM and 11 AM**
- SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS ON SEPT. 12 at 9 AM**
- Beginning Sept. 15 in the Parlor....**



Inside this issue:	
Community News	2
Kids & Students	3
A Place for You	3
Service Opportunities	4
Community Opportunities	5
Finding a New Pastor...	6
Two minutes of your time...	7

Notes from the Pastor...

The Kingdom of Heaven: Matthew 13:44

The kingdom of Heaven is like a TV game show, that when the contestant is told to "Come on down" he joyfully runs down to play and then strategizes to give the closest estimate for the prize. What I love about the Price is Right is how, when a person's name is called out as the next contestant on the Price is Right, they are just filled with excitement, enthusiasm, joy, and energy. People scream, they jump up and down in joy, the hug everyone that they pass by as they come on down. They have come to the show for just this moment for the chance that their name will be picked as a contestant. They are filled with excitement because they just might be the next winner of some wonderful prize.

Our God wants us to be like the people in the audience for the Price is Right. We are gathered together as a people of God for a purpose and we are waiting for the moment when we are called to be the next contestant. The kingdom of heaven is participating in God's divine plan with joy and sacrifice being fully present to differentiating the difference between material value and the value of what God offers us.

As a church, as a congregation, how would we write these parables? What is the kingdom of heaven to us? What incredible treasure do we have here? **What would make us as a congregation jump up and down in joy, hug each other, and respond to leadership with enthusiasm?** Are we a congregation that celebrates God's blessings and goodness in our lives? The kingdom of heaven is like the Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains that re-envisioned itself to be a light that shines God's light out into the greater community, where members respond to the call of church involvement with enthusiasm and joy because we are doing God's work here in this place.

Come on Down: The Price is Right

Time and Talent is needed in the following areas:

- Family Fun Day (Oct. 16)
- Coffee Hour
- Worship leader
- Usher or Greeter
- Hand Bells, Choir, Praise Team
- Nursery/Crib room
- Webmaster
- Ministry teams
- Mission/Outreach

Delivering Sunday flowers
And more!!!!

Contact Carie at c.morgan@mppresby.org
Blessings,
Carie



NEW

Mission Statement

**Approved by Session:
June 29, 2010**

Matthew 5:14-16

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

Vision Statement:

God calls the Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains to be a shining example to the world of God's love and grace.

Mission Statement:

The Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains is called to be a caring family of Christians living out our faith together and building a contagious Christian community that spreads God's love into the world.

Joyfully, we celebrate the Word of God through Bible study, diverse worship opportunities, music, prayer, and the call to serve others.

Joyfully, we nurture connections deep and wide with all ages that they may grow in their understanding of Jesus Christ.

Joyfully, we serve using our individual talents to create a caring environment that supports others in their spiritual, emotional, physical, and social needs.

Community News + Events

Staff Is Available When?

Rev. Carie Morgan is available Monday – Thursday; Friday is her day off. Depending on meetings this is an average week schedule:
 Monday: 9:30-5:00
 Tuesday: 11:30 – 9:30 (evening meetings, session, etc)
 Wednesday: 9:00 am-9:30 pm (am and pm Bible Study, Wed. night Praise service)
 Thursday: 9:30-4:00
 Sunday: Worship

Ginny Jerr: Administrative Assistant
 Monday to Friday 9:30 – 5:00

Skip Yingling: Minister of Music
 Monday is his day off
 Tuesday, Thursday, Friday – Joyful Noise in the AM
 Depending on concerts and other activities this is an average week:
 Tuesday: 1-5:30 (evening meetings 2x a month)
 Wednesday: 1-7:30 Praise service 7:00
 Thursday: 2-9 (Choir practice)
 Friday: 1-5
 Sunday: Worship

Susan Cate: Dir. of Christian Education
 Thursday is her day off.
 Monday, Tuesday, Friday afternoons.



Family FUN Day

OCTOBER 16

10 AM to 2 PM

Petting Zoo, Food & Fun for All Ages!

Please contact Carie now at c.morgan@mppresby.org if you are willing to serve on 10/16!

CE & Presbytery Monthly Meetings.

Jane Whitehead: Dir. of Joyful Noise
 Monday – Friday 9-5

Kim Smith: Dir. of Youth Ministry and Office Assistant
 Friday is her day off.
 Monday – Thursday Afternoons,
 Wednesdays usually till 9 PM.
 Sunday evenings usually 6-10 PM
 Meetings on & off site, Counseling, Time with teens, Prep. Work varies.

Leo Ramirez: Facilities Manager
 Monday – Saturday
 Schedule depends on weekly needs of the church facility

Volunteers...

There is a place for everyone to serve the Lord here at PCMP. Where do your gifts and talents lie? What are your interests? Contact any Elder or Pastor Carie for assistance in getting connected to a ministry or volunteer group.

Kids + Students

Joyful Noise Fall Registration Continues

Flexible hours
 NAEYC accredited
 Ages 2 ½ - 5 Years
 Tell your friends and call the Joyful Noise office for information and registration. **973-539-9514** Joyful Noise Preschool and Daycare - a ministry of our church to the community – appreciates your prayers and support.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS on SEPTEMBER 12 for ages birth through Grade 7 at 9 AM.

Contact our Director of Christian Education, Susan Cate at 973-539-3481 or s.cate@mppresby.org to register your child now.

Youth Group—Grades 8-12

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

Note: Participation in the Teen Summer Mission Trip to Auburn, NY on

July 23, 2011 is open to all students entering Grade 7 & older in the Fall of 2011. We would love to see you actively involved in youth group throughout the year but it is not required. We know your schedules are busy and homework loads can be heavy. Join us when you can!!!!

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 now be found on the church website! **Stop by on September 15th!**

Bible Sunday is Here! September 19th!

ALL children will begin worship in the Sanctuary and go down to Sunday School after Bibles are distributed to the 3 year olds, 3rd Graders and Confirmation Age Students.

9 AM & 11 AM NURSERY ROOM HELP NEEDED

Baby Lovers this is your chance! You can enjoy caring for our littlest ones while still being able to hear worship through the Nursery speakers. Contact Susan Cate immediately. Thank you!

NEW ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS AVAILABLE NOW

The Youth Groups continue their tradition of offering **Entertainment Coupon Books** for sale. Stop by the church office to purchase your book for SAVINGS!

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:
TURN IN YOUR ARTICLES EARLY!
 REMINDER:
DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IS SEPTEMBER 26
office@mppresby.org

Serving Opportunities & Celebrations

Handbell Opportunities

The Walsh Memorial Bell Choir Program welcomes all adults and children third grade and above who would like to participate in the music ministry of handbells. It is not necessary to be a church member, or to have previous handbell or music experience. The Bell Choir Program includes several handbell choirs, with ringers generally grouped by age and experience. Handbell choirs rehearse each week and take part regularly in worship services. They may also have opportunities to play outside the church, including extending their musical ministry in the local community and participating in events with other handbell choirs. If you are interested in participating, or have questions about the handbell program, please contact Kathy Opsasnick, (973) 627-6425, or Carl Loutzenheiser, (973) 267-1258, carl.bells@mppresby.org.

Projector Operators

We will be upgrading our projector software in September. Current operators should contact Kim Smith to learn new features in MediaShout 4.

If you are interested in becoming an operator for the first time, please contact Kim Smith. 973-539-3481 or K.smith@mppresby.org

Happy September Birthday to:

Zochowski, Preston	SEP 1
Hill, Christopher	SEP 2
Thorne, Colby	SEP 3
Gustavsen, Olivia	SEP 4
Emmons, Joan	SEP 6
Mulvey, Shannon	SEP 6
Rossetti, Debbie	SEP 6
Evans, Eleanor	SEP 7
Van Orden, Amanda*	SEP 7
Carman, Melissa	SEP 8
Collins, Lois	SEP 8
Fink, David	SEP 9
Wright, Cindy	SEP 9
Kull, Erika	SEP 11
Stock, Kari	SEP 12
Yoshioka, Rob	SEP 12
Van Eeuwen, Emily	SEP 15
Banagan, Ruth	SEP 17
Caccavale, Joe	SEP 18
Kinney, Enid	SEP 18
Hults-Rubin, Nancy	SEP 19
Kelly, David	SEP 19
Moglia, Carole	SEP 19
King, Lucinda	SEP 20
Moglia, Stephanie	SEP 20
Cantrell, Sarah	SEP 21
Huhn, Karen	SEP 21
Meyer, Brad	SEP 21
Robertson, Jim*	SEP 21
Cady, Adam	SEP 22
Hyde, Carl	SEP 22
Vigilante, Victoria	SEP 22
Traver, Emma	SEP 23
Nutter, Angela	SEP 24

Chambers, John	SEP 25
Grandusky, Michele	SEP 27
Iovino, Gerard	SEP 27
Nunn, Candy	SEP 27
Kelly, Sean	SEP 30
Stabbert, Evan	SEP 30
Witte, Catherine	SEP 30

Happy September Anniversary to:

Cusmano, Paul and Terri	SEP 2 '06
4 years	
George, Herbert and Marge	SEP 8 '56
54 years	
Wright, Rich and Cindy	SEP 10 '88
22 years	
Mendez, Juan & Holly Traetto-Mendez	SEP 22 2000
10 years	
Simmons, Karen & David	SEP 24 '05
5 years	
Traver, Amy & Heath*	SEP 30 '06
4 years	

Congratulations and Happy Celebrations to Everyone! Please let us know your birthday and anniversary dates so we can update our church family database. Thank you!

10 Years of Ordination!

Take time this month to congratulate our Interim Pastor, Carie Morgan on 10 years of Ordination as a Pastor! A special reception will be held during Coffee Hour on Rally Sunday, Sept. 19th at 10 AM. See you there!

Groups + Communities

Entertainment and Dining Group

The Dining and Entertainment Group is taking a "field-trip" and all are invited to come along!

The Screwtape Letters--a play based on C.S. Lewis' Novel - Join us to see "The Screwtape Letters", on *Sunday at 3 pm on September 26th, at New York City's West Side Theater*, an amusing and insightful correspondence between a senior devil, Screwtape, and his obstreperous and incompetent nephew, Wormwood, a "young fiend."

Meet at the theater about 2:30 pm. The play is 90 minutes without intermission. Tickets for this performance are \$49.00 each. Use the information below to purchase your tickets.

Then, join us for *post-show discussion and supper at Nancy and Rich Rubin's* home about 6:30pm. Please RSVP for *dinner* to nancyhultsrubin@hotmail.com so she can plan her preparation.

2 EASY WAYS TO PURCHASE TICKETS:

1. [Visit BroadwayOffers.com](http://VisitBroadwayOffers.com) and enter

code SLTMC44

2. Call 212-947-8844 and mention code SLTMC44

Men's Ministry

Our next breakfast will be Saturday, September 11th. Our next meeting will be Monday, September 20th.

Retired Men's Luncheon

Contact Frank Poage for details about the September Lunch. 973-538-4671.

Gardening Group

Contact Anne Arp at 973-206-1173 for more info on the Garden Tour of Short Hills.

Book Club

Will meet on Monday September 27 at 7:30 PM to discuss *My Life in France* by Julia Child. Julia Child single handedly awakened America to the pleasures of good cooking with her cookbook *Mastering the Art of French Cooking* and her television show *The French Chef*, but as she reveals in this bestselling memoir, she didn't know the first thing about cooking when she landed in

France. Indeed, when she first arrived in 1948 with her husband, Paul, she spoke no French and knew nothing about the country. She dove into French culture, buying food at local markets and taking classes at the Cordon Bleu her life changed forever. Join us to discuss this amazing book.

DISCIPLE Bible Study

Read through the whole Bible from September to June! Contact Pastor Carie. Wednesdays at both 9:30 AM and 7:30 PM **BEGINNING** on September 15. It's not too late to join.

Chancel Choir

Everyone is encouraged to sing on Sept. 12 with Linda Blank leading music. REHEARSALS begin on Sept. 16! Skip Yingling, Minister of Music, invites anyone with a love of singing to join the Chancel Choir or the Praise Team. It will bring you great joy!

Serving Opportunities & More

Loving Child Care NEEDED

Care givers urgently needed for the Nursery and Toddler Rooms from September to June at 11 AM. **Spend one or several Sundays showing love to our youngest members.** Contact Susan Cate at s.cate@mppresby.org, 973-539-3481 ext. 14.

Calling All Adults!

Westminster Hall Painting Party

Immediately following the Men's Pancake Breakfast on **Saturday, September 11, 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM**, Westminster Hall Nothing to bring. All supplies will be provided. **Sign up now through the Church Office!**

Rally Day is Sunday, September 19th...we could use your help to make Westminster Hall look fresh and welcoming for our reception. **Thanks in advance for your generosity.** Leo Ramirez & Facilities

Odds and Ends

Are you retired, working or in school? Are you looking for a way to help? Would you like to accumulate community service hours? Are you free for a little time here and there? Everyone has a gap or two in their schedule and many cannot commit to long term activities.....but **they still want to help**....lend a hand for Family Fun Day on Oct. 16 or help out with weeding or dusting or child care—serve pancakes at the Men's Breakfast—

assist with Sunday School or office work or mailings....there's a place for you to make a difference here at PCMP!

Magic Pennies

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. **A percentage of your purchase supplements the church budget.** Everybody benefits! 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 psaweimantel@optonline.net or visit the www.glscip.com website for full details.

Dominican Republic Mission Trip

Possible date Jan. 13-17, 2011. Contact Ruth Otey if interested. 973-267-9154

Habitat for Humanity

Thank you to everyone who served on the Morristown site in July. Your work is truly appreciated. If you would like more information on how you can become involved contact Adam Cady at adam.cady@gmail.com.

Food Donations are welcome for the Interfaith Food Pantry.

Communication is Key

Remember to share news about church activities OFTEN with the congregation. Go to www.mppresby.org, click on Resources > Communication Submission Form. It's easy and convenient!



New PCMP Logo

Our logo takes the informal "Mr. Joy" concept to a whole new level. We each are part of a church community, with Christ at our center, so it is fitting that our logo suggests new "joy individuals" coming together to form a cross. Some might see the logo forming a star or a beacon of light. The circle in the background symbolizes our world where we live, serve, and spread God's light. Many thanks to Jess Fisher for using her gifts to design the new logo!

"God calls the Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains to be a shining example to the world of God's love and grace."

Expand Your Experience & Knowledge

Modern Parables – Living In The Kingdom of God

Modern Parables is an **original film-based Bible study curriculum** on Jesus' parables. It uses short films of the parables combined with teaching by pastors and in-depth study materials to create an entirely new learning experience.

Modern Parables **seeks to re-create the emotional immediacy that Jesus' 1st-century audience felt** when hearing the parables. It does this by using some of the best parable scholarship and exploring it through creative filmmaking. The gut-level understanding made possible by the films is intended to drive listeners into a deeper understanding of the Bible.

Extremely Biblical – The films very accurately follow the original text.

Very Entertaining – All of the films have been produced with strong production values, and each of the films has been based on the style of different directors from the past, so each film looks and feels very different from the rest.

Truly Relevant – By modernizing the

parables, they become more accessible to a contemporary audience. People can immediately relate to what the films are saying as well as to what the pastors are teaching. The pastoral application videos show how the parables relate to our daily lives, as well as how we each fit into the broader scope of the Kingdom of God.

Beginning Thursday, September 16, at 7 PM in the Parlor, we will meet weekly to view and discuss the following parables: *Hidden Treasure, Samaritan, The Shrewd Manager, The Widow and the Judge, The Sower, and Prodigal Sons.*

If you're a movie-lover and/or want a deeper look at these amazing teachings of Jesus, come join us! For more information please contact David and Joan Lioi at 973.627.9210 or by email at jo-da62869@verizon.net so the correct number of study guides may be ordered.

Why Be A Christian? Why Is Jesus So Important?

Join us on Sunday mornings at 11 AM in the Parlor as we explore Christ's wide-

ranging impact on our lives. This study is open to all who desire to learn more about the roots of their faith. Friends are welcome! Contact Bob Lipka for more info at rlipka@optonline.net.

*Learning never felt so good!
Bring your friends!*

Horizon Bible Study—Fall Schedule

Presbyterian Women will study **Revelation**. We felt challenged to do this study and know it promises hope for our future. A life in Jesus! This study is filled with hymns of praise and adoration. This study is OPEN to all the women of our community. We meet the third Monday of the month at 7:30 PM and the third Wednesday of the month at 10 AM. The study book is \$7. For further information contact Fran Spicer at frandspicer@aol.com or at 973-895-2293.

Important Updates

Jess Fisher has begun seminary!

If you'd like to keep in touch, here is her contact info:

Jessica Fisher

Wesley Theological Seminary

4500 Massachusetts Ave., NW

Mailbox #31

Washington, DC 20016

Email: jessicasfisher@gmail.com and cell:

973-229-5206

Our prayers and condolences to the Petrucci and Barner families on their recent losses. We celebrate the lives of Terry Barner and Anthony Petrucci and rejoice in God's gift of eternal life with Him.

Temporary Address for Debbie

Barner: 9901 North Oracle Road Apt. #2206, Tucson, AZ 85704

Report from the PNC

The Pastor Nominating Committee has been meeting this summer to prepare the Church Information Form that will be used to advertise for our new pastor. This lengthy and detailed process presents our church to pastoral candidates who will feel called to serve the Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains. We will continue to meet in the coming months to interview candidates and to seek the pastor God intends for our church.

In the coming months our congregation will be kept informed of progress of the PNC. It is our hope that our members will continue to pray for the PNC and its deliberations.

Susan Vigilante, Chairperson, PNC

Stewardship Ministry

The Stewardship Ministry met on August 25th to prepare for our Season of Stewardship this year. Our theme is *Discover the Joy*, and the Stewardship Campaign is from October 24 to Discovery Sunday, which will be Thanksgiving Sunday as well.

Our church family is encouraged to pray for our stewardship goal of raising \$350,000. to maintain our programs and personnel here at the Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains and to show pastoral candidates that we are a flourishing church. It is through Stewardship pledges that our church continues to be an active and integral part of God's community. Please prayerfully consider your pledge for the upcoming year as we seek to be a blessing not only to our congregation, but to the community at large.

Susan Vigilante, Stewardship Chair

Teen Mission Experience

All 27 mission team members would like to thank the congregation for their prayers and support. Many are saying this is the best mission trip we've ever experienced. God-sightings were everywhere! This trip was truly blessed by God from the moment the teens chose Idaho as their 2010 destination, through the year of fundraising and especially during the trip. The **Nez Perce Tribe** were wonderful hosts and we truly enjoyed painting their homes, building wheelchair ramps and replacing rotting porches.

Lapwai, Idaho has a population of 1138. The land is owned by the tribe and the residents own or rent their homes and farms. It was a small, low income town full of wonderful people. We lived all week in the Lapwai Elementary School, sleeping in classrooms, eating in the cafeteria and showering in the locker rooms. Our morning and evening programs were held in the gym.

After working hard all week and enjoying the evening programs and worship, our group took a tour of the Snake River through Hells Canyon National Park. We hiked through two historic homestead ranches, toured the dam, saw a baby eagle and 5 mountain rams, cheered for fisherman, waved at rafters, and traversed Class 4 1/2 rapids as well as stopping for a picnic lunch and a swim on the Oregon side of the river. We even survived an intense dime-sized hail storm as we traveled up over a mountain top in our chartered school bus as we left the river! Thankfully we had the best bus driver, Joshua Rivera, who kept us safe all week.

Congregational Presbyterian Church in Lewiston, Idaho lent us many tools for our trip. Our group truly enjoyed worship and the sermon by Pastor Josh on August 1st. After worship we headed west back across the state of Washington and stayed overnight in the Cascade Mountains near Lake Cle Elum before catching our flight back from Seattle to Newark.

Words are not adequate to express our experience. Please take time to ask a mission team member about their trip!

The 2011 Teen Mission Trip will be to Auburn, New York with Group Work-camps from July 23 to July 31, 2011. Students entering 7th grade in the Fall of 2011 and older are encouraged to register. Space is limited. Contact [Kim Smith](#) for information.

More Community Opportunities

Spiritual Growth Small Group

convenes on 9/23 - an 8 - week study:

This is a short 8 week commitment. Come on and get your feet wet with this friendly small group study!

Network - the right people...in the right places.... for the right reasons.

Understanding God's design for you in the church.

Join our small group as we expand on the spiritual gifts survey. This 8-part study will give us the opportunity to help each other examine our strengths and determine practical ways we can make a difference - what, where, why, and how (with coffee and dessert to help the discussion along)!

First meeting is at **Karolyn Hagadorn's home on Thursday evening, September 23rd, at 7:00.** Call Karolyn at 973-361-9028, or email karolynh@optonline.net for information and directions.

Don't forget to complete a new

BLUE registration form for your child for Sunday School.

It only takes a moment and provides vital information to our teachers. Forms will be available during Coffee Hour and in the classrooms or by contacting Susan Cate.

Morris Plains Garage Sale Days

Town-wide garage sales are usually held in early October. **The youth groups will sponsor a Sale in the church parking lot on Saturday, October 2 from 9 AM to 4 PM.** Hot Dogs, drinks and baked goods will be available for sale to draw people in! If you would like to rent a table for \$10 please contact Kim Smith or the church office. K.smith@mppresby.org

Rally Day is Sunday, September 19th!

Bibles will be given to all 3 yr olds, 3rd graders & Confirmation age students and all are invited to a special reception at 10 AM in Westminster Hall.

"Who we are and where we are heading"

The Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains Approved by Session: August 24, 2010

Who we are:

We are first and foremost a church family called to worship together, pray for each other, nurture each other in faith, support each other in celebrations and sorrows, and grow together in fellowship. In mission we are called to serve those both within our congregation, our local community, and throughout the greater world.

Key words in our mission statement: caring family of Christians; building a contagious Christian community; diverse opportunities; nurture connections with all ages; serve using our talents; caring environment.

Our core values are:

- Belief in, and worship of, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
 - Fellowship and community - a true sense of church "family" which holds together through good and bad times and welcomes others into our midst
 - Mission – local and global outreach through music programs, youth programs, service programs
 - Worship through music (Bell Choirs, Praise Worship, Choirs)
 - Joyful Noise preschool and daycare providing a Christian connection to the greater community
 - Christian Education of children and youth
- Variety of worship and fellowship offerings

Our strengths are:

- A Core of hardworking Christians
 - Commitment to Bible study
 - Community involvement: Jersey Battered Women's Service; Interfaith Council for Homeless Families; Market Street Mission; Community Soup Kitchen; Interfaith Food Pantry; Holiday Food Baskets; Angel Food Ministry; Memorial Day Parade; Family Fun Day; Blood Bank; Boy Scouts; and Willow Tree;
 - Joyful Noise preschool and daycare program – 200 children enrolled throughout the week in a Christian setting
 - Traditional and Praise worship services
 - Our music programs: children, youth, and adult hand bell choirs; praise music team; Chancel Choir.
- Youth programs: including Walsh Hand Bell summer tours and summer mission trips

Where we want to go:

We seek to build a wonderful, vibrant community of faith that can't help but carry God's Spirit out into the greater community. We want to be a church family that others not only hear about but will respond by joining us on our faith journey. We desire to be a flock that does not lose any of its sheep, a community of faith that is able to stay connected with all of its members. We strive to grow the church not just in numbers but in depth of faith and discipleship. In order to do this, we need to restructure our ministries in order to provide the most effective pastoral care possible.

What we need to do to get there:

1. Encourage our church family so that we may grow internally and be strengthened in our faith and in being good stewards of our time and talents in ministry, which will then enable us to share our faith beyond our walls.
2. Nurture, train, support, and develop those who volunteer within the church ministries, as well as our current leadership and staff. Encourage and train more members to be leaders.
3. Provide meaningful, uplifting, and relevant worship, Bible Study, Christian Education, and fellowship for all ages.
4. Encourage stronger commitment to the financial stewardship of our church and its programs.
5. Evaluate the current Christian Education, Sunday School, and youth programs with a focus towards involving the children and youth both in worship and in the greater life of the church.

Pastoral Skills:

1. Preaching: we seek a pastor who preaches by blending Biblical teachings with contemporary issues. We would also appreciate a blend of both theology and spirituality in the sermons. We prefer a pastor who has a balance between a formal and relaxed preaching style.
2. Pastoral Care: involves hospital visitation, nursing homes, home visits, as well as interaction with the greater church family; creating relationships with all generations.
3. Family Ministry: to oversee and guide our children and youth programs as well as growing ways in which we can nurture our parents.
4. Congregational Revitalization: reconnecting with inactive church members, those that are no longer participating in the life of the church, and to deepen discipleship within the current active membership.
5. Delegates and empowers others through a collaborative working style as well as offering support and training when needed.
6. Head of Staff: works well with others and helps clarify and define boundaries between pastor, staff, and ministry chairs.

Feeding Your Spirit—A Fresh Approach to Volunteering



God has given each Christian two important gifts:

- Faith in Jesus Christ and his work of redemption, and thus forgiveness of sin.
- The gift of one or more special abilities to be used to unify the body of Christ to continuously build God's Kingdom.

We call these special abilities "spiritual gifts", and they're received through baptism. By knowing what gifts we have to share and how to use them, we can **create a stronger church** family. The Interim period is a time to strengthen ourselves. What a **wonderful gift we can give to our future pastor** -- a congregation that knows how each part of the family is called to serve in ministry! Not sure what your gifts are? We can help you!

The Spiritual Gift Inventory is now available on-line anytime and on paper.

* For the **online inventory** be follow this link: <http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Women-of-the-ELCA/All-our-resources/Affirming-Our-Gifts/Spiritual-Gifts-Discovery.aspx>, please forward your results with your name to Rev. Carie at c.morgan@mppresby.org

* For the **paper inventory**, starting on Sunday, September 19th and each of the next four Sundays through and including October 17th, the Spiritual Gifts Inventory will be available during coffee hour. Look for the Dove at the Spiritual Gifts Inventory table.

What's the Spiritual Gift Inventory? It's a tool to identify your spiritual gifts and a unique opportunity for personal growth.

So, take the Inventory and identify your gifts. Decide if you're already using the gifts you identify, or maybe there's a gift you would like to use but aren't. Just in case you're concerned you may not have the necessary skills, the new Membership Development Ministry will provide **skill polishing opportunities throughout the coming year** so you can more fully express your unique gifts from the Spirit.

On Sunday, October 24th we'll dedicate all spiritual gifts identified by our church family during worship services. By January you could be involved in a refreshingly rewarding experience.

Fall Usher Schedule

9:00 AM Usher Schedule

Date	Captain	Usher 1	Usher 2	Usher 3	Usher 4	Alternate 1
9/5/2010	Fu, Alan	Thompson, Bob	Van Orden, Jack	Opsasnick, Kathy	Poage, Katrina	Ragan, John
9/12/2010	Barwick, John	Barwick, Ryan	Barwick, Marcie	Barwick, Brendan	Feeney, Alan	Haas, Rus
9/19/2010	Hitchcok, Russ	Griffiths, Judy	Griffiths, Ted	Ruiz, Mark	Ruiz, Patty	Ludwig, Nancie
9/26/2010	Ragan, John	Hill, Rob	Karr, Mark	Stefancik, Bill	Falcone, Mike	Van Orden, Jack
10/3/2010	Ludwig, Nancie	H-Rubin, Nancy	Ludwig, Dale	Lomax, Kelly	Laird, Ellie	Hitchcok, Russ
10/10/2010	Olson, George	Feeney, Alan	Cantrell, Dan	H-Rubin, Nancy	Fu, Alan	Traflet, Charlie
10/17/2010	Haas, Rus	Feeney, Alan	Hill, Daniel	Hill, Dave	Thompson, Bob	Ragan, John
10/24/2010	Traflet, Charlie	Stock, Kari	Stock, Eric	Herzog, Rod	Herzog, Sandy	Olson, George
10/31/2010	Van Orden, Jack	Griffiths, Judy	Griffiths, Ted	Poage, Katrina	Stefancik, Bill	Barwick, John

If you cannot usher on your scheduled Sunday, please call the alternate first to fill in for you. If you are still unsuccessful, contact the Usher Captain for that week. If you have any problems or are unsuccessful getting a substitute please contact me. You may call me on my cell or even text me if you wish. Thank you, John Barwick, Usher Coordinator, Home: 973-455-9452 or Cell: 973-476-5220, Barwick@optonline.net

A prayer for today....Dear Lord, I thank you for this day. I thank You for my being able to see and to hear this morning.. I'm blessed because You are a forgiving God and an understanding God. You have done so much for me and You keep on blessing me. Forgive me this day for everything I have done, said or thought that was not pleasing to you. I ask now for Your forgiveness.

Please keep me safe from all danger and harm. Help me to start this day with a new attitude and plenty of gratitude. Let me make the best of each day to clear my mind so that I can hear from You.

Let me not whine and whimper over things I have no control over. Let me continue to see sin through God's eyes and acknowledge it as evil. And when I sin, let me repent, and confess with my mouth my wrongdoing, and receive the forgiveness of God.

And when this world closes in on me, let me remember Jesus' example -- to slip away and find a quiet place to pray. It's the best response when I'm pushed beyond my limits. I know that when I can't pray, You listen to my heart. Continue to use me to do Your will.

Continue to bless me that I may be a blessing to others. Keep me strong that I may help the weak.. Keep me uplifted that I may have words of encouragement for others. I pray for those who are lost and can't find their way. I pray for those who are misjudged and misunderstood. I pray for those who don't know You intimately.

I pray for those who do not share faith with others. I pray for those who don't believe. But I thank you that I believe. I believe that God changes people and God changes things. I pray for all my sisters and brothers. For every family member in their households. I pray for peace, love and joy in their homes that they are out of debt and all their needs are met.

I pray that every eye that reads this knows there is no problem, circumstance, or situation greater than God. Every battle is in Your hands for You to fight. I pray that these words be received into the hearts of every eye that sees them and every mouth that confesses them willingly.. This is my prayer. In Jesus' Name, Amen...

Noteworthy Items

On September 12 we say good-bye to our summer worship schedule and return to our regular worship times of 9 AM with music led by the Chancel Choir and 11 AM with the music led by the Praise Team. Sunday School is at 9 AM.

**Invite a friend, neighbor or co-worker to worship!
Share the love of Christ.**

Dear Friends of Market Street Mission,
This year, on Saturday, November 6, 2010 the Market Street Mission will sponsor its Twentieth Annual **Coat Giveaway** on the Green in Morristown from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Over the past twenty years, through our annual coat giveaways, we have been able to distribute well over 66,500 coats to needy people in our community, as well as helping others in surrounding communities and we look forward to another successful year.

We are seeking support from area churches, individuals and corporations to help collect coats, hats, gloves and scarves. We can arrange for these items to be picked up on Monday, Thursday or Friday throughout September and October if needed or you may drop

them off at your church or our Thrift Store which is located at 25 George Street, Morristown. Any coats that remain will be handed out at our Jersey Shore Rescue Mission Coat Giveaway or sold at very low prices in our Thrift Stores. Thank you, R. Olpinski, Market Street Mission



**Join Us on Sept. 19
For Rally Day and a
special reception!**

**9 AM: Worship
9 AM: Sunday School
10 AM: Reception
11 AM: Worship**

ALSO:

**Bible Sunday for Children and
Commissioning of All Teachers**

**Everyone is
Welcome Here!**

**Worship
Schedule**

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

**Sundays
BEGINNING 9/12
9 AM
11 AM**

**2nd Saturdays
WILL BE HELD
September 11th
8:30 to 9:30 AM
At the MEN'S
BREAKFAST & PRAISE
(Except August)**



**The
Presbyterian Church
of Morris Plains**

400 Speedwell Avenue
Morris Plains, NJ 07950
Web: mppresby.org

Phone: 973-539-3481
Fax: 973-539-1225
Email:

TO:

EVERYONE is welcome here to worship the Lord!

Summer Sundays at 10 AM Wednesdays at 7 PM

NOTE: Beginning Sept. 12 Sunday Worship is at 9 AM and 11 AM