



November 2008

Worship Schedule

Sunday, November 2
Communion Worship &
Bible School
10:00 a.m.
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING
following Worship

Sunday, November 9
Deacons Meeting
8:15 a.m.
Worship & Bible School
Chapel
10:00 a.m.
Confirmation Class & Mentor
Blessing
Chancel Choir
11:30 a.m.

Sunday, November 16
Consecration Sunday
Worship & Bible School
10:00 a.m.
Book Signing
following Worship
Chancel Choir
11:30 a.m.

Sunday, November 23
Christ the King Sunday
Worship & Bible School
10:00 a.m.
Chancel Choir
11:30 a.m.
Growing Tree Book Fair
Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
at Redeemer Lutheran
4:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 30
First Sunday of Advent
Worship & Bible School
10:00 a.m.
Chancel Choir
11:30 a.m.



The Church Office will be closed on Thursday 27th and Friday 28th in observance of Thanksgiving.

PRES NOTES will have a COMBINED December/January issue once again this year. Submissions for church news, activities and events taking place in December or January must be submitted by Monday, Nov. 16th.

PresNotes

The monthly newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Ramsey, NJ

From the Pastor's Study

Dear Members and Friends,

As we turn the calendar to November, we find ourselves moving into two wonderful seasons of the year: Thanksgiving and Advent. In my mind they are very closely related, for I am grateful for all that God has done, and continues to do, through the gift of Jesus to the world. Thanksgiving Day just seems to set the right tone for the Season of Advent.

I also like to think that this is just the right time, the perfect season of the year to annually conduct our stewardship campaign. Once again, Thanksgiving and Advent set the right understanding for what motivates our financial support for the work of God's kingdom.

First, I give out of thankfulness for all that God has given to me, not just the blessing of financial resources, but all that flows into my life from my family, my friends, and all the other meaningful relationships and activities that fill my life to overflowing. As the saying goes: *God is good, all the time!* It is a joy to give as an expression of praise and thanksgiving.

Second, Advent is a season of anticipation, of expectancy. As I consider my stewardship commitment for the coming year, I do it anticipating that God will do something in and through this congregation that I cannot even begin to expect or imagine. It is exciting to be a part of what God is doing in the world, not only through our own ministries and programs that provide for spiritual nurture and loving care right here, but also through the many opportunities we have to touch the lives of so many people all over the world.

I hope you will plan to be with us in worship on *Consecration Sunday, November 16th*, when we will be invited to make our pledges of financial support for the coming year. I hope it will truly be a joyful celebration of the promise of two wonderful seasons: Thanksgiving and Advent.

*See you in worship,
Michael*

VISIT US AT OUR NEW WEB SITE! www.ramseypc.org

November, 2008

PresNotes

is published monthly,
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The First Presbyterian
Church of Ramsey, NJ
Rev. Dr. Michael Carrier,
Pastor
15 Shuart Lane
Ramsey, NJ 07446
Office: 201-327-3879
Fax: 201-236-5095

Editorial Submissions
Welcome!

Send materials directly to
the editor, *with your
contact information* in
case of questions:

Jodi Kelly

Email (preferred):

bunkybinns@msn.com

11 Allwood Place
Hillsdale, NJ 07642
Phone: 201-358-1546
Fax: 201-358-9512

You can also leave
submissions in the
church office, clearly
marked **PresNotes** and
including your contact
info.

IMPORTANT!!!

PresNotes submissions
deadline for the
December/ January issue
will be Monday,
November 16th. Please
submit your material on
or before the deadline
date. Thank you!

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Bible School Happenings

Children's Chapel will be at 10 o'clock on **November 9th** for children in the Nursery Class through the 4th grade. 'Stewardship' will be the theme. **Please note that this is a change from the first Sunday of the month.** Fifth thru 8th graders will go directly to class at 10 o'clock on November 9th. On November 2nd, children will begin their day in the Sanctuary and proceed to class following Children's Time.

Bible School Mission Projects

The 1st and 2nd graders held a Fall Food Drive in October for the Center for Food Action, and they thank everyone who donated breakfast, lunch, dinner and snack foods to fill the shelves at the Mahwah center. At this writing, 25 bags of breakfast and lunch foods were delivered by Shirley Branna, who works at the Center during the week. Thanks to Shirley and also to the teachers, Hoover Chin and Veronica Ditko and assistant, Carolyn Edler for working with the children to make collection boxes.

Our classes share Halloween, Thanksgiving, and get well cards with the patients at Valley Hospital and 'friends-at-home' as part of our mission outreach. Thank you, children, for bringing good cheer into others' lives!

The fall semester ends on November 30th. We are very grateful for the teachers and assistants who have given their time and creativity for the opening months of Bible School. Our thanks go to Kaethe Klein, Joyce Hall, Leisyl Kleinberg, Nancy Desimone, Cheryl Oberson, Pam Weaver and Karen and Tim Edler, and our Nursery Class team, Margie Kaefer and Sarah and Chrissy Vita. Thanks also to assistants, Jennifer and Brendan Kretschmer who assisted in the Pre-K/Kdg. Class, Carolyn Edler in the 1st and 2nd grade, Steven and Thomas Felice who helped in the 3rd/4th and 5th/6th grades.

December 7th is the beginning of the Winter term, and we look forward to welcoming a new staff of teachers and all the children to Chapel that day!

**Thanks to Our
Bible School
Teachers!**



Call for Congregational Meeting

The session has called for a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 2, 2008 immediately following worship, in the Fellowship Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to:

1. Hear a report from the Nominating Committee for the Election of Church Officers
2. Hear a report from Strategic Planning about the Facilities Project for action on the Recommendation from Session
3. Any other business the session deems necessary.

Sharon Kroll
Clerk of Session



Consecration Sunday

The Consecration Sunday is to be on November 16, 2008. This is when we give to God ourselves and plans for the future of this church. The Consecration Sunday is the morning when we show to God how God's work came to us.

Consecration Sunday will be different this year. We will not be sending pledge cards out in advance. Instead, at the end of the service, you will be invited to fill out the card that you will receive that day and hand it in at the conclusion of the service. Time will be provided for couples to confer and make a decision on their pledge together.

Following worship we are planning a very special coffee hour that you will not want to miss. So when you put this date on your calendar make sure to add some extra time to stay and enjoy the refreshments and fellowship that will ensue.



BOOK SIGNING EVENT

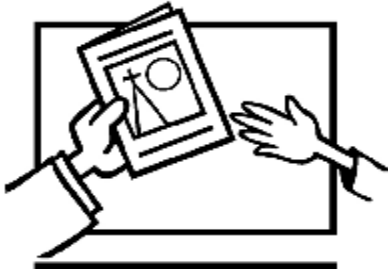
The Board of Deacons will sponsor a book-signing event for TWO distinguished (and might we also say – beloved!) authors in our midst, both with recent publications. On November 16th, following the worship service, Dr. Donald P Smith will autograph his book *“We Survived War’s Crucible”* and Dr. Charles L. Bartow will autograph his book of poems *“Dust and Prayers”*.

Don is a former member of our staff and served for a time as our Interim Pastor. He and his wife, Verna, have attended the church for many years. His book tells the true story of his missionary parent’s house arrest and dramatic rescue from a concentration camp in the Philippines, during World War II.

Chuck is Egnor Professor Speech Communication in Ministry at Princeton Theological Seminary. He is author of three books and numerous articles dealing with preaching, worship, and the oral interpretation of Holy Scripture and other literature, especially poetry. Both Chuck and his wife, Paula, attend our church and are members of the choir. *“Dust and Prayers”* is his first book of poems.

Please join us for what promises to be a wonderful morning.

Ushers & Greeters



Many thanks to our Volunteer Ushers and Coffee Hour Hosts for November! You make members and guests alike feel the welcoming spirit of our church!

November 2

Presiding Elder: Jack Linard
Ushers: Ron & Pam Weaver,
Carol Dorsey, Meg Bray
Coffee Hour: Karen & Frank Hunter

November 9

Presiding Elder: Jack Linard
Ushers: Chris & Nancy Christiansen,
Pat Linard, Shirley Branna
Coffee Hour: Melanie Harwood, Kathy Strangfeld

November 16

Presiding Elder: John Thompson
Ushers: Dan & Lynn Bergin,
Dako & Takashi Urabe
Coffee Hour: The Deacons

November 23

Presiding Elder: John Thompson
Ushers: Kay & Bob Gray,
Phyllis & Ernie Lepori
Coffee Hour:

November 30

Presiding Elder: Paul Felice
Ushers: Kimberly & John Balk,
Karen & Frank Hunter
Coffee Hour:

The church office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 27th and 28th, in celebration of Thanksgiving.

New in the Library

Library Acquisitions

For children: *What is God Like?* By Marie-Agnes Gaudrat

For adults: *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom, *Handbook for the Heart* edited by Richard Carlson and Benjamin Shield, and *The Art of the Saint John's Bible* by Susan Sink with DVD.

For Bible School teachers: A collection of books of crafts and other ideas for use in the classroom. They are located in Section 11 and marked For Reference Only.



SAVE THE DATE
DECEMBER 14TH, 2008
for the

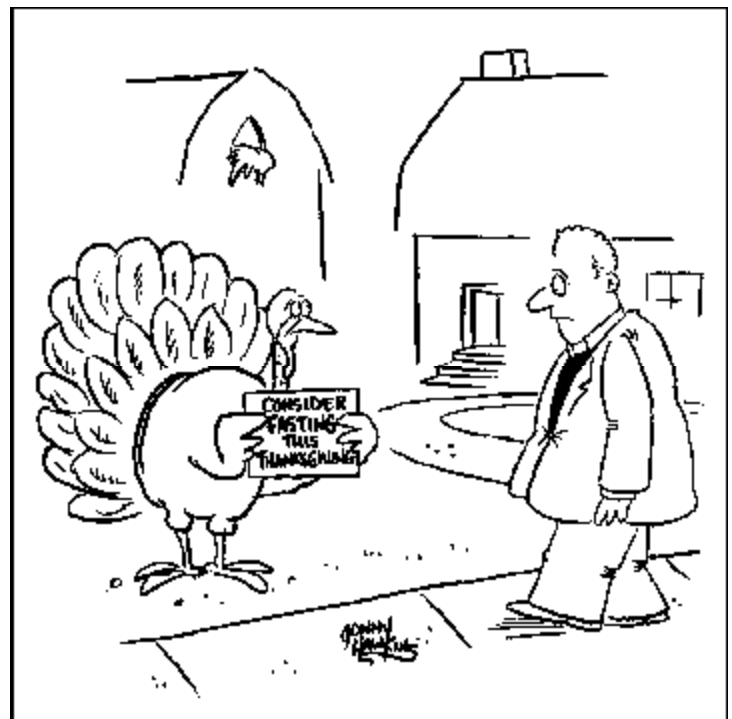
LADIES CHRISTMAS TEA

An Olde Fashioned Christmas
(a part of our 100 year celebration)

\$15.00 per ticket

Fellowship Hall

3:00pm





**Interested in being part of the
Ministry of Music
At The First Presbyterian Church, but not sure
where you fit in?**

Our Music Program includes opportunities for individuals with various amounts of background in music. If you have a desire to be part of this Ministry, there is a place for you! See where you might fit in:

Ensemble
Chancel Choir
(the ensemble with responsibility for weekly worship support)

Prerequisites
Able to 'carry a tune.'
Basic understanding of notation.
Music reading capability ideal.

Commitment Schedule
Sundays: 8:45-11:15; and
Sundays: 11:30-1:00, *AND/OR*
Tuesdays: 7:30-9:20

Agape Handbell Choir

Some experience reading music

Thursdays: 7:45-9:05
Occasional Sundays

Men's Choir

Able to 'carry a tune.'
Basic understanding of notation.

When preparing for a singing event: Thursdays, 6:30-7:40

The Children's Performing Arts Program

Ability to read (words) fluently (generally 4th grade, and up);
Older teenage assistance.

Tuesdays: 4:15-5:15
Heavier schedule leading up to Christmas Eve Pageant.

Handbell Substitute List

Must read music fluently.
--for those with an interest in playing, but who are not able to rehearse weekly. Willing to be called on occasion by a regular ringer, when an absence is unavoidable.

Extra-musical support needs:

Various: Parent support for Children's Program; Marketing/publicity/graphics design needs; Web design capabilities; music library needs; etc!



November 19th, the **Literary Ladies** are reading "Home" by Marilyn Robinson. December 11th we will lunch at noon at the Ramsey County Club. For this festive occasion, we will read any holiday story we wish and relate it to the group. Questions? Call Jane Moser, 845-504-5179.

Adult Education

First Friday Fellowship for our "65 and over" members and friends, meets on November 7th at noon for an international pot luck luncheon and fellowship. All you have to do is sign up during Fellowship Hour or call the church office (201-327-3879), so that we know how many places to set. Please speak to Florence if you are unsure of what to bring. A program with an international theme is being planned.

Looking ahead to December.....Please mark the first Friday, December 7th and join us for our early Christmas celebration!

The Connections Book Group has changed its regular meeting date to the third WEDNESDAY of the month. We are reading "The Devil in the White City" by Erik Larson for the month of November. This book intertwines the true tale of two men, the one, a brilliant architect behind the legendary 1893 World's Fair in Chicago; the other a cunning serial killer who used the fair to lure his victims. All are welcome. The book discussion will be held November 19th at 7:30 PM in the Metzger Room. Books are available at the Ramsey Library. Any questions, call Di French at 201-327-4596.



Mark Your Calendar!

Free Open House at The New Park 'N Play

The New Park 'N Play, an indoor play center for children ages 0-6, announces a free open house November 3rd through November 6th, from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm.

The New Park 'N Play provides children and their parents/caregivers an innovative and creative place to meet and play during the winter months when outside play is limited. The center is open Monday through Thursday from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm, November through April.

The New Park 'N Play is a non-profit organization run by volunteer mothers offering families a safe, clean play environment at an affordable family price.

No registration is required to attend the open house. The New Park 'N Play is located downstairs in The First Presbyterian Church, Ramsey, N.J. Parking is available on Shuart Lane or in the Church/Growing Tree lot on the corner of North Central and Darlington Avenue along the Church building.

For more information please visit www.thenewparknplay.com or call Melissa Daly at 201-760-1483.

Celebrations

Sharing our joys and special days with each other makes them all the more memorable. Here are the joys we share in November:

November Birthdays



<u>Birthdays</u>	
Nov 6	Kathy Bruinooge
12	Pat Zimmermann Jacqueline Bushman
15	Bob Zimmermann
16	Pat Greenshields
19	Jonathan Linard
25	Jane Moser
27	Bob Drennen Ralph Vita

Anniversaries

November 4, 1961	Robert & Gladys Terry
6, 1955	Nancy & John Hall (53 years)
16, 1947	Frances & Gerald Duvall (61 years)
25, 2000	Lois & Robert Kropp
26, 1955	Nancy & Bruce Mackenzie (53 years)



Planning Ahead!

“The Hanging of the Greens” will take place on Saturday, December 6th at 10 a.m.

There will be lots to do to get our church ready for Advent and the Christmas season. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall, so we know how many will have lunch. Please plan to be with us for this special time of fun (a little work too!) and fellowship.



Caroling Supper

Mark your calendars for the annual Caroling Supper, sponsored by the Christian Education Committee, on Sunday, December 7th. We'll enjoy a delicious pot

luck supper, warm up with carols, make caroling visits to our “friends-at-home,” and come together for hot chocolate and cookies afterward. Watch the Sunday bulletins for more information.



Music at First Presbyterian Church in Ramsey Announces...

The Children's Performing Arts Program

Commencing weekly Tuesday-afternoon rehearsal on October 21st!

WHO: Children with fluent reading skills (usually 4th grade) through eighth grade students. Older students are also very welcome to join as teaching assistants! *We welcome even children whose families are not members of the First Pres congregation.*

Note: Younger children will be able to participate in the Christmas Pageant.

Keep an eye out for announcements about Pageant rehearsals later in the season . . .

WHAT: An afterschool program that provides musical training and dramatic experience for our youth. Occasional musical performances by the group will occur during worship throughout the year. Members of the program will also be featured during our annual Christmas Eve Pageant.

WHEN: Tuesdays, weekly, beginning October 21st, from 4:15 pm-5:15 pm.

WHERE: First Presbyterian Church in Ramsey, Metzger Room

WHY: This program is designed so that children can learn to praise God through music, drama, and dance. In addition to the training in the arts, members of the group will become well versed in the singing tradition of the church, and develop leadership skills through their role in worship.

HOW: For more information, or to sign up, you can contact Dr. Deborah King, Director of Music, by email at cantate@dksing.com or by phone at 973-698-6927.

2008 Thanksgiving Distribution

Center for Food Action-Northwest

Sponsor Our Local Families in Need.... Please Donate a

Thanksgiving Food Basket

(Please use a large plastic laundry basket and deliver filled with your donated food.)

SUGGESTED MENU:

apple or cranberry juice	can of fruit
Parmalat milk	can of veggies & yams
coffee/tea	can of gravy
flour or baking mix	cranberry sauce (2 cans)
mayonnaise	nuts, trail mix, raisins
ready made pie crust	pumpkin pie filling
box of rice	bag of potatoes
stuffing (2 bags)	bag of apples
salad dressing	bag of onions
sugar	bag of carrots

12-15 pound frozen turkey (*Keep separate from basket*)

Please, no glass containers, alcohol or clothing items

In addition, we welcome SUPER MARKET GIFT CERTIFICATES of \$10, \$20, \$25, \$50.
Keep these separate. Do not include them in the basket or bags. PLEASE give them to a CFA staff member at the sign-in table at Lincoln Technical School.

DROP OFF: in Mahwah

WHEN: Friday Nov. 21th – From 10 am to 3:00 pm
Saturday Nov. 22th – From 10 am to 12 Noon

WHERE: Lincoln Technical Institute, 70 McKee Drive, Mahwah

From Rt. 17 N. or S. take Island Rd. exit. Turn onto McKee Drive...follow CFA signs. McKee Drive is off Island Rd., behind the State Line Diner and Burger King in Mahwah.

Bless You for Your Kindness!