

The Tidings

January 2010



Worship Schedule

Join us as we worship at 8 am and 10 am on Sunday mornings.

January 3 – “Living in the Light” – John 1:10-18

We will celebrate the Lord’s Supper and ordain and install our Elders and Deacons as we worship.

January 10 – “Jonah”

As our Rotation Workshop Sunday School begins a unit on Jonah, we will look at the story of Jonah and how God calls us to participate in fulfilling God’s plan. We will also have our contemporary service at 6:00 p.m.

January 17 – “Hear...O People of God”

How do we live out the “Shema” (Deuteronomy 6:4)

January 24 - “Our Brave Journey” – Joshua 1

We explore the impact of trusting God as we face changes in our lives.

January 31 – “The Contest”

How does God participate in our lives as we face adversity? We will again look at this subject through the experience of Elijah in 1 Kings 18:17-40..

We look forward to worshipping God together.

From The Pastor's Desk.....

Dear Friends,

We identify ourselves in so many different ways. When we are introduced to someone at a gathering, the first questions may be: "What do you do?" or "Where are you from?" or "Tell me about yourself." We may tell people where we work. We might share with someone where we grew up. We may identify ourselves as a Republican, a Democrat or an Independent. We may say that we are married, single, a parent or a grandparent. More basic than any of these aspects of our identity is our identity in Christ. We are followers of Jesus Christ. As followers of Jesus Christ, we belong to the church.

What does it mean to belong to the church? To belong to the church is to be a part of Christ's body or, as we hear in Ephesians, it is to be "members of the household of God." We are saints together. Even on days when I don't feel especially "holy," I remind myself that being a saint is not about my perfection, but God's grace. A saint is someone called out by God to live a life that glorifies God and serves the neighbor. We are saints together. We encourage one another in this calling to follow Jesus. We support one another, forgive one another and even challenge one another to respond to God's word in our daily living.

As we enter the new year, I want to challenge us to live into our calling by making three spiritual practices central in our lives:

- Worship regularly, pray daily and give faithfully. Through worship, daily devotions and generous giving, we are reminded that we belong to God and live our lives to God's glory. We will have two specific ways to further nurture our relationship with God. We invite you to read the *Bible in 90 Days*.
- Participate regularly in a small group that nurtures the spirit, feeds the mind and helps us be accountable to one another. In a large church, it is essential that we find a smaller group where we have a sense of belonging—whether it is a study group, a choir, or a youth group. Join us on Wednesdays in our Companions in Christ group.
- Serve others through some relationship beyond our normal circle of family and friends—whether it is helping with a food drive, delivering Christmas gifts or helping someone with transportation issues. God meets us in the stranger and changes us through our encounters with others.

Who are we? We are "no longer strangers and aliens, but citizens with the saints and members of the household of God."

As we enter 2010, we will learn together how to respond to God's invitation to love and grow in faith.

Peace,

Peter Wilkinson

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Our Confirmation Class will have an orientation meeting in the CE Room following worship on Sunday, January 10th. Our confirmation program is open to youth who are in eighth grade or older. The purpose of the class is to help our young people determine whether they are ready to make their own faith commitment to Jesus Christ and join the church. Our program also involves families learning and growing together.

If you are interested in participating in this program, please join us on the 10th. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Pete (petew@fpcrutherford.org).



Edna Berruti

Entered Eternal Rest: November 30, 2009

BLESSINGS TO OUR COMMUNITY

In December, our church received a gift of one million dollars from the Estate of Karen Kaiser. Karen participated in our church community and passed away suddenly in December of 2008 after moving to Pennsylvania. Our Deacons and our Congregation will benefit equally from this gift.

At this point in time, it would be very appropriate to pray. We can reflect upon how God blesses us in ways that are truly surprising. Karen passed away a year ago. Some of you may have known her pretty well. Obviously, she was committed to Christ and cared very deeply about the church. In this season of unexpected gifts that come in unexpected ways, let us continue to live out this season with hope, joy, love, and peace.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS DECEMBER 15, 2009

Attending were Designated Pastor Rev. Peter Wilkinson, Clerk of Session Galik and Elders: Gray, S. Rentschler, Adubato, Cockcroft, Walker, D. Rood, and Artime & Yenkosky. In addition Elders-elect C. Moorman, D. Miller, W. Meyer and T. Walker were in attendance. Absent were Deacon Linda Zinn and Elder Jalinski. Meeting opened at 7:05 pm.

Approved the Omnibus Motion

- **The minutes of the regular Session Meeting October 27, 2009**
- **The minutes of the special Session Meeting November 4, 2009**
- **The minutes of the special Session Meeting November 15, 2009**
- **The minutes of the Congregational Meeting November 22, 2009**
- **The minutes of the Congregational Meeting December 6, 2009**
- **The minutes of the special Session Meeting December 13, 2009**
- **To receive a bequest from the estate of Emily Jones in the amount of \$1446.10.**
- **Place on inactive – no response to letter sent – Sharon Clancy**
- **Remove from roles – Emily Jones, Edna Berruti**
- **Hold Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, February 21, 2010**
- **Approve request from the Board of Deacons to hold an Oldies Night Fund-raiser (Dinner and Dancing) on Saturday, March 13, 2010 and a Beefsteak Dinner on Saturday, November 13, 2010. Both functions to be BYOB.**
- **Approve request by the Youth Group to make the following expenditures from the Youth Fund: \$150. on three gifts for Project Christmas Morning (\$50 per gift), \$50. to purchase items for the Mission Mitten Tree, and \$300. for the Rutherford Food Pantry.**
- **Empower the Pastor to conduct the Lord's Supper as he deems necessary**
- **Empower the Pastor to conduct infant Baptisms as he deems necessary**

Baptisms: November 22, 2009 Makala Louise Dammers, daughter of Wilhelmina Huttner Dammers and William J. Dammers III, born July 29, 2009 Hackensack, N.J.
November 29, 2009 Grace Kelly Micco, daughter of Jennifer and Vince Micco, born August 15, 2009 Ridgewood, N.J.

Funerals: November 6, 2009 for Emily Jones, age 109 died November 2, 2009
December 4, 2009 for Edna Berruti, age 96 died November 30, 2009

Weddings: November 7, 2009 Kelly Jo Lasch and David Michael LaPorta
November 15, 2009 Tammy Lyn Cieri and Thomas Joseph Mikalouskas

- **Special Session Meeting to be held on Monday, 1/4/10 at 7:00 p.m. in the CE Room for the purpose of meeting with Rev. Bruce Tischler from the COM of the Palisades Presbytery to discuss additional terms they have requested for Rev. Wilkinson's Terms of Call.**

Membership - December 31, 2008	240
New Members	14
Adjustment to roles	2
Deaths	- 2
Transfers & Inactive	<u>- 23</u>
Membership – November 30, 2009	231

Communion: 8:00 a.m. service: 9/20 – 4; 9/27 – 4; 10/4 – 4; 10/11 – 9; 10/18 – 7; 10/25 – 7; 11/1 – 7; 11/8 – 7; 11/15 – 9; 11/22 – 8; 11/29 – 5; 12/6 – 6 ; 10:00 a.m. service 10/4 – 105; 11/1 – 100 Emily Jones Funeral 11/6 – 50; 12/6 - 99

- Per the Presbytery of the Palisades, they have accepted our minutes as follows: Commendations: Comprehensive, concise minutes. Omissions: Exceptions: None.
- Installation of Officers will be held on Sunday, January 3, 2010.
- Christian Education - Will change to 3 rotations for the remainder of the year
- Membership & Outreach -All publicity for events, etc. will be coordinated between Steve Adubato, Linda Zinn and Linda Walker
- Budget & Finance– November income \$30,064.56, Expense \$22,742.70, Deficit Year-to-Date \$25,200.54 64 units have pledged - \$102,994 for 2010
- **MSP – To accept the budget as submitted by the Budget & Finance Committee:**
Income - \$232,700.00 Expense - \$330,978.72 Deficit - \$98,278.72
 - **MSP to hold 2010 Session Meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.**
 - **MSP to elect Walter Meyer as Clerk of Session**
 - **MSP to elect Steve Adubato as Commissioner of Presbytery**
 - **MSP to elect Chris Ely as Accountant**

Meeting was adjourned with prayer at 9:00 p.m.

Barbara Muller, Administrator

MISSION COMMITTEE

2009 was a very busy and productive year for our Committee! We served three walk-in suppers, served twice at Peter's Place, hosted the IRF Overflow Shelter five nights in April, hosted the CROP Walk in May, made and delivered lunches for the kids at Camp Lots Of Fun in August, held the Garage Sale Fundraiser in September, collected and delivered gifts for Project Christmas Morning in November and Mitten tree in December, then shopped for the Rutherford Food Pantry and, on December 16th, delivered \$400 in groceries as our Christmas gift to them. Then there were our regular food drives and collections throughout the year. Whew! I'm tired just thinking about it!

As we turn our attention now to the New Year, the Committee would like to thank our wonderful and generous congregation for the enormous support that made all of the above activities so successful. We realize how important you are to our success, and we know how lucky we are to have your support and encouragement.

The first event in 2010 is a food drive on January 9th. Please make an effort to stop by between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. with a donation for the Food Pantry. We're looking for cold-weather comfort foods – hearty soups, stews, hot chocolate, hot cereals, baking mixes – but any donation of **unexpired** food, cleaning products or toiletries will be happily accepted. Monetary donations are also an option.

Next on our calendar is the IRF Walk-in Supper on Friday, February 5th. Thanks to our fundraising efforts, the Committee is able to provide the main meal on our own. We will, however, ask the congregation to provide desserts and, as always, we'll need volunteers to help us transport, serve and clean up. You'll be hearing more about this very soon.

May God bless you all for your generosity, support and encouragement in the past, and may you be inspired to continue working hand in hand with our hard-working little group as we go about the business of trying to make life better for those in need.

On behalf of the committee, I wish you all a new year filled with happiness, good health and peace!

Pat Yenkosky, Chair

New Beginnings...

This is a time when many of us think of new beginnings. It made me think about what kind of new beginnings we might experience in music.

For me, one of the new beginnings has already begun with the preparation of our Christmas concert. It was a time to learn much more than I had ever known about Christmas music made and nurtured in America. A selection had to be made from many more carols than we could possibly sing. Carols from early American times, from Appalachian hills, from way down south and way out west – many were new to me and will be treasured for future reference even if not sung this year. New arrangements of familiar carols brought new life and new challenges to our choir and a new listening experience to those who enjoyed our Christmas concert. Thank you to all who made that into a wonderful new beginning.

A new year presents other opportunities for new beginnings in music:

- How about brushing off an instrumental skill you might not have tried since high school days?
- What about renting an instrument you've always thought of trying, and taking a few lessons? See how it goes for a short time, there's nothing to be lost and maybe something to be gained.
- What about finding a group to sing or make music with? In our church of course we have the Chancel Choir and the Contemporary Christian group. You could try out either of those for a week or a month or more. Could there be the beginning of another music group in our church— for children, for women, for elders...a recorder group or percussion group?
- Do you have new ideas for music programs or concerts to be offered in our church? Some ideas are already circulating – let us hear yours.
- What about just a new listening experience – try a new music radio station, or the weekly Pipedreams program of organ music, or borrow from the library CDs of music new to you, or find an event in the city of music you'd love to hear live, or support a music event close to home, for example, the Rutherford Community Band or the Prospect Music Series at Rutherford Congregational Church.
- Look through the Hymnal: are there hymns you'd like to hear for the first time, or your favorites that haven't been sung in a while?

The list could go on. But instead of having just one more list, let's see if some of our ideas and wishes could become active music experiences that would bring joy and wonder into hearts and homes in this New Year.

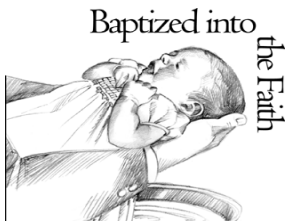
Happy New Year!
Peggy Hsiao

Welcome New Members!

Judith A. Carton
Louise J. Cavallo
Darlene D. Fiero
Carol Geragotelis
Melissa I. Rothe
Kathryn L. Rothe

November 22, 2009
Makala Louise Dammers

Daughter of William J. and Wilhelmina Huttner Dammers
Born: July 29, 2009
Place: Hackensack, New Jersey
Godparents: Stephanie & Keith Woodruff



November 29, 2009
Grace Kelly Micco

Daughter of Vincent and Jennifer Micco
Born: August 15, 2009
Place: Ridgewood, New Jersey
Godparents: Ralph Cassella and Melinda Micco

2010 Offering Envelopes
are available on the desk in the Church Office.



Those In Need of Our Prayers

Eugene Abbate	Christopher Holck
Mary Blackledge	Damian Holck
Doris Bond	Ellen James
Ernest Bond	Nicholas Nunno
Paul Brooks	Heather Orlando
J. Raymond Carey	Bill & Eileen Palangi
Betty Coleman	Ann Pettengill
Carol Cosley	Carl Pettengill
Ernest Current	Lolita Stafford
Audrey D'Anthony	Howard & Verla Tagliabue
Dorothy Dawley	Sharon Twist
Steve & Gail Galik	Andrew Vee
Vera Gray	Cheryl Vee
Charlotte Hofmann	Tom Waring



Please Pray For Those In The Armed Forces

MICHAEL J. ADUBATO
Michael is serving in the
U.S. Marine Corps as a Reservist

STAFF SERGEANT IAN BRUNDAGE
Ian is serving in the U.S. National Guard

LANCE CORPORAL JONATHAN R. ROOD
Jonathan is stationed in Afghanistan
serving in the U.S. Marine Corps

AIRMAN FIRST CLASS MELISSA L. WHITE
Melissa is stationed in Mississippi,
serving in the U.S. Air Force

MAJOR CYNTHIA YAP,
Cynthia is stationed at Lackland Air Force, Texas,
serving in the U.S. Air Force

Happy Birthday!

1/03 Charlotte Hofmann
1/03 Lilly Kampmeier
1/04 Elise Krack
1/08 Cynthia Russo
1/09 Quirino Yap
1/11 Tamara Green
1/13 Emily Corcoran
1/13 Kathryn Rothe
1/15 Judy Carton
1/15 Allyson MacConchie
1/16 Donna Kelly-Bocis
1/17 Alyse McCann



1/17 David Van Winkle
1/18 Sandra Jones
1/19 Madeleine Wilkinson
1/22 Edward Krawiec
1/22 Emma Muller
1/23 Kristina Strasser
1/24 Stephen Adubato
1/25 Mark Gentile
1/26 Leslie Samela
1/26 William Rood
1/26 Kayla Robert
1/28 Darlene Fiero
1/29 Lois Boyd

All That Glitters is ...

By Steve Adubato

Well, as I sit to write this, I'm contemplating the Christmas Seasons that have come and gone...the years when my children were young and Santa seemed to overshadow Christ's birth. I'm sure all of us that have children, or are associated with children, have stories to tell. This is a tale of my Christmas pasts.

When my daughter was about six she had to have a super terrific toy called the "Glitterator." It was a must-have and I went on a mission to acquire this gem of a plaything. Needless to say, it was one of those things that was popular and difficult to find. I finally located one at a Toys-R-Us in western Illinois and drove out to acquire it. I'm only kidding, but it may as well have been that far away considering the miles I put out locating it. (Hmmm, don't I remember something about letting your fingers do the walking?)

Anyway, the Glitterator took whatever object you chose and covered it in glitter. You would paint the object to be glittered with a thin coat of adhesive and place it in the domed structure of the contraption. This dome was clear so you could excitedly watch the conversion of the ordinary object into a sparkling glitter treasure by means of a fan and a box of colored glitter. My daughter was thrilled that Christmas morning and chose a Matchbox car to be the first article to be transformed. We took the Glitterator and the car into the basement for fear of glitter spilling on the living room carpet. The car was covered in the special glitter glue and placed in the dome. Before I could secure the dome, my daughter turned on the Glitterator. The battery operated three hundred horsepower fan engaged (okay so I exaggerate) and the dome flew off spewing a mushroom cloud of glitter all over me, Amanda and the basement. What a joyous occasion! We laughed and looked at the beautiful object that my daughter created. She was delighted, as was I for making my daughter so happy. Isn't this what Christmas is about? I have a strong aversion to glitter to this day.

Then there was the year that my Mom bought her grandchildren sturdy cardboard play bricks from the Lillian Vernon Catalog. It was a wonderful gesture because Amanda and Michael loved to build things. What concerned me was that the carton of eighty bricks was no bigger than a large clothing gift box. (This was supposed to hold fifty 8 inch bricks and thirty 12 inch bricks. On Christmas Eve, I discovered, as I had suspected, that the bricks needed to be assembled. Oh Lord, just what I needed to do at midnight. This was going to be my first lesson in Origami. The smaller bricks were difficult to get the tabs into the slots and the larger bricks' tabs didn't seem to line up with the slots. Each one had to be taped in order to hold its shape.



It took about an hour and a half but the bricks were ready to enjoy on Christmas Day, much to my Mom's delight. I was happy to see the elation in my Mom's face as her grandchildren showed her what they could build with those bricks. Seeing the pleasure in all those faces reminded me of what Christmas is about. They had them for years, that is, until the basement flooded. Oh well, another story for another time.

Then came the quest for Power Ranger action figures. My son "collected" them, and his parents, being the pushovers that they were, had to satisfy his mission to obtain all of them. I made frequent trips to the Toys-R-Us on Route 46 before that Christmas to look over their display of Power Ranger figures. I was able to acquire all the ones my son was missing except Lord Zed. He was the rare one and the one that every boy desired. I returned one day shortly before Christmas and discovered that a new shipment had arrived and now a full aisle in Toys-R-Us was devoted to these figures. There had to be at least one thousand of them staring at me from their perches on the shelves.

I went through each and every one of them and found only one Lord Zed. (At that point, I would have purchased a dozen and sold them on the secondary market.) I put it into my cart, covered it with my jacket so nobody would see it and proceeded to the register. Mission accomplished. I left other moms and dads still perusing the shelves. My son was ecstatic when he opened this particular present. His joy was my joy. Again, isn't this Christmas? Years later I remember selling it at a garage sale for fifty cents.

And who can forget the Barbie Dream Van? It was appropriately named because it was a real nightmare to assemble. The box contained a billion parts and two billion stickers to make the substandard pink and blue plastic parts look "authentic." This was another night before Christmas-put the van together marathon. It must have taken at least two hours to assemble that "Dream" van and I had many small parts left over. The instructions were in Chinese or Japanese, I don't remember which, and certainly don't know the difference, but they were not very helpful in the least. My daughter's rapturous face after she spotted that van was well worth the trouble. The meaning of Christmas displayed again. Amanda enjoyed playing with that van for a whole week before every part that wasn't attached to the main structure was lost or broken.

And I'm sure all can remember the Furby craze. Both of my children had to have a Furby. A Furby is a robotic furry creature that spoke "furbish" but learned English by mimicking what was said to it. It was covered in fur with big ears and large eyes that moved. Its mouth also moved. In other words, it was a "quality" robotic toy and was impossible to find. No place had them.



This was at a time, about ten years ago, when eBay was becoming a real source of hard-to-find merchandise. eBay is an online auction site. I purchased this twenty dollar toy on eBay for the ridiculous price of eighty dollars. I was thrilled to get one. It was a grey and pink one. I learned shortly after that my son wanted a black one and my daughter wanted a white one. I still have “my” grey and pink Furby. It sits in a curio cabinet with other “hard to find” rejects. Somehow, this went with the true meaning of Christmas. The white one and black one have long ago met their maker.

And who can forget Pokemon trading cards. Another must-have on another Christmas list from long ago. My son collected these cards and traded them with his friends. Some were quite valuable to have and were worth many cards in trade. One such card was the rare Charizard card. This card was an embossed foil coated card that my son was willing to die for. Nobody was willing to trade or sell that particular card. I was in New York one evening enjoying dinner at Vincent’s in Little Italy with my friend from Las Vegas.

After dinner, while we were walking down Mulberry Street to go to Ferrara’s Bakery for dessert, I spied a Charizard card at a street stand. It was selling for five bucks. The sap didn’t know what he was selling. I purchase it immediately and was thrilled with my acquisition and proud of the fact that I was going to be a hero in my son’s eyes. I couldn’t wait until the following day to show him. This was an item that couldn’t wait until Christmas morning! At breakfast the following day I beamed as I showed my son what I had purchased for him the night before. He looked at it, quite discriminately, and informed me that it was a counterfeit. “A counterfeit” I exclaimed! Who in their right mind would be counterfeiting Pokemon cards? It’s not like they were fifty dollar bills. I asked my son how he knew that so quickly, and he held it up to the window and said, “Because I could see through it.” I was dumbfounded. I wanted to go back to that street stand and get my money back. (Like that would actually be an option!) Oh well, one is never too old to learn. It turns out that I was the sap. I didn’t buy many Pokemon cards after that. I guess the act of forgiving and forgetting reflected the Christmas spirit.

At about this same time, my daughter became obsessed with Beanie Babies. These were small bean filled stuffed animals and were rather cute. New ones would become available on a monthly basis and this kept parents of beanie-obsessed children rather busy. Some sold out quickly and, of course, became the “must haves” of the collecting process. Fortunately, stores sprang up selling Beanies on the secondary market for outrageous prices. All the kids in my daughter’s class knew of one such store located in Belleville. Of course we had to visit that store weekly. It turned out to be a Beanie Baby heaven. And, of course, wouldn’t you know it; they sold Pokemon trading cards too! (All this and heaven too!)



My children and I made many trips to that establishment. My daughter envisioned that she would someday sell some of her Beanies and put a down payment on her first house. Her Christmas list that year included many of the collectibles from that store. Believe it or not, she still has every one of those stuffed animals. Who knows? Maybe someday they will be worth something. In either case, it was a real joy to see her face light up as she opened the presents that contained her favorites. The warmth of Christmas!

Yes, I guess that you could say that their Mom and I spoiled Amanda and Michael. I have no regrets having done that. If I had to do it again, it would be in the exact same fashion. In fact, I wish I had the opportunity to do it again. I miss it, but I have glorious memories of those times. My daughter turned 21 several weeks ago, and my son turned 20 as I write this. They have turned into wonderful, respectful, personable, Christian adults. We must have done something right.

As the excitement of purchasing gifts for your children fades into memories, the meaning of Christmas begins taking root into one's conscious. It was always there, but somehow was buried under all the "trimmings" of the season. The warmth, joy, happiness, love, and sense of belonging I enjoyed when seeing the happiness in my family's faces certainly had something to do with the meaning of Christmas. We always had the nativity scene displayed under our tree and an angel adorned its peak. We all wished Jesus a happy birthday on Christmas Day. My children actively participated in mitten trees, gifts to children's shelters, and placing coins in the buckets of Salvation Army Santas. These things were always there. I can honestly say at this point that, although I still love giving presents to my children, I get pleasure from the actual act of "giving" more. I enjoy volunteering for the Christmas Day Luncheon that our Church provides. I like providing for the Mitten Tree and giving gifts to the Children's Welfare of Bergen County. I enjoy making lunch for the seniors at Grace Episcopal Church and the camaraderie that I receive from those wonderful people.

God gave us the gift of his only Son on Christmas Day. This is truly the most spectacular gift ever given. His love for us is astounding. I'm sure that God is delighted in seeing the joy in our faces at Christmas time when we acknowledge the wonderful gift that was given to us. The happiness of the season, the solidarity that we share as Christians, the pleasure in wishing others a "Merry Christmas." These are all palpable events. We have all experienced them. I'm sure God's joy is multiplied when we make others happy at Christmastime. If this takes the form of a present, an act of kindness, or simply a smile to a stranger, we have discovered the true meaning of Christmas. Let us share that joy.

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DATED MATERIAL

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday
January 18th
Office Closed

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF RUTHERFORD
MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the First Presbyterian Church of Rutherford is to provide a sanctuary where people of faith can come to worship and foster their belief in Jesus Christ. As a church family we are an example of Christian living. Together we educate and nurture our adults and children in the teachings of our Lord and the Word of God. We extend God's grace by serving others and those in need. We welcome and invite everyone to participate in the life of our congregation. We seek to provide a loving, nurturing environment to develop a personal relationship with God.