



NEWSLETTER

December 7, 2009

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who lived in a land of deep shadow a light has shown. For the yoke that was weighing upon them, and the burden upon their shoulders, you have broken in pieces, O God.
Isaiah 9:2,4

The Longest Night Service

For many people, Christmas is a bittersweet time of year. It is a time for remembering both persons and events that have been a part of our lives in the past, but that are now changed or gone. This is the time of year with the longest nights, so around this time we offer a quiet, meditative worship service that makes time for remembering, sharing our hurting places with God, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ.

The constant refrain in the media about the happiness of the Christmas season, about getting together with family and friends, reminds many people of what they have lost or perhaps never had. The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of employment, the gut wrenching loss of a child, the loneliness of losing a spouse, the loss of a dear family pet – these can contribute to a feeling of being alone, of being profoundly sad, in the midst of the society around us which seems so focused on “being happy” and “celebrating”.

It's at times such as these that we need to make the space and take the time to acknowledge our sadness and concern. It's at times such as these that we need to be together, supporting one another in our common losses, as we worship with scripture, music, prayers and the sacrament of communion.

Please join us Sunday, December 20th at 5:00pm in the chapel for a time of special music, scripture, stories, silent reflection, healing prayer and communion.

May we all be blessed by our time together!

--Cindy

December 13, 2009
3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:15am Chapel/Communion Service
10:15am Worship/Church School/New Members

The Rev. Cynthia F. Reynolds, Preaching
The Rev. Dr. Joseph David Stinson, Presiding
“Filled with Expectation” Luke 3:7-18



Child Care for the very young provided.
11:30am Fellowship

Greeting you this week will be the Flippin Family and the Schade Family. The ushers will be Roger Nelson, Ann Bronneck, Greg Waugh and the Krien Family. The Acolyte will be Jacob Ruiz. The Videographer will be Joe Cotrone. Counters in the Treasurer's Office, David and Kathy Overmyer. Art and Pam Dawson will deliver the flowers.

The attendance last week was 138. There were 8 in the 8:15am service and 130 in the 10:15am service.

✠ IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ✠

◇ *At home:* Tom Agnew, Bob Kansky, James Hollander, Lauren Smith, Lorraine Rieder, Susan Booth, Karen

Augis, Phyllis Domenic, Madeline Edgar, Scott Spoerl, Sandra Lefkovits, Mary Keller, Bob Runge, Jim O'Brien, Walter Williams, Jack Cusick and Barbara Underwood.

◇ *In extended care facilities:* Tom Horton (Valley Hospital), Bill Luddecke (Van Dyk), Ed Warren (Stuart FL), Lacelle Stites, Art and Marilea Schlobohm (Green Hill), Betty Bishop (Juniper Village, Chatham), Don Olson (Job Haines), Robert Martin Schaeberle (Ridge at River Woods, Exeter, NH), Peg Carr Waters (North Carolina), Lucy Force (Sunrise, Woodcliff Lake).

Friends & family of our church: Ryan Munson, Eloy & Ofelia Hernandez, Andrei Padlowski, JC Egbert, Alison Krien, Stephen Strickland, Len Calvin, Andrea Row, Neil Connaghan, Bob Sherman, Helen Brabham, George Boltnew, Georgianna Booth, Agnes Joy Busk, Anna Withington, Jill Reintjes, Dan Glitzer, Sue Potter, Merrill Roberts, Joan and Frank Lytle, Barbara Acosta, Claire Meeker Xenikakis, Thomas Bright, Jim O'Brien, Sr., Amanda Oliver, Jean and Barry Frere, Jim Marturano, Elizabeth Knox, Gilda Oliver, Pat and Betty Vigliotti, Paula Newman, Frank Pescatore, Mary Embree, Jeff Glock, Bill Phillips, and UCC Missionaries Jon and Dawn Barnes in South Africa and Back Bay Mission in Biloxi. The men and women of the Armed Forces serving overseas in harm's way.

Welcome Christmas

A Holiday Music Celebration

See Flyer Below for Details

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

- ★ *The Longest Night*, 5pm on Dec. 20th in the chapel.
- ★ Bell Sunday is Dec. 20th at 10:15am.
- ★ Star of Wonder, Dec. 23rd at 1:00pm
- ★ Christmas Eve, 3 services: 4:30; 8:00 and 11:00pm.
- ★ Sunday, Dec. 27th, 9am breakfast & 10:15 carol service.

OUR THREE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

- ★ We offer many choices for Christmas Eve. The largest is the 4:30pm service with children's choirs and no sermon. It lasts about 45-50 minutes and is family/child-friendly. The format is to sing a few carols, tell the Christmas story and have a live nativity.
- ★ The 8pm service highlights the talents of our choir. The Christmas sermon is preached at this service and there is also Holy Communion. It follows the format of lessons and carols. It lasts a little more than one hour.
- ★ The 11pm service is led by the high school Young Peoples Society. There is no sermon, however, the Christmas story is read from Luke and Matthew. There are many carols and the format changes from year to year. It is also popular with college students, affording them the opportunity to reconnect with one another at Christmas. We hope you will attend one or more of our services this Christmas Eve!

BREAKFAST ON SUNDAY, DEC. 27th

We plan a breakfast on the First Sunday of Christmas at 9am in Robinson Hall. Can you help with preparations? A 10:15am service will follow in the hall, a service of carols, with a sermon by Mr. Stinson.

WOMEN'S ASSN. CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

We will gather at the church on Wednesday, December 9 for a Christmas luncheon from 11:00 to 1:00. We will have the opportunity to write Christmas cards for out of town friends as well as do a small Christmas craft. Come enjoy each other's company as we celebrate the season. For more information contact Ann Waugh 973-429-0245

STEWARDSHIP: Where we stand....

As of Monday, Dec. 7th, we have received 125 pledges for \$401,000. We need to receive another \$200,000 to underwrite fully the costs of our church. We have put David Dik's and Jill Simmons' excellent testimony from Consecration Sunday on our website under sermons from Nov. 15 and on the Action Table. Any questions, please contact the chair, Gordon Hunziker.

2009 PLEDGE REMINDER

With the end of the year fast approaching, please be sure that you have fully paid your 2009 pledge by noon on December 31st. In addition, we hope that many will be able to follow the example of some who have already paid more than they originally pledged. We need everyone's help to meet the challenges of our current financial crunch!! Thank you!



THE STAR TREE is located in the narthex with a few remaining Christmas wishes from 5 families served by the Bethel Love Food Pantry. There is a variety of ages of children and wishes - you'll see that the gifts are practical, basic items. If you choose an item of clothing for a child, and wish to include a small toy or book with your gift, you are welcome to do that. Gift certificates to Shop Rite, CVS, or KMart may be in any denomination you choose. Please return your wrapped gifts with the star attached to the outside of the package no later than this Sunday, December 13 so the gifts can be delivered to the families in time for Christmas. If you have questions, please contact Cindy Reynolds. You will perhaps be providing the only Christmas gifts these families will receive. Thank you so much for your generosity!

CONFIRMAND'S INTERPRETATION

Andrew Filliater's interpretation of Malachi 3:14-20. "This passage means to me that God wants people to worship him more. God feels that when people get lazy they choose not to serve him in the way that he deserves. When God sends a message it is to give strength and hope to those who will decide to be sincere in their prayers and offerings."

STAR OF WONDER

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR THE STAR OF WONDER to be held on December 23rd at 1pm. All children in the community are invited. Invite your friends and neighbors.



CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS

We invite you to make a donation for Christmas poinsettias for the sanctuary in memory of loved ones. Any amount is welcomed. Deadline is December 11th. Please send your check and this form to Joanne Meeker, 38 Chestnut Hill Place, Glen Ridge or call 748-9581. Please make your checks payable to the GRCC Flower Fund.

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Flowers in memory of: _____

THE NEXT WEEK AT GRCC

SUNDAY 12/13	3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
8:15am	Chapel with communion
9:00am	Bible Study
9:15am	Chancel Choir
10:15am	Worship /Church School
11:30am	Fellowship/YPS Coffee
11:30am	Wreath/Plant Sale by St. Francis Catholic Mission
3:00pm	"Welcome Christmas" A Holiday Music Celebration
MONDAY 12/14	Yoga
7:00pm	
TUESDAY 12/15	JDS USN
9:00am	Pilgrim Christmas Show
3:00pm	Confirmation
8:00pm	AA
WEDNESDAY 12/16	JDS USN PILGRIM CLOSED
3:15pm	Children's Choirs
4:15pm	Chapel Bellringers
8:00pm	Church Council
THURSDAY 12/17	PILGRIM CLOSED
6:30am	Morning Glories
12:00am	Bread for the Journey
3:00pm	SCEEP
3:30pm	Bethel Love
6:30pm	Carillon Bellringers
8:00pm	Glen Ridge Choral Society
9:00pm	Chancel Choir
FRIDAY 12/18	PILGRIM CLOSED
SATURDAY 12/19	
10:00am	Bethel Food Distribution



GLEN RIDGE CHORAL SOCIETY

CAROL CHOIR

BRASS

HANDBELLS

PERCUSSION

PIANO & ORGAN

Thomas Mustachio

Music Director

welcome
christmas!

a holiday music celebration

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2009 • 3 PM

A free-will offering will be received

GLEN RIDGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

195 Ridgewood Avenue • Glen Ridge NJ 07028

973.743.5596 • www.glenridgecong.org