



NEWSLETTER

December 14, 2009

CHURCH SCHOOL'S MESSAGE



**A GIFT FOR
ALL
CHILDREN**

THE STAR OF WONDER

Dec. 23rd 1pm: Lunch
1:30: Program



- * Hot dog lunch-Robinson Hall
- * Make Christmas cards for nursing home
- * Christmas Carol singing in the Blue Room
- * Follow our ANGEL into the sanctuary
- * Christmas music and Christmas story
- * Live nativity scene
- * "The Star of Christmas" story portrayal
- * A sweet treat and gift for all children

This event is a gift from The Ministry of Children And Youth to all the children in the community. Small children should bring an adult with them.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR THE CHRISTMAS STORY AND TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF THIS SPECIAL BABY.

PLEASE JOIN US ON THE 23RD AS WE SAY "HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS"!

Marty

**December 20, 2009
4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT
BELL SUNDAY**

**8:15am Chapel/Communion Service
10:15am Worship**

**The Rev. Dr. Joseph David Stinson, Preaching
The Rev. Cynthia F. Reynolds, Presiding**

Luke 1:39-55 "But Have You Prayed?"



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



5:00pm Longest Night Service in the Chapel

Greeting you this week will be the Duym Family and the Singh Family. The ushers will be the Zalewski Family, Jim Waters, Lynn Ritchkoff, Nancy Gage and Jill Simmons. The Videographer will be Walter Oliver. Counters in the Treasurer's Office, Alden Provost and Jim Watson. The entire committee will deliver the Christmas poinsettias.

The attendance last week was 236. There were 10 in the 8:15am service and 125 in the 10:15am service. We had 76 students and 25 staff members.

✠ 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, 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: Ruth Mustachio, 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.

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. *Children are invited to bring a new, unwrapped gift for a small baby to the 4:30p.m. Service. The gifts will be given to MEND(Meeting Emergency Needs with Dignity). Suggested items are: diapers, formula, wipes, ointments for diaper rashes, baby food, juices, stretch suits, blankets- any items that a small baby needs. And you're welcome to include along with your practical gifts, a small stuffed animal, rattle or baby toy.*

★ 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!



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.

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.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERINGS

The offerings at our Christmas Eve services will be divided between The UCC Fund for Retired & Disabled Ministers and to Jon and Dawn Barnes work in South Africa. Special envelopes will be available in your bulletins this Sunday as well as 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.

WELCOME CHRISTMAS! CONCERT

Over three hundred of us gathered at the church this past Sunday for a most enjoyable concert, Tom Mustachio's first at Glen Ridge Congregational. Besides the Carillon Bell and Chancel Choirs, the Carol Choir also offered us music of the season. Thank you to our choristers for a great afternoon!

ANNUAL REPORTS

A reminder to Chairpersons of all Ministries. Annual reports are due **January 4th**.

IN THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH

Our sympathies go out to the family of Amy Noll, granddaughter of Bill Luddecke, who died last Wednesday.

CHAPEL SERVICES

There will be no chapel services on December 27th and January 3rd. Both days we will worship together at 10:15.

STEWARDSHIP: Where we stand....

As of Monday, Dec. 14th, we have received 130 pledges for \$418,000. We need to receive another \$180,000 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.

Glen Ridge Congregational Church

195 Ridgewood Avenue

Glen Ridge, New Jersey 07028

Dated Material - Please Deliver by December 18, 2009

(Return Service Requested)



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!

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS

The 10am class on Isaiah will meet Dec. 23rd to discuss Isaiah 40-48.

CONFIRMAND'S INTERPRETATION

Alden Schade's interpretation was regarding Zephaniah 3:14-20. "I think this passage means that both the Israelites and the world should be joyful because God forgives us. He not only saves us, but is a warrior who helps us triumph over our enemies and keeps us safe and happy. We should be joyful because God forgives us and loves us."

THE NEXT WEEK AT GRCC

SUNDAY 12/20	4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT BELL SUNDAY
8:15am	Chapel with communion
9:00am	Bible Study
9:15am	Chancel Choir
10:15am	Worship
11:30am	Fellowship/YPS Coffee
5:00pm	Longest Night Service in Chapel
MONDAY 12/21	PILGRIM CLOSED
7:00pm	Yoga
TUESDAY 12/22	
8:00pm	AA
WEDNESDAY 12/23	PILGRIM CLOSED
10:00am	Bible Study
1:00pm	Star of Wonder
THURSDAY 12/24	PILGRIM CLOSED
4:30pm	Family Service
8:00pm	Traditional Service w/communion
11:00pm	Midnight Service
FRIDAY 12/25	MERRY CHRISTMAS
SATURDAY 12/26	
SUNDAY, 12/27	
9:00am	Breakfast
10:15am	Worship in Robinson Hall
MONDAY 12/28	PILGRIM CLOSED OFFICE CLOSED