



The Churchmouse

"WELCOMING PEOPLE PROCLAIMING CHRIST"

Newsletter of the Warren Point Presbyterian Church

Located at Broadway and 17th Street in Fair Lawn, New Jersey

AN EDITORIAL

Judge Not...

Like it or not, we need to face up to the fact that most — if not all — people are possessed by some form of prejudice. Human beings acquire, develop or learn prejudices and either cannot shake them off or refuse to acknowledge that there is anything wrong with prejudices. Many of us find it necessary to find scapegoats in order to have someone to hate, someone we can feel superior to, and/or someone we can blame for so many of society's problems and shortcomings.

In the novel *Catch-22*, Chief White Halfoat, an Indian, tells the main character, Yossarian, "You know, Yossarian, prejudice is a terrible thing," and then proceeds to list just about every derogatory term for people of all nationalities, races and religions other than his own. I think back about seven years ago when I read a statement from Andrew Young declaring that we have not progressed very far since the days of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and then I find that I must conclude that we have also not progressed very far since the days of Jesus of Nazareth, either. Whatever became of "love one another" and "forgive those who persecute you" and "forgive your enemies" and "judge not lest you be judged." In the play *Inherit the Wind*, and the film derived from it, the good Reverend Brown declares, "I love God and I hate his enemies!" (His enemies, by the way, are people who don't attend his church or think the way he thinks or teach concepts he *(continued on p. 9)*



News from
The Pews

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Inside this issue

Financial Snapshot	2
A Message from The Pastor	3
Bible Trivia	3
Heavenly Humor	5
Monthly Calendar	6
Inspiration	7

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FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT OF OUR CHURCH

Reported below are the annual pledges for 2015 with the anticipated and actual giving through June 30. Thank you for faithfully supporting the ministry and mission of your church through your financial giving!

	<u>Current Expenses</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>Building Fund & Capital Improvements</u>
Annual Pledge	\$ 51,034	\$ 12,146	\$ 8,484
Anticipated Giving	\$ 25,517	\$ 6,073	\$ 4,242
Actual Giving	\$ 32,022	\$ 5,938	\$ 3,769

Please note:

- 2015 Local Ministry Budget is \$ 153,524
- Current Expenses annual pledge will cover only 1/3 of the budget
- \$25,000 from the Rogers Estate has been added to meet 2015 Current Expenses

ALARM SYSTEM REMINDER

With September comes a return to increased use of the church buildings. And, happily, the criminal action and damage done in early April have all but disappeared from daily consciousness. On the ever-so-slightly comical side, it is likely the Pastor and Jo Ann have developed stronger arms and wrists in using the beautiful, heavy, new doors and the ADA-approved locks which lead from the hallway to the Pastor's Study and the Church Office.

Please remember that there is a security alarm system when you are in the church buildings. When the alarm system is on, you cannot enter the hallway leading to the Church Office, the Pastor's Study, and to/from the Chancel and the Sanctuary unless you know the password.

When the alarm system is on you cannot open the green door in the back stairwell leading to the hallway, you cannot open the Chancel door by where the pastor and choir sit, you cannot open the Sanctuary door leading to the hallway, and you cannot open the black external doors on Broadway without setting off the alarm.

And, be aware, when the alarm system is off and you open those doors and/or enter the hallway, there is a three-note chime. *Don't be alarmed* when you hear it!



BIBLE TRIVIA

How should you bring up your children?

Answer on p. 4

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

During the first of my August vacation weeks I enjoyed attending two concerts featuring music from the 1960's, the decade in which I became a teenager and in my opinion, the apex of popular music: one at the BergenPAC in Englewood with Nancy, the "Happy Together Tour," (where we were delighted to see Mark and Cathy Eiseman and Frank and Marilyn Taryla); the other on the Mount Tabor Country Club grounds during that community's Children's Day festivities, with Reese, Avery, Allison and Chris. I listened to the familiar songs of the Grass Roots, the Cowsills, the Buckinghams, the Association, Mark Lindsay (of Paul Revere and the Raiders), and the Turtles at the first concert and Badfinger and Herman's Hermits at the second, performed in the bands' cases by a minority of original members supplemented by other musicians. So many feelings came over me as memories flooded my mind while at the same time I was singing the lyrics which I had memorized from years of enjoying the music. We associate music with times, places, people...experiences in our lives. And we learn the words.

Back to work the next week, on the road and listening to the car radio, a Badfinger song was broadcast. Immediately the joy and still-fresh memories of the most recent concert experience, particularly of being with my family, took over as I once again sang the lyrics. The most recent was added to the past giving me an even richer experience.

As many of you know, in response to the expressed desire of the congregation during the New Beginnings small group meetings for new and more "upbeat" music, the Session has acted to replace our current hymnal with the new denominational hymnal, *Glory to God*, filled with 853 (yes, you read that right!), 853 pieces of Christian music.

This new collection adds the new to the old, recent music to traditional hymns so that we may have an even richer worship experience. As we sing old-favorite, traditional hymns we will continue to add new experiences – times, places, people – to past ones. As we sing new music new experiences will be born. And we will learn the words.

In her evaluation of *Glory to God*, Mrs. Kim expressed the opinion that some of the new music cannot be appropriately accompanied by organ or piano. She requested, and the Session has approved, the purchase of a keyboard/synthesizer, which will multiply the sounds of our music. Yes, we will still hear traditional organ music. Yes, we will still hear music better suited to piano accompaniment. And, yes, we will hear new musical sounds in our worship.

Since July, Morning Worship bulletins have included this or a similar appeal: (*cont. on p. 10*)



COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Among the many responsibilities of the Program Committee, including recommending celebrations of the Sacrament of Baptism (see below), is the celebration of the 90th Anniversary of our congregation. The year of celebration began on Sunday, June 14, when during Morning Worship we renewed the congregational covenant and sang the best-known of the three anniversary hymns written by Kenneth B. Rogers. Andrew Easse appealed to the congregation to support a "Christmas in July" food drive. Subsequently a local automobile dealership owner contributed money that was to be used to purchase ShopRite gift cards. In August Inserra Supermarkets Inc. made a donation of \$1,000 in food and personal care products.

During the Fellowship Hour following, worshipers were treated to a delicious anniversary cake and an opportunity to view photographs from our church's history provided by the children of Jacob and Alice Vander Zee: Barbara, Terry, and John.

REESE KATHERINE O'BRIEN BAPTIZED

The Sacrament of Baptism was administered to Reese Katherine O'Brien, daughter of Christopher and Allison (Leininger) O'Brien on Sunday, June 21, making Reese the (then) newest member of our congregation.

While the traditional ruling elder role of assisting the pastor was performed by maternal grandmother Nancy Leininger, the important help of providing the white handkerchief to the pastor was the responsibility of Reese's big sister, Avery Noelle.

Following Morning Worship the O'Brien family provided refreshments in Fellowship Hall for family members, church family members, and guests.

THANK YOU!

The Leininger and O'Brien families wish to thank the congregation for helping to make Reese Katherine's baptismal day special!

ANSWER TO BIBLE TRIVIA

In the discipline and instruction of the Lord – Ephesians 6.4

HEAVENLY HUMOR

A class of 4 & 5 year olds, at a Christian preschool, had their snacks, in the kitchen, which was down the hall from the Pastor's office. Little Roger would always point to that part of the hall and say, "God lives down there."

One day he decided to investigate a little further. He got as far as the Pastor's office and came running down the hall yelling very excitedly, "Teacher, Teacher, I don't believe it! God has a computer!"



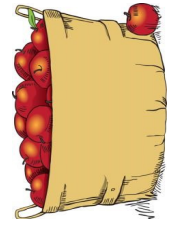
Spiritual Reflections

In the last issue of *The Churchmouse* an entire paragraph was omitted from Jerry Goss' article. My apologies to Jerry Goss and our readers. The corrected article begins below. ~J. M.

About That Word

I have a confession to make. I enjoy reading children's and adolescent literature even though my children are fully grown and I have no grandchildren to whom I can read stories. Recently I have been reading a trio of novels by a woman named Cornelia Funke entitled *Inkheart*, *Inkspell* and *Inkdeath*. *Inkheart*, at least three of the characters suddenly materialize in his living room. At the same time his dear wife, Resa, along with their cat and possibly other creatures disappear, presumably to take their place in the novel. The rest of the books explore how Mo and his daughter manage to rescue Resa only to become intricately involved in the world of that story.

Two things come to my mind as I concern myself with this story. The first is the notion that someone can read a story out loud with such skills that the listeners become aware of nothing but the story itself, as if they had been transported into another world. We know that there are such people as there are writers, as well, whose skill is such that we can "lose ourselves" in their books (insert your favorite author's name here). As a preacher I can only dream of this power and imagine how wonderful it would be to have the members of the congregation hanging over every word I spoke. And what a remarkable revival would be seen in the church if the stories of our faith could be as alive as if the characters stood right before us and we felt the power of the Holy Spirit surging through them and us. I, personally, have always striven to preach in such a way as to help my listeners understand more fully the passages of scripture used for that day. Of course this is exactly what I was taught to do by my seminary professors, as are most preachers and ministers of the Word that I know. Yet there is so much competition in our society for attention and persuasion has become a fine art honed by the media and advertisers and politicians and (continued on p. 8)



September 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Financial Resources Committee A. A. 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	2 Personnel committee 7:00 PM	3 A. A. 7:30 PM	4 A. A. 7:30 PM	5
6 Morning Worship 9:30 AM	7	8 A. A. 7:30 PM	9 Boy Scout Troop 60 7:30 PM	10 A. A. 7:30 PM	11 A. A. 7:30 PM	12
13 Church School 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM Morning Worship 10:30 AM Holy Communion 11:45 AM Board of Deacons	14 Session 7:30 PM	15 A. A. 7:30 PM	16 Boy Scout Troop 60 7:30 PM	17 A. A. 7:30 PM	18 A. A. 7:30 PM	19
20 Church School 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM Morning Worship 10:30 AM Baptism	21	22 A. A. 7:30 PM	23 Boy Scout Troop 60 7:30 PM	24 A. A. 7:30 PM	25 A. A. 7:30 PM	26
27 Church School 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM Morning Worship 10:30 AM	28	29 A. A. 7:30 PM	30 Boy Scout Troop 60 7:30 PM			

CHILDREN'S LETTERS TO GOD

Dear God, Thank you for the nice day today. You even fooled the TV weather man. Ann

Dear God, I know you made different religions, but don't you get mixed up sometimes? Tim

Dear God, Please help me in school. I need help in spelling, math, history, writing and reading. I don't need help in anything else. Neil

Dear God, I like the Lord's Prayer best of all. Did you have to write it a lot or did you get it right the first time. I have to write everything I write over again. Lois

Dear God, Is Rev. Coe a friend of yours, or do you just know him through business? Donny

Dear God, We read that Thomas Edison made light. But, in Sunday School they said you did it. So, did he steal your idea? Donna

Dear God, I went to this wedding and they kissed in church. Is that ok? Tom



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so on, that sometimes our message gets lost and people are not as convinced by mere words as they once were.

This brings me to the second thing I thought about in reaction to the story in *Inkheart*, a word becoming, literally alive. While oratorical mastery has a valuable place in conveying the message of our faith it can only go so far in convincing people of its truth. It has to have a power akin to a living presence to truly bring converts into the faith. In *Inkheart* the written word becomes flesh and blood. We Christians know something about the idea of the Word becoming flesh. And nowhere is that better said than the famous opening of John's Gospel, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God." The people of John's day would have had no problem understanding that words had power to bring things into existence or that God merely had to speak a word of command and that which was commanded happened.. All of John's listeners would be well acquainted with the first chapter of Genesis where God says, "Let there be light!" and there was light. What astonished the world was when John gave the Word a human name, Jesus of Nazareth. An important thing to keep in mind is that it is as much about what Jesus did to deserve this title as it is about who Jesus was. It is the signs and wonders that Jesus performed that stand out in John's telling of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. It is the selfless acts of love and caring that Jesus performed throughout his life that John lifts up before us, and how his sacrifice is the means of the world's salvation. In other words John is following his three other comrades in depicting Jesus' life as the good news of God's salvation or "the gospel."

But that gospel, that good news, that Word that is the light of humanity, was not without opposition. As Paul tells us, the gospel message of Christ crucified is a stumbling block to the Jews and folly to the Greeks. We know that Jewish faith has largely rejected the Christian claim of Jesus on the grounds that no human deserves to be likened to God, which is exactly what John does. In a like manner the Greco-Roman world could accept that the gods would take human form from time to time, even in the guise of the Emperor, but certainly not in the form of an executed Jewish criminal named Jesus. Nonetheless we Christians assert that the Word of God, the very will of God for human life was not merely written in Jewish Law or spoken by the great prophets, but came to life in the son of a carpenter from Nazareth. His refusal to play the power game of this world, to put his own interests first or to let the end justify the means, speaks God's will. That fact that all of his acts were directed to supporting the weak, the helpless, and abandoned individuals of society by assuring them of God's love, speaks God's will. His command to love our neighbors as much as we love ourselves, to treat others in the way we would want to be treated, speaks God's will. And most importantly his complete devotion and surrender to God's sovereignty, even to the point of death on the cross speaks of his oneness with God. God's Word to humanity came alive in Jesus is a way more powerful than any written or spoken form could. And he gave us the way to bring it alive as well by imitating him in selfless acts of love, mercy and justice, humbly submitted to God and supported by God's Holy Spirit.

~Jerry Goss

doesn't teach or accept.) Nice way for a Pastor who serves Christ to feel about the enemies the Lord teaches us to love!! I don't think he got the message.

Our scapegoats are: Whites, Blacks, Asians, Puerto Ricans and other Hispanics, Russians, Poles, German, Italians, Greeks Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Americans, French, Africans, Muslims, Christians, Mormons, Roman Catholics, Born-Again, Fundamentalists, Methodists, Lutherans, Baptists, Hindus, Buddhists, Brahmins, Jews, Atheists, Straight, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Cross-sexual, Asexual, Liberals, Conservatives, Communists, Socialists, Fascists, Republicans, Democrats, Independents, Progressives, Libertarians, Capitalists, Evolutionists, Creationists, pro-this, anti-that, old, young, fast, slow, overly active, under active, inactive. (Sounds a bit idiotic when all the terms are strung out like this, doesn't it?) In short, the people we are prejudiced against are the people who are definitely not like us, and we find some sort of authoritative statements from so-called "authorities" to back up our positions. It's always possible to say that The Holy Bible, William Shakespeare, Julius Caesar, Attila the Hun, Beethoven, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, the current President of the US, Josef Stalin, Mao-Tse-tung, Superman or Batman said such and such a thing to back up whatever terrible thing we've decided to say. (An old adage tells us, after all, the Devil quotes scripture to suit his own purpose.) Walt Kelly in his comic strip *Pogo* famously summed up the whole issue by declaring, "We have met the enemy and he is us!" Sometimes when I listen to a ranting bigot, I just want to ask, "Who cares? Who really gives a darn? How are these very different people who aren't like me truly affecting my life? Can't I be guided by the adage, 'Live and let live?' Haven't I matured enough to simply learn to *mind my own bloody business?*"

I once heard someone say that in an ideological or intellectual conflict, truly intelligent people agree to disagree. Are we then surrounded by so many truly *unintelligent* people? Are people so insecure, or are many of us such intellectual, moral or social cowards in our own thoughts, beliefs and, in fact, our very existence, that anyone who thinks, believes, behaves or exists differently from us is automatically an enemy of some sort? Are human targets so necessary to our own individual lives? Are some people born just so that "we" (whomever "we" refers to at the moment) can feel better about ourselves? Does "different" automatically equal "bad" and "evil"?

Can I possibly get everyone to think the way I think and believe in the things I believe in and like the things I like? Can I possibly "save" the whole of mankind, whatever that word "save" actually means? I've always been inspired by Saint Thomas Aquinas' prayer that says, "God grant me the serenity to change the things I can, accept (continued on p. 10)

Judge Not... (continued from p. 9)

the things I cannot change, and the wisdom to know the difference." It's also helped me to remember Thumper in Walt Disney's *Bambi*, when the little bunny says, "If you can't say nothin' nice, don't say nothin' at all."

The Book of Genesis tells us that God created man in His image, and I'll take that to mean ALL mankind, not just the people we choose to accept as opposed to all the "others" we're expected to tolerate – if we aren't in fact trying to exclude, isolate or exterminate them.

Jesus said, "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone." He didn't make that an exclusive observation either; I don't believe He meant to say, "If you've never done this particular thing, go ahead and throw a stone." As I've always understood it, He told us that, in one way or another, we are all, to some degree or another, deserving of a few stones thrown in our directions - - and if any of us denies *that* observation, that person's either a newborn infant or a outright liar.

~Rich Faust

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR (continued from p. 3)

The new Presbyterian hymnal, *Glory to God*, will soon be in our sanctuary! Special offering envelopes for your use to donate copies of the hymnal at \$20 each are available in the pew card holders. One envelope for each donated hymnal please. Hymnals may be donated "in memory of," or "in honor of," or without dedication.

Included with the print edition of your favorite newsletter is an envelope for your use. Praise God, there have been about 35 new hymnals donated so far!

And, of course, the new keyboard/synthesizer will not be ours without cost – the price will be in the vicinity of \$2,300. Praise God, one person has already donated \$300 toward the purchase!

Music is a big part of our lives. Music is a big part of our worship of God. And worship is a big part, indeed the most important part, of our life as a church:

"In worship the people of God acknowledge God present in the world and in their lives. As they respond to God's claim and redemptive action in Jesus Christ, believers are transformed and renewed. In worship the faithful offer themselves to God and are equipped for God's service to the world." (The *Directory for Worship*, W-1.1000)

As we look forward to the "new" in our worship, will you be and do a big part?

IN MEMORIAM

Edith DeNee joined the Church Triumphant on August 11.

We pray the Comforter, God's Holy Spirit, be upon her children Alan, James, and Lynn.



Changing Lives One Woman and Child at a Time

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April 2015

Rev. Jeffrey N. Leininger
Warren Point Presbyterian Church
Broadway and 17th Street
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

Dear Rev. Leininger,

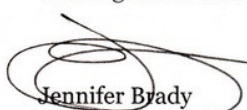
On behalf of all the women and children at Oasis, I am writing to thank you for your congregation's generous donation of \$100.00. Your support is so vital to our work to bring help and hope to some of the most vulnerable women and children in our corner of the world, and we are very grateful.

With your help, we are working to create a brighter future. Here in Paterson, 85% of children qualify for free or reduced-fee lunch. The percentage of families living below poverty is twice the national average. The average family income of a woman in Oasis' education program is \$13,126 a year. The barriers are many, but with your help we are breaking them down. We are handing out hope!

As we look towards the Spring and the season of renewal, we are committed more than ever to our mission to change lives. With **your** help, our women and children are learning, finding jobs, securing their futures. With **your** support, Oasis exists so that their dreams can come true. Please know how very grateful we are to have you as a partner in our mission.

Together we are changing lives, one woman and child at a time.

With a grateful heart,


Jennifer Brady
Executive Director

Thank you!

*Oasis is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization; no goods or services were exchanged.
Tax ID No. 22-3491573*

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St. Paul's Community Development Corporation

456 Van Houten Street
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Tel. 973.710.3900 Fax. 973.684.0686
"Hope for Today ... Building for Tomorrow"

April 14, 2015

Ms. Lascinda Goetchius, Benevolence Treasurer
Warren Point Presbyterian Church
Broadway and 17th Street
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

Dear Ms. Goetchius:

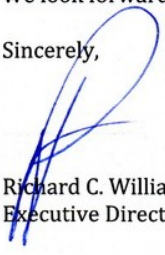
On behalf of St. Paul's Community Development Corporation, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation for your generous, tax deductible donation in the amount of **\$100.00**.

As an organization, SPCDC strives to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, educate those with low skills, train the job seekers, provide supportive services to Paterson and Passaic school children, all the while promoting a vision of "*hope for today...building for tomorrow.*"

Your donation helps ensure that our efforts are well supported and that we are able to give individuals and families the confidence to persevere and weather the challenges that they face. As a gathered community, we can improve the lives of those less fortunate.

We look forward to your continued support.

Sincerely,


Richard C. Williams
Executive Director



Visit us online at www.stpaulscdcnj.org.
See photographs of recent events, volunteer opportunities and upcoming activities.





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**ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED**



"And he took the children
in his arms, put his hands
on them and blessed them."

Mark 10:16