



# 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

### One Nation Under God – Are We?

On Flag day, June 14, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who had been baptized into the Presbyterian Church the year before, signed into law a bill that amended our national Pledge of Allegiance to include the phrase, "one nation, under God;" in doing so he said:

"From this day forward, the millions of our school children will daily proclaim in every city and town, every village and rural school house, the dedication of our nation and our people to the Almighty...In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country's most powerful resource, in peace and war."

And so, for 62 years, in schoolrooms, sports events and national celebrations, at community meetings and other gatherings where the flag is present, Americans saluting their flag bear witness to the fact that this is a nation "under God." Since this article is not part of a high school civics class, I'm not going to ask readers to consider what it means to be an American reciting the Pledge of allegiance; instead, I'm going to ask, "What does it mean to be a member of a nation under God?"

First of all, I'm aware that for several decades, various special interest groups (as well as groups that I personally consider *(continued, p. 10)*)



## News from The Pews

**Volume 7**  
**Issues 1-11**

**Newsletter Dates:**  
**Jan. – Dec. 2016**

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## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT OF OUR CHURCH

Reported below are the annual pledges for 2016 with the anticipated and actual giving through October 31. Your financial giving is a major way in which you demonstrate that you are being a steward of God's benevolence. Thank you!

	<u>Current Expenses</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>Building Fund &amp; Capital Improvements</u>
Annual Pledge	\$ 54,220	\$ 11,424	\$ 9,348
Anticipated Giving	\$ 45,183	\$ 9,520	\$ 7,790
Actual Giving	\$ 52,831	\$ 8,868	\$ 6,979

Please note:

- 2016 Local Ministry Budget is \$ 151,913
- Current Expenses annual pledge will cover only **36%** of the budget
- Through October **\$35,000** from the Rogers Estate has been added to meet 2016 Current Expenses

## THE CHURCHMOUSE AND CAPITOL RECORDS

In 1970, Capitol Records, the Beatles' record label in the United States, released an LP which included relatively recent songs by the "lads from Liverpool" and two previously unreleased (by Capitol) songs from their 1964 movie "A Hard Day's Night." The earliest pressings of the new LP carried the title "The Beatles Again.," certainly appropriate for such a collection. Soon however the album was re-titled "Hey Jude" after one of the hit songs on the album.

Just so, this, the sole 2016 issue of *The Churchmouse*, includes both older and relatively recent information; two articles written much earlier this year by Messrs. Faust and Goss, each as relevant now as when authored; as well as current and season-appropriate articles.

## CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

We will "worship Christ the newborn King" with our traditional Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24, beginning with Special Music at 7:15 pm; with a Service of Lessons and Carols on Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25, at 10:30 am; and with a service including the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1, at 10:30 am. Please plan to be present for these worship opportunities with your church family. May God bless you and yours. Merry Christmas!

## BIBLE TRIVIA

Who should children obey and why?

(Answer on p. 9)



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Advent 2016 is upon us! For Christians it is a season to prepare...to prepare to celebrate the first advent or coming of Jesus Christ in his birth which we celebrate as Christmas AND to prepare for the second advent (coming) of God's Messiah, the risen and ascended Christ Jesus, the time of which is known only to God the Father.

In the spirit of our Reformed forbears, particularly the New England Puritans, before the general election – given the tumultuous nomination and election campaigns and the caliber of the final presidential candidates – I called for people to humble themselves before God with prayer and fasting and advertised that call on our Route 4 signboard. Such a call, grounded in the life of God's people in the Hebrew Scriptures (or Old Testament), was provided for by the 1645 *Westminster Directory for the Publick Worship of God* brought to this land by both the aforementioned Puritans and our direct-descendent Presbyterian brothers and sisters. In the *Directory* the content and practice of such prayer and fasting is specifically laid out, which content I had hoped to share with the congregation during a November sermon, which opportunity was prevented by illness. But see page 13 of this issue.

Such a call to humility before God continues to be appropriate in this time after the general election AND is in harmony with the season of Advent. It does not require a whole lot of effort to practice Advent by getting ready to celebrate the birth of our Savior at Christmas and by giving what may amount to little more than a disconcerting thought or even a grudging acknowledgment that the return of Christ Jesus is what this world needs and is what God, after all, has planned. Day by day do we not see and hear that this nation and this world are far, far from what God intended? As Christians are we only responsible to sit idly by and watch as events unfold or ought we be working to help make this world more like the kingdom of God which God's Messiah will bring to fruition?

Advent is a season of hope. I hope and pray that we as individuals, couples, or families and as a congregation will begin anew this Advent to make extra efforts through congregational mission opportunities (e.g., White Gifts and donations for the Center for Food Action) and through opportunities beyond the congregation – not simply as Christmas charity – to help make this world more like the kingdom of God than it is now. It's a big nation and an even bigger world. The opportunities, both those that cost money and those that do not, are seemingly endless to demonstrate that we are Christ Jesus' disciples offering hope.

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## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

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Our Prayer Shawl Ministry NEEDS more SHAWLMAKERS & PRAYER SHAWLS! Would YOU consider using YOUR HANDS & HEARTS to help continue this much needed ministry for so many people in need?

Prayerfully consider joining us! Those who create prayer shawls & those who receive them are mutually blessed with peace & joy from above! We have taught so many ladies to crochet over the years & it really is easy! Give it a try!

Contact Nancy Leininger, 201-791-6920. for more info & meeting dates.



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## CAROLS & COOKIES

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An Afternoon of Beloved Holiday Music awaits children and adults who attend this Sunday, December 18, program by our Corner of Broadway Theatre Group, beginning at 3 pm. During the time for cookies in Fellowship Hall, perhaps there will be a visit from the Jolly Old Elf Himself! Come and see!

The admission price is simply a gift of packaged or canned goods to be donated to the Center for Food Action. A free-will offering will be taken to benefit homeless veterans in Bergen County. Refresh your Christmas spirit by coming for this time of fellowship and good cheer!

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## THANK YOU!

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I would like to thank everyone for the 20th Anniversary Celebration of being your Administrative Assistant/Webmaster. All of your cards, gifts, flowers, Visa Gift cards and the delicious cake were greatly appreciated! May God always bless all of you!

Jo Ann Magarelli

Dear Friends at Warren Point,

I would like to thank all of you for your prayers, cards and calls while I was recovering from my mishap. Your thoughtfulness and concern certainly helped me through this time. I was very grateful to come home, after 4 long months of being in a hospital and rehabilitation center.

I also wish to thank you for all the sympathy cards I received when my brother, Hugh Reid, passed away. Your condolences were very comforting to me.

I miss Warren Point very much! God bless you all!

Joan Reid



## HEAVENLY HUMOR

A minister said to a rather precocious five-year-old boy, "I know your mother says prayers for you each night. What does she say to God?"

Without missing a beat the little boy replied, "Thank you God, that he's in bed!"



## Spiritual Reflections

### About Selfies

Many years ago I did something that today is a very popular activity. I took a "selfie." I remember I had my really nice single lens reflex camera and I held it in front of my face and took the picture.. When I had the picture developed it was badly composed and out of focus – all in all – a pretty accurate portrait of me at that time. I'm not a big fan of this latest social trend as "selfies" seem too close to the word "selfish" for my tastes. But then again, that's just me as I'm not into many of the social trends of today, such as tweeting about every little thing I do or see or think. I'm also of a generation that generally doesn't do those things and tends to enjoy a little privacy.

Nonetheless I think selfies are also attempts to tell the world who we are and, perhaps, help to find some self-worth while separating ourselves from the faceless crowd. Forming a strong self-identity is a very important step in one's psychological growth and defining what it means to be member of society, a citizen of a country or a human being is a crucial part of everyone's life. It forms the foundation of our entire value system, including the setting of personal and social boundaries, our concepts of justice and how we fit into everyday relationships with family, friends and co-workers. In other words, our self-image is a vital part of our lives and good or bad self-images go a long way in determining our behavior.

With this in mind I want to raise an idea that once was at the heart of our Christian faith but which, today, seems to find little discussion – the concept of humans created in the image of god. Anyone who has read the first chapter of the book *Genesis* knows the 26th verse reads "And God said: Let us make human beings according to our image, after our likeness..." However, what few realize is that this phrase plays remarkably little importance in the rest of the Old or New Testaments. The closest parallel is probably *Psalms 8: v 4-6*, "what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? <sup>5</sup>You have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. <sup>6</sup>You have given him dominion over works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet." There are no other passages in Scripture that discuss what seems to be a statement about the nature of human beings. Outside of scripture it is another matter (continued on p. 8)



# December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>2</b> A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>3</b>
<b>4 2nd Sunday of Advent</b> Sunday School 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM Morning Worship 10:30 AM Holy Communion Fellowship Hour 11:45 AM	<b>5</b> Program Committee 7:00 PM	<b>6</b> Financial Resources Committee 7:00 PM  A. A.	<b>7</b> Boy Scout Troop 60 7:30 PM	<b>8</b> A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>9</b> A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>10</b>
<b>11 3rd Sunday of Advent</b> Sunday School 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM Morning Worship 10:30 AM Board of Deacons 11:45 AM	<b>12</b> Session 7:30 PM	<b>13</b> A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>14</b> Boy Scout Troop 60 7:30 PM	<b>15</b> A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>16</b> A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>17</b>
<b>18 4th Sunday of Advent</b> Sunday School 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM Morning Worship 10:30 AM Carols & Cookies 3:00 PM	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>21</b> Boy Scout Troop 60 7:30 PM	<b>22</b> A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>23</b> A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> Special Music 7:15 PM Candlelight Service 7:30 PM
<b>25 Christmas Day</b> Morning Worship Lessons and Carols 10:30 AM	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>30</b> A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>31</b>

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## NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

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On Sunday, November 20, we publicly welcomed Bob and Kathy Bayer into active membership. Bob was received upon profession of faith; Kathy had been received by letter of transfer from Old Paramus Reformed Church, Paramus.

A brief biography of the Bayer family: Bob and Kathy are Paramus natives, married twenty-six years and Elmwood Park residents for twenty. They have two daughters, Sarah, age 16, and Samantha, age 22, the latter of whom gave birth to her own daughter, Ava Mae, on November 6, the first grandchild for Kathy and Bob. Bob is an Assistant Manager for Dollar General, currently working in Clifton. Kathy is an Operations Manager for Brewster Washers in Fairfield, and in December will succeed Karen Thomas as our Church Treasurer.

On that Sunday Ava Mae, at two weeks-old, became the youngest child (to the best of our knowledge) to attend worship in our congregation. Roger and Nancy Zito hosted a Fellowship Hour to welcome the Bayers, upon whom we pray God's richest blessings.

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## IN MEMORIAM

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Warren Nelson, beloved for many reasons – not the least of which was his cheerful “thanks for coming,” a greeting he began during his time as chair of the Session’s Finance Committee – joined the Church Triumphant on October 5.

We pray the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, be with his sons, Warren Jr. and Wayne, their families, and the family of his son, William, who predeceased his father.

†

The Rev. Mr. Theodore Crawford Lawson, pastor of this congregation from February 15, 1967 until August 15, 1978 entered into eternal rest on October 22. Ted and Rita had been living at Carroll Lutheran Village in Westminster, MD.

A sympathy card to be sent to Rev. Lawson’s widow was available for members to sign, especially those for whom he was pastor. The Session made a \$200 donation in his memory to the First Presbyterian Church, Westminster, MD.

We pray, too, that the Comforter be with his widow, Rita and their children, Heidi and Mark, and their families.

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## GLORY TO GOD HYMNALS

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And then there were only four.... 3 for use in the pews and 1 for use in the church office, of our hymnals that remain unsubscribed at \$20 each. Two large-print editions at \$30 each are also available to be donated. You may donate a hymnal in honor of or in memory of someone. Let's make this project 100% complete! Envelopes are still in the pews.

as it has been a center of interest for the Christian Church from Irenaeus in the 2nd century A.D. to Karl Barth in the 20th Century. Most of us think immediately of the battle fought by Creationists and those who support Evolution. Creationists will argue that the Bible supports the uniqueness of humans created in the image of God against the Evolutionists view that humans evolved from earlier, more ape-like forms.

But the meaning of this phrase “created in God’s image” has raised other questions long before Darwin. In what way are humans created in God’s likeness? Is this likeness found in our physical form, as the Hebrew word seems to suggest an actual representation of something? I personally find this idea strange considering the strong prohibition in the Bible against making any images of God according to likeness of animals or humans. To do so would be idolatry. Therefore it became popular to consider that perhaps some likeness to God was spiritual, as in having a soul, or perhaps it resides in our intellect and our free will. Yet there is another possible understanding. Biblical scholars have pointed out the phrase “in the image of...” was used in the ancient world to denote a personal representative of someone in authority, in particular, a King. A messenger or court official would carry with them some kind of seal or figure that represented the image, and thus, authority of the King. In Egypt and Mesopotamia the king himself was said to be in the image of god, as an earthly representative of god and therefore to be worshipped and obeyed. Could the writer of *Genesis* mean that humans act as God’s representatives to the rest of creation? That’s tempting considering that the words following this phrase speak of God giving humans dominance over the rest of the animal world.

In the past I might have stopped the discussion at this point, but I recently read a commentary of the Book of Genesis by the German scholar, Claus Westermann, that took this discussion in a new direction for me. He pointed out that the problem with all of these ideas is that they assume the author of this passage is speaking about something added to our human nature that makes us different than the other animals, something we possess that they don’t. But Westermann notes that there is something different about the story of the creation of humans from the stories of the creation of the firmament or the planets or the animals. He notes this story seems to have an independent history before it was added to the rest of the first chapter. What is important in this fact is that this is the story of why God created humans, just as other cultures had independent stories of the creation of humans distinct from the creation of the world. It is not a story of the nature of humans. It is a story of why God decided to create the human race in the first place. And the answer is similar to the idea of humans being God’s representative *(continued on p. 9)*



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## **Spiritual Reflections** *(continued from p. 8)*

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but in a special way. The goal of this creation is so there can be a happening between God and humans. Here is the way Westermann himself puts it "...it is humanity as a whole that is created as the counterpart of God: the intention is to render possible a happening between creator and creature." (page 158, Vol. 1 *Genesis 1-11*) Following the thinking of Karl Barth it means that the image and likeness of God describes the special nature of human existence by virtue of which the person can take a stand before God. A human being is one whom God can address as "You" and an "I" who is responsible before God. It is also valid for all people, It goes beyond the differences of religion, beyond belief and unbelief. Every person is created in this image, to correspond to God even if they no longer have a religion.

For me this idea is a refreshing take on an old passage of scripture that has lost some of its luster. I can see, for example why the writer of this part of Genesis had to speak of humans in this way. He is setting us up for that singular experience of the Jewish people, that when God calls to Abraham, to Moses, to the Judges, to David, to the prophets, to Jesus of Nazareth and to all humanity, there will be someone capable and ready to answer. So I ask you to consider this as part of who you are, your self-image as a person who stands before God capable and ready to hear and respond. ~Jerry Goss

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### **ANSWER TO BIBLE TRIVIA**

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Obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. – Colossians 3.20

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### **CONGREGATIONAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

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The Congregational Nominating Committee, composed of Darel DePompeo, Donna Frohnapfel, Beryle Sloan, and Marel-Lee Sutherland, all of whom were elected by the congregation at the January 31 Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation; Nancy Zito, elected by the Board of Deacons; and Jennifer Smits and Roger Zito, elected by the Session; has begun its search for active members of the congregation to serve in the ordered ministries of ruling elder on the Session and deacon on the Board of Deacons.

At their organizing meeting, Donna Frohnapfel was elected chairperson. Members of the committee are beginning to contact prospective candidates.

Is God in Christ calling you to serve or to serve anew as a ruling elder or as a deacon? Please give your possible call your deepest prayerful consideration.

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## One Nation Under God— Are We? *(continued from pg. 1)*

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unspecial and uninteresting) have been trying to have the phrase “under God” removed from the pledge due to a misconception commonly called “separation of church and state;” nowhere in the Constitution does that phrase appear – it actually comes from a letter written in 1802 by then-President Thomas Jefferson to the Danbury Baptist Association, a small religious group in Connecticut who complained that in Connecticut, religious liberties were not understood as undeniable rights, but as ‘favours granted’ by the legislature. Mr. Jefferson’s replying letter made no direct mention of the Danbury Baptist Association’s problems with Connecticut’s establishment of a state religion, only one of the national establishment of a religion, which is prohibited by the First Amendment to the Constitution, which states in part that “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof... But because Jefferson’s letter contains the phrase “wall of separation between church and state,” a majority of Americans (69% according to one poll) believe that the Constitution declares a “separation of church and state” and that any public display of any faith or religious creed is illegal and must be prohibited, outlawed, illegal and, ultimately, stamped out. As a result, among other things, prayer in public schools is prohibited, ironically by legislation passed by two government bodies that begin every session with prayers delivered by the Chaplain of the United States House of Representatives and the Chaplain of the United States Senate. (So, naturally, it only seems logical to remove the phrase “under God” from a pledge spoken by the citizens of a nation, 86% of whose population, according to one poll, believes in, worships, and prays to God. Right????)

Anyway, the Pledge of Allegiance issue aside, again I ask, “What does it mean to be an *active* member of a nation under God? Before we speak on controversial issues; as we listen to candidates seeking the Presidency; when we consider matters occurring in other nations ( arise in unemployment, the spread of terrorism, refugees attempting to cross borders to safety, economies falling, our brothers and sisters in humanity becoming the victims of racial violence, persecution, and slavery); when we are confronted by problems within our own borders similar to several of those listed; as we go through our daily lives in a widely-diverse population – do we remember what we are, indeed, a nation under God, and then speak and act as if all of us truly are God’s children, speaking and behaving, making decisions and voting, treating others – citizens and immigrants – as God would have us do those things?

If we think and act is selfishness, considering only our own needs; if we ignore problems because “they aren’t ours,” is we don’t care about certain groups or nationalities or other faiths because “they aren’t ours;” if we repeatedly put ourselves first and everyone else a far distant second, then we aren’t acting in a way that reflects the words *(continued on p. 11)*

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## One Nation Under God-Are We? *(continued from pg. 10)*

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That pour from our mouths when it's time to make public declarations. It is so easy to recite the Pledge of Allegiance with our mouths, isn't it? But be careful!! More than 100 years ago, Mark Twain heaped scorn upon the hypocrite who "works for the universal brotherhood of man' – **with his mouth.**"

I'm suggesting that, as people who claim – with our mouths – to live in a nation under God, we should be making a conscious effort to truly be "one nation under God." And therefore, we should speak and act and go through our daily lives dealing with other people in a diverse society and vote and make consciously intelligent decisions as a people who believe in God and the Word of God. Isn't it time what we take a stand and push back against those small percentages who do not believe, who do not conduct themselves as God's children, who would edit the Pledge of Allegiance and remove any public mention of God's name and laws? Let's make sure that if we say we are "one nation under God," we either continue or begin to speak, act and deal with others and make decisions to put meaning behind those words. ~Rich Faust

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### **CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING**

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Each year we receive a special offering during Advent to support students who attend our Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)-related racial ethnic schools and colleges and to support families of retired and active church workers through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions.

Undesignated gifts to this special offering are distributed equally to develop racial-ethnic leadership through schools and colleges such as Menaul School (NM), Native American-Ministries (AZ), Presbyterian Pan American School (TX), and Stillman College (AL); and to support retired and active church workers and their families through income supplements, shared grants (presbyteries and the Board of Pensions jointly), emergency assistance grants, and housing supplements.

Of course, if you choose, you can designate your gift for the education of racial-ethnic students or for the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions.

Enclosed with the print edition of *The Churchmouse* is a Christmas Joy Offering envelope for your use. Or, you may fill one of these special offering envelopes that you can find in the pew card racks in the sanctuary during Advent.

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### **THE WISDOM BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT**

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In a recent sermon the Pastor asked worshipers to explore which books are regarded as wisdom books in the Hebrew Scriptures. Lascinda Goetchius was the first to tell him that Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes are the ones.

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL

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Our new Sunday School program, begun in August, is now in progress! This initiative of our New Beginnings Planning Team is to reach out to both English-speaking and Spanish-speaking families, offering Christian education and donated food and clothing to those who come. Colorful signs in both Spanish and English were posted on both the 17th St. and Broadway sides of our church lawn. A request for help through the Presbytery for someone fluent in English and Spanish to help us to communicate with Spanish-speaking families brought us Jose Cruz, a Fair Lawn resident, college student, and member of Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana in Paterson, who has worked with each weekly teacher since August.

On Saturday, November 19, members and families moved outside onto the Broadway lawn to distribute the donated food and clothing donated by the congregation, prayer shawls, flyers about our December Cookies & Carols program, and a prayer cross on which passers-by could post prayer requests that would be included in Morning Worship the next day.

Members and families who participated in this mission outreach included Janice Czelusta; Cathy Eiseman; Donna, Kenny, and Matthew Frohnapfel; Jessica Hayes (Confirmation Class); Dori Little; Jennifer and Kristen (Confirmation Class) Smits; Marilyn Taryla; and Roger Zito. Nancy Leininger, who has been at the heart of the effort, was unable to participate.

Please remember to warmly welcome any new families you may see in our church worshiping with us. Also, CONTINUE TO PRAY DAILY that our open Sunday School doors will bring us lots of little children so they can learn that JESUS LOVES THEM, and that also, so does Warren Point Presbyterian Church! Please contact Nancy Leininger if you have any questions.

“LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME UNTO ME”



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## WHITE GIFTS TO BE RECEIVED THROUGH DECEMBER 11

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Our church has a long history of supporting Paterson-based causes to help those in need at Christmas. This year again White Gifts will support two causes – Oasis, Inc., A Haven for Women and Children and the Men’s Shelter at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.

Please donate only brand-new or nearly-new gifts, but do not wrap them. Please mark them for boy, girl, woman, or man. In keeping with the name of this special offering, you might bring your gift(s) in a white bag.

Jesus said, “The poor you will always have with you.” Let us show our loving concern!

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## A CALL TO HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE GOD WITH PRAYER AND FASTING

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The following excerpts are from the article *Concerning Publick solemn Fasting in the Westminster Directory for the Publick Worship of God* (1645):

WHEN some great and notable judgments are either inflicted upon a people, or apparently imminent, or by some extraordinary provocations notoriously deserved; as also when some special blessing is to be sought and observed, publick solemn fasting (which is to continue the whole day) is a duty that God expecteth from that nation or people.

On fasting:

A religious fast requires total abstinence, not only from all food (unless bodily weakness do manifestly disable from holding out till the fast be ended, in which case somewhat may be taken, yet very sparingly, to support nature, when ready to faint), but also from all worldly labour, discourses, and thoughts, from all bodily delights, and such like (although at other times lawful), rich apparel, ornaments, and such like, during the fast; and much more from whatever is in the nature or use scandalous and offensive....

On prayer:

...especially in prayer, to this or the like effect:

“Giving glory to the great Majesty of God, the Creator, Preserver, and supreme Ruler of all the world, the better to affect us thereby with an holy reverence and awe of him; acknowledging his manifold, great, and tender mercies, especially to the church and nation, the more effectually to soften and abase our hearts before him; humbly confessing of sins of all sorts, with their several aggravations; justifying God’s righteous judgments, as being far less than our sins do deserve; yet humbly and earnestly imploring his mercy and grace for ourselves, the church and nation, for our king, and all in authority, and for all others for whom we are bound to pray (according as the present exigent requireth), with more special importunity and enlargement than at other times; applying by faith the promises and goodness of God for pardon, help, and deliverance from the evils felt, feared, or deserved; and for obtaining the blessings which we need and expect; together with a giving up of ourselves wholly and for ever unto the Lord.”

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## PRAYERS ARE THE STAIRS TO GOD

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Prayers are the stairs we must climb every day,  
If we want to reach God, there is no other way,  
For we learn to know God when we meet Him in prayer  
And ask Him to lighten our burden of care.  
So start in the morning and, though the way's steep,  
Climb ever upward 'til your eyes close in sleep –  
For prayers are the stairs that lead to the Lord,  
And to meet him in prayer is the climber's reward.

~Helen Steiner Rice



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REQUESTED**

