

The Cranbury Presbyterian

"We praise God that we are called to serve Christ in love. We invite others to join us in this calling."

(From our Mission Statement)

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JANUARY 2010

From the Pastor...

Even though we are no longer in our 275th Anniversary year, I share with you one more bit of related church history. It comes from research done by Roi Taylor. Note the reference at the end.

Have a blessed 2010, Lou

SEAL OF THE MONMOUTH CHURCH

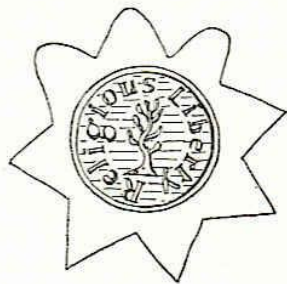
"Dr. Henry C. McCook, writing in the *Presbyterian* on May 27, 1896, gave this description of the old seal:

".....the oldest known corporate seal of any American Presbyterian church. It is the seal of Churches of Freehold (Tennent), Shrewsbury, Allentown and Cranbury, and is placed upon a deed or mortgage release issued by the Trustees of the above named Churches to Elihu Williams on the fifth day of May, A. D. 1760. It is signed, by order of the Trustees, by John Henderson, President.

"The seal is in the shape of an eight pointed star with a circular field one inch in diameter, in the center of which is a rude device of a bush. This is surrounded upon the margin of the field by a circular motto, "Religious Liberty."

"A clue to its origin lies in the fact that the original settlers who came to Monmouth County were Scotch Presbyterians. They were probably familiar with the well known emblem of the Scottish Kirk, 'the burning bush' with the motto, 'nec tamen consumebatur' - 'and yet it was not consumed,' and patterned their seal after it.

"Another point of historic interest is the motto, 'Religious Liberty.' The significance thereof appears when one remembers that these Scottish settlers were a band of Presbyterians who had suffered in the bloody persecutions of Charles II of England.



Seal of the Monmouth Church, slightly reduced. From a deed dated May 5, 1760.



Seal of the Scotch Kirk.

History of Allentown Presbyterian Church 1720 - 1970, F. Dean Storms; Allentown Messenger, Allentown, NJ 1970; pages 32 - 33"

From Pastor Rosanna...

As thinking Christians, we know that the best way to understand the significance and uniqueness of the Gospel is to read God's message throughout the whole Bible. During my Advent sermon I challenged everyone to read one Old Testament passage for every New Testament passage. Using a Study Bible makes this easy! The footnotes lead to specific verses that relate to the passage, and you'll discover fascinating connections between them that shed light on the original verses. Plus, a Study Bible's introductions relate the book's themes to our questions today, along with maps and extra features that explain who's who and what's what in the biblical worldview. A study Bible is an excellent gift for anyone who wants to understand more about our faith. Our third graders receive the *New Adventure Bible*. Our confirmands in seventh grade and higher get the *Teen Life Application Study Bible*. I recommend the *HarperCollins NRSV Study Bible* or the *Oxford Study Bible*. We have other adult Study Bibles in the church library for you to check out. I'm glad that several of you took me up on the challenge!

In the New Year, you may want to consider using a *One Year Bible*, several translations of which are published by Tyndall. It provides daily readings from the Old Testament and New Testament that take you through Scripture in the order of the biblical books, along with an excerpt from a Psalm and a pithy Proverb or two for each day. The readings are designed to take about 15 minutes to read, perfect for morning or evening devotions as the first or last thing you ponder each day. Treasures of wisdom and insight abound in God's Word. It's amazing how the Lord leads us by his Spirit to recognize him speaking to us personally in ways that address our current concerns, joys and interests. Let's continue to share with each other the gifts of encouragement and correction, of knowledge and deeper faith that God leads us to hear and see in his Word. Enjoy!

Grace and peace, Rosanna

ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Class during Sunday School Hour (9:15-10:15 a.m.)

The Peer Led Bible Study for the Adult Education is ongoing. We are studying the Book of Colossians. Come join us the study in the Church Library.

Bible Study series led by Bob Kane: "Who Are You?"

January 10, 17, 24, 31 and February 7

In this new series, explore the nature of God's covenants in the Old and New Testaments and how they relate to your life today.

Adult Education at Other Times

Cranbury Men's Bible Study: Sundays 7:00-8:30 pm, The Cranbury Inn - All men are invited to join us in a relaxed setting at the Inn. We are studying on **The Westminster Confession of Faith**, part of the *Book of Confessions* which is Part I of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Weekly themes are the starting point for our conversation

about confessing Christ in our contemporary context. For more information, please contact Mike Kasper at cwcollector@aol.com or Clifford Anderson at clifford.anderson@ptsem.edu. **We will not be meeting on Sunday, January 3.**

Martha Circle Women's Bible Study: First Monday of the Month, 1:30 pm in the Library:

All women are welcome to attend! We are studying *Joshua: A Journey of Faith*, the Horizons Presbyterian Women's Bible study for 2009-10. This description is from the denomination's website, www.pcusa.org. "In the nine lessons of *Joshua: A Journey of Faith*, Mary Mikhael invites us to explore the challenging, sometimes heartrending, book of Joshua. Pursuing such themes as leadership, the promise of land, the concept of 'holy war,' and outsiders becoming insiders, we learn ultimately to find rest in the justice and mercy of God."

Join us for a time of fellowship, Bible study and prayer, with the discussion led by Rose Eller. She can be reached at 655-9175.

Transitions Networking Group: Fridays, 7:30-8:30 a.m. in Room 1

- This is an opportunity to connect with others going through job change and sharing information about jobs, opportunities and resources. It will feature expert speakers and guests, and provide Scripturally-based resources focused on career and life changes. Everyone is welcome to attend. The group will be facilitated by church member, Charlie Ernst and sponsored by the Outreach Committee. Coffee and donuts/fruit will be provided. **We will not be meeting on January 1.**

CHILDREN & YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

PLEASE NOTE:

Beginning in January, we will no longer offer nursery care during the Sunday School hour.

Sunday School January 2010 Programs

Pre School

Date	Kindergarten	4-Year-Olds	2-3 Year-Olds
Jan. 3	Jesus' Birth	Jesus is born	Jesus is born
Jan. 10	Jesus Grows Up	Jesus' Miracle	Jesus' Miracle
Jan. 17	Jesus Grows Up	Jesus' Miracle	Jesus' Miracle
Jan. 24	Jesus Grows Up	Jesus' Miracle	Jesus' Miracle
Jan. 31	Jesus Grows Up	Jesus' Miracle	Jesus' Miracle

Grade 1 to 4 Workshop Rotations

Date	Workshop Rotation Bible Story	Storytelling/ Games	Drama	Art	Movie/ Bible Bites
Jan. 3	Mary & Martha: Lazarus' sisters, Jesus' friends- listen to him, do work to be done (Mission)	3 & 4 Grades Debra Bond			1 & 2 Grades Leigh Ann Barnes

Jan. 10	Mary & Martha	1 & 2 Grades Debra Bond	3 & 4 Grades		
Jan. 17	Celebration Sunday	Celebration Sunday			
Jan. 24	Mary & Martha		1 & 2 Grades Debra Bond	3 & 4 Grades Barbara Santoro	
Jan. 31	Jesus Teaches about who is truly blessed "Beatitudes"			1 & 2 Grades Barbara Santoro	3 & 4 Grades Leigh Ann Barnes

5th and 6th Grades' lesson in January 2010

Date	Lesson
Jan. 3	Session 24 Acts 1-8
Jan. 10	Session 24 Acts 1-8
Jan. 17	Session 25 Acts 9-28
Jan. 24	Session 25 Acts 9-28
Jan. 31	Session 26 I know the Early Church

7th Grade Confirmation Class

Date	Class Themes
Jan. 3	The Holy Spirit
Jan. 10	The Word of God
Jan. 17	Join the Youth Program (No Confirm Class)
Jan. 24	The Church & Its Mission
Jan. 31	Baptism

CONFIRMATION CORNER

BIG THANKS go to the Pugliese, Stiglic and Waciega families who hosted our first Mentor Dinner with Confirmands in December, and to Patti Janovitz for organizing this special event.

SAVE THE DATES for the remaining Mentor Dinners on Sunday, January 24 and February 21 from 5:30-6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. All our mentor-confirmand events are group dinners held at the church. We appreciate the thoughtfulness of all the adults who volunteer to share their faith and fellowship with the class at these meals.

CPNS NEWS



The month of January brings cold, snowy days and CPNS gets bundled up in our comfy, cozy pajamas for our P/J Pancake Days. We look forward to this time when we all wear our pajamas to school and our parents help make delicious pancake treats for all of us. If you

happen to be in our building on those days (January 12th and 13th) don't be surprised if you smell some delicious things, and see us all ready for bed.

We will be having our Special Person's Day on Saturday, January 23, with a snow date of Saturday, January 30. Each child brings a special person to school with them and they get to share what they do at school with their own special person.

The second session of our Enrichment classes begins in February. We will continue to offer our new Power of Play, Art & Literacy, Science & Math, Music & Movement and Mommy's Morning Out. We have a few openings left for some of the Winter/Spring programs.

Our registration process for the school year 2010-2011 began in November. We will continue to offer our new 4-day, 4/5-year old class with an added enrichment component. Don't miss out on the opportunity of having your child attend CPNS. Please feel free to call Janice Parker at 655-8663 for any information about our preschool or e-mail us at CPNSchool@comcast.net. Please share the news with friends and neighbors.

We want to thank our retiring board members for all the time and expertise they shared with CPNS. They make our school an extra special place for everyone. A big thank you to Mike Kasper, our Moderator who will be retiring from his second term a few years early to be able to meet the needs of our church in another capacity. Also retiring early from her second term is non-church member Kelly O'Keefe. Mrs. O'Keefe will continue her relationship with CPNS as one of our teachers of our Art & Literacy enrichment class. We also want to thank Dina Ellsworth and Michele Gregory for their dedicated service to CPNS. Claudette Guy's 3-year term has expired, however she will complete the last year of Mike Kasper's term. Amy Dixon has been nominated as our Moderator for 2010.

We also want to thank Audrey Smith; she has completed her 11th consecutive year as a CPNS Board Member. Audrey has also held previous terms and has contributed so much in making CPNS such a special place for children. Audrey completed two consecutive terms as our By-Laws states she is able, then in order to keep her on our board we created a position just for her. We are sad to see her leave but wish her many blessings in all her new adventures and look forward to her visits with us.

New to our board this year are church members, Janet Wheeler, Jennifer Kong and Eileen Beam and non-church member, Jessica Corriveau. We look forward to working with our new and existing CPNS Board Member next year as we continue to make CPNS the best it can be.

Please remember to share the information about our preschool to your friends and family. Remind them we have achieved accreditation from the National Association and Education of Young Children. We would love to be able to provide the most developmentally appropriate preschool program in our Christian environment to as many children as possible. Thank you in advance for all your efforts in spreading the word.

We wish everyone warm, loving thoughts as we go through these cold winter months.

Have a Happy, Healthy, New Year!
Your Friends at CPNS

DEACONS NEWS

Our church is graced to have such a wonderful arrangement of Poinsettias. The holiday is brighter because of those plants. Poinsettias may be picked up after the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service or on Sunday, December 27 in Fellowship Hall. Any plants remaining after December 27 will be distributed as gifts by the Deacons.

Anyone who would like to be a Deacon should call the church office at (609) 395-0897 or contact the church office at firstpresoffice@comcast.net.

Did you know that the Board of Deacons has a Benevolence Fund? Do you know what it is for? Do you know where the monies come from and where they go?

The purpose of the Deacons' Benevolence Fund is to help those in need. It may be a person from the community or within our church family. There are monies available to help with immediate needs such as rent, utilities, food, medical etc. A person only needs to contact the church office with their particular need. A small committee of deacons review the request before monies is dispersed. All requests are kept confidential.

The deacons raise money for this fund through the Strawberry Festival, holiday flowers, and other various fundraisers. By attending the Strawberry Festival, ordering flowers during Easter and Christmas and supporting any of the deacons' other fundraiser, you are helping and are performing an act of kindness to others.

Please help to support the various fundraisers held by the Deacon's or consider making a donation to the Deacons' Benevolence Fund. Should you know someone or find yourself in need of the Deacons' Benevolence Fund, please contact the church office.

MISSION, SERVICE & GRANTS NEWS

TASK - A Great Way to Serve: Our church has been serving a meal at the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK) for well over ten years and providing donations of food, clothing and hygiene products for over 15 years. It is indeed a special mission of the church.

If you would like to serve a meal, call Anne Gordon in the church office or e-mail her at agordoncpc@comcast.net. The church van departs the church parking lot the first Thursday of every month (**January 7, February 4, March 4, April 1**) at 2:30 p.m. and returns by 5:30 p.m. Closed toed shoes are required.

OUR FOOD PANTRY NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT MORE THAN EVER!!! It's no news to you that times are tough right now - and our own Skeet's Pantry has been busier than ever, helping fill the empty spaces on the tables of needy families in Cranbury and neighboring communities. We are providing food for well over 100 adults and children each month... BUT the shelves in the pantry are getting empty faster than ever because of the need.

PLEASE help keep our shelves full so that we can continue to care for folks in need. Just put your donations in the wheel barrel outside church on Sunday or leave bags labeled "Skeet's Pantry" in the front hall of our Fellowship Hall. Thank You!!

Foods Needed Include: Soup - canned or powdered; Peanut Butter; Tuna Fish; Macaroni & Cheese; Beans/Pork & Beans; Canned Fruit; Canned Vegetables; Cake Mixes

Other Items which are Helpful: Toothpaste; Tooth brushes; Soap; Laundry detergent

(Other foods are welcome, too - just please first check the expiration dates on them.)

MISSION MATTERS

Thanks to the generosity of friends, members, and civic organizations Skeet's Pantry received \$1,829 in recent weeks, plus some canned goods. One member celebrated her eightieth birthday by receiving, instead of gifts, money for the Pantry. What a wonderful way of marking a special day! Thanks to all who contributed.

And our church received letters of thanks from the organizations who have recently received checks from us. Womanspace writes that our donation of \$327 (which came from our share of the Peace Offering) "will have a significant impact on Womanspace and the women and children we service, victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. We thank you". The Medical Benevolence Foundation, which is the conduit through which we assist Good Shepherd Hospital in the Congo, expressed their appreciation for our gift of \$450, stating they are grateful that we are "reaching out to those in need with gifts of compassion, hope, healing, and witness--all in the name of God's love given to us in Jesus".

Centurion Ministries received \$5000 from us to assist them in working to free from prison those who have been wrongly incarcerated. Centurion "remains thankful for the continued generosity of your congregation. Please extend my thanks to all those who made this donation possible". And a letter from the Rev. Peter K. Stimpson, Executive Director of Trinity Counseling Service, stating what a pleasure it was to be in our pulpit October 4. He thanked us for past support and expressed the hope that our assistance to Trinity will continue.

Helen Dickerson announced that the need for food is continually increasing. At least 140 bags were handed out in October, and for the most part, these bags are greatly appreciated. Thanks to a group calling itself *Farmers Against Hunger* food is available to be picked up every third Thursday in Trenton and arrangements have been made to have someone get food for Skeet's Pantry. It was suggested that the Christian Education committee encourage gardeners to plant part of their gardens to share.

TASK continues its remarkable growth and areas of service. A record of 186,100 meals was served and it is anticipated that number will grow to 190,000 this coming year! So great is the need. But in addition to meals, TASK provides skills enabling students to earn their GED's, etc., has published a "Smart Book" containing information for ex-offender re-entry into the community, hires a social worker who explains resources available to TASK patrons, has expanded the medical screening program, provided outlets for artistic energy, holds annual events for children and families, including holiday parties, and, all in all, is a beacon of hope for those permanently or temporarily down on their luck. Our church is blessed to be able to assist in their far-seeing efforts.

The CROP Walk raised \$1,530. Thanks to all who walked or contributed. To date, \$555 has been given for Alternative Christmas gifts. Heidi Knowlton and Nancy Stewart stated that the church sold 100 Christmas wreaths. We can rejoice in the beauty these wreaths bring to our area and the economic lift their sale has brought to Maine where the greens are grown and the wreaths are created.

The following grants will be made: Heifer; \$1000; Trinity Counseling, \$1000; Better Beginnings, \$1000; Womanspace, \$673; NAMI, \$1000; TASK, \$5000 and Spring of Hope Children's Food Program (Guatemala), \$1,300 - this grant is the fourth installment of a commitment we made last March. These names are all familiar ones, and each organization performs a vital service in the community, a service that often extends farther than we can imagine.

Gretchen Stults

GUATEMALA TRIP 2010 MEETING

This year's trip is from July 9 - 16, Friday to Friday. As a church member your only cost of the trip will be your airfare which typically is around \$500.00 - \$600.00. There are no skills required, just a set of hands and the willingness to serve the Lord. Some of the projects we will work on could include children's ministry, dental and medical clinics and building construction.

An **informational meeting has been set for January 5, Tuesday at 7:30 PM** in the Fellowship Hall at the church. If you cannot make this meeting and are interested in traveling with us this year, please e-mail me at geolive60@aol.com or call me at 609 395-0513.

Yours in Christ, George Conley

FIFTH ANNUAL GUATEMALA GOURMET DINNER FUNDRAISER

Our fifth annual gourmet dinner to support our Guatemala mission is quickly approaching. Don't miss the wonderful opportunity for church fellowship, entertainment and a delicious meal. There are a limited number of tickets being sold, so buy them today.

We will be serving dinner on Friday, January 29 and on Saturday, January 30 beginning at 7:00 p.m. with open seating beginning at 6:30 p.m. As you dine on Friday, you will be serenaded by a String Quartet and on Saturday you will be entertained by our very own Don Klotzbeacher and company along with a Barbershop Quartet. The cost of the meal will be \$50.00 per person (remember this is a fundraiser). You may want to attend both evenings to experience the variety of entertainment being offered. We will be selling only a limited number of tickets, so plan on buying your ticket early. They are on sale now and will be available during coffee hour (see Lil or George Conley) or call the church office.

We are offering a filet mignon, grilled salmon or stuffed chicken as your main entrees along with all the trimmings and a delicious desert to top it off with.

Checks can be made payable to The First Presbyterian Church (tax deductible) memo: Guatemala dinner. Any amount above the \$50.00 fee will be greatly appreciated.

Please save this date, we are counting on you for our success in this project.

George Conley, Guatemalan Team
(609) 395-0513

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

George Arsnow

I live in East Windsor with my wife, Daune and two sons, George and Nicholas. Nicholas, our youngest, was baptized in the church. Daune and I have transferred our memberships to this church. I will be going on the Session this year and look forward to being a part of this church family. I work at CDM, an engineer consultancy, as a senior project manager in the industrial services group.

Jack Britton

I was born in Princeton and have lived my entire life in the Plainsboro/West Windsor area. I graduated from East Carolina University in 1968. I served in the U.S. Army from 1968-70, with a tour of duty in Vietnam. I worked for Carter-Wallace in Cranbury for 25 years; 20 years as plant superintendent. I have been a member of the First Presbyterian Church, in Plainsboro for 30 years, serving as financial secretary, building and grounds committee member and deacon. I've been married to my wife Sue for 40 years and have two children, Michael and Amy and six grandchildren. I have truly been blessed by the Lord!

Sue Britton

I was reared in a Christian family, Southern Baptists, near Wilmington, North Carolina. I married Jack 40 years ago! We met at East Carolina University. We have a son Michael who is married to Kim; they have three sons, Charlie, Drew and Jack. We also have a wonderful daughter, Amy, who is married to Kerry; they have three children, Hannah, Ryann and Luke. I was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in

Plainsboro for 30 years. I've served as a deacon, elder and on various committees. I've attended other churches for seminars, bible study, and "God seeking things". I love our Bible Study with our neighbors, Bob and Carol Kane. I work as a radiologic technologist at USH Work's. I'm looking forward to serving as a deacon and getting to know other members.

Bob Davison

I was born and raised in Hightstown. I joined the Hightstown Church and later transferred to this church after getting married for the first time in the 1960's. I moved from the area to "seek my fortune". I came back when my mother became sick to live in the family home with my brother and sister-in-law. I rejoined this church for the second time. I then found a wonderful woman and remarried and moved to Burlington. We have now moved to West Windsor, so I'm joining again by letter of transfer. This is my third time as a member of the First Presbyterian Church congregation. I am now retired. My job history includes graduation from Rutgers University, 20 plus years in computers and sales of emergency vehicles and supplies in the north eastern states. I'm glad to be back with friends that I went to school with and have met thru the church over the last 50 plus years.

Karen Demarest

My husband Tim and I with our sons, Kyle and Dylan live in Cranbury. I was baptized Catholic and made my first Holy Communion at Saint Augustine Church. However, right before I made my Holy Communion my parents asked me what did "confession" mean, and I couldn't answer them. Soon after my Holy Communion we switched to Six Mile Run Reformed Church in Franklin Park. I was confirmed there and involved in Youth Group. Tim and I were married at Six Mile Run Reformed Church. I work as a residency coordinator for the department of medicine at St. Peter's University Hospital.

Tim Demarest

My wife Karen and I have two boys, Kyle, age 13 and Dylan, age 11. We live in Cranbury. I work as a real estate agent. I was baptized at Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church in Union City. When I was 5 years old we moved to South River, New Jersey and joined Christ Memorial Lutheran Church, in East Brunswick, where I was confirmed. The boys were baptized at Christ Memorial and where my father was deeply involved.

Gaylord French

On August 16 of this year I retired after 33 years as the organist and choir director at Central Presbyterian Church in Montclair, New Jersey. I have a doctorate of music in choral conducting from Indiana University and many years experience in music education where I taught voice, organ and piano, choral conducting and music history. My wife Marlene and I have been married 48 years and have two daughters and five grandchildren. Since retiring to the Renaissance Cranbury, I have enjoyed many programs and concerts available in the Princeton area.

Marlene French

My husband and I moved to Renaissance retirement community on Cranbury Station Road in September from northern New Jersey. We chose this area because we wanted to be near one of our children; and we wanted to be close to a university where we could take advantage of the intellectual life and attend arts events. We have been active churchgoers so we started looking for a church immediately and we found Cranbury church on our second Sunday and we knew we had found our new church home. We have two daughters, one in New Egypt, and one in Virginia. We have five grandchildren, already in their teens. For the first 20 years of married life I balanced a career in nursing with being a mom. The next 18 years I was the volunteer director for a medical center. I look forward to the next stage of life and the possibility of new friends and challenges.

Kristen and Steve Hackett

We live in West Windsor with three children, Bobby (5), Katie (3) and Caroline (2 months). Steve's older children, Andrea (18, is a freshman at Colgate) and Matt (16, a sophomore at West Windsor-Plainsboro North) also live in West Windsor. Steve is an accountant with Ernst & Young in New York City and was previously a member of St. David the King church in West Windsor. Kristen is an accountant at Deloitte & Touche's Princeton office and is transferring from Princeton United Methodist Church. Katie is currently enrolled at CPNS; Bobby attended CPNS from 2007 through 2009. We look forward to becoming involved with the Sunday school and other programs at church.

Sharon Pulz

I live in Cranbury with my husband Greg and children Ian, 15 and Marley, 13. I work as a Budget Analyst for University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. I plan to get involved with the church Mission, Service and Grants Committee and Youth Group. I'm a Girl Scout leader and an avid theater, concert, opera and sports lover.

OUTREACH NEWS

CRANBURY COFFEE HOUSE

January 8 is **Christian Youth Night**.

As you know the coffee house is a venue to showcase local musical talent with musical genres such as Jazz, Folk, Acoustic Rock, String Quartet, Barbershop Quartet, Open Mike, Oldies & Brass Band. The coffee house has been a once a month event held on the second Friday of each month through June 10, 2010. Our upcoming event will be on Friday, January 8th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Performing will be Chris Stein. His music is uplifting and spiritual. We hope you will all mark your calendars and let all your friends and neighbors know about this wonderful opportunity.

Tickets for the January show are \$8.00 per adult, and \$5.00 for children under 12. Refreshments will be available at an additional cost.

Through the effort of a small task force we have been able to make the opening night happen, however your help and

support will be what will make this program a continued success. Remember the proceeds less expenses benefit Skeet's Pantry & the Deacon's Benevolence Fund.

For information about the Cranbury Coffee House or how you can help please go to www.cranburycoffeehouse.com.

We thank you in advance for all your help and support.

SENIOR BREAKFAST CLUB NEWS

We will be hearing from Mr. Frank Marlowe about the "Battle of Britain during the 1940's" at our January 28, 2010 breakfast at the Cranbury Inn.

The Senior Breakfast Club is open to all who wish to hear these talks at our Thursday, once-a-month breakfast at 8:30 a.m. at the Cranbury Inn in Cranbury, New Jersey. If you wish to attend, and have not done so before, please notify the church office at 609-395-0897 so that we can contact you. We need to notify the Cranbury Inn with a head count of the guests that wish to attend.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Senior Fellowship exercise class has grown and grown! We are currently keeping a waiting list. If you would like to be placed on the waiting list, please call the church office at 609-395-0897.

EXERCISE SCHEDULE

January 4, January 7, January 11,
January 14, January 18, January 21, January 25
January 28

Upcoming Event

The Annual Show and Tell program for Senior Fellowship has been planned for Tuesday, January 19, at 12 noon, in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is asked to either bring along an item of interest to share with the group, explaining why the item has special significance to their life, or talk about some memory which would be of interest to the other participants. To give everyone a chance, each person is asked to make the presentation no longer than three minutes. Hot dogs, beans, dessert and beverages will be provided. If you are not on the Senior Fellowship call list you need to preregister by calling Connie Bauder by Tuesday, January 12, to register for this program.

Program Schedule

Senior Fellowship is open for all seniors in the church or community. We have a wonderful group and would like to have you join us. We provide rides for those who need them. The Senior Fellowship coordinator is Connie Bauder. If you have any questions, please contact Connie.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE NEWS

Stewardship Offerings Update to December 13, 2009

	Last Week	Year-to-Date
Offerings Received	\$8,366	\$365,758
Amount needed to meet our obligations	\$7,038	\$370,900
Christmas Joy Offering:	\$325	\$465
Collection for Historical Records	\$20	\$1,120

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

All students in grades 6 through 12 are welcome to participate in our dynamic Youth Group! We have a friendly group of students, dedicated leaders, and a full schedule of faith-filled and fun activities, including many opportunities to serve the Lord through helping in mission projects.

January Activities

- Jan. 3 NO Youth Group - Happy New Year
- Jan. 8 (Fri.) 7-9:30 pm All youth are encouraged to attend the Cranbury Coffee House featuring singer and speaker Chris Stein. We expect a big turnout for it- you won't want to miss it!
- Jan. 10 6:30p-8:00p Youth and Parent Meeting with sign-ups for Mission Trip, etc...
- Jan. 17 6:30p-9:00p Youth Group attending Community Martin Luther King Service, St. Paul Lutheran (East Windsor)
- Jan. 24 6:30p-8:00p Youth Group - FH
- Jan. 31 2:00p- 4:00p Youth Group Ice Skating at Princeton Sports Center (parental supervision needed)

WALKING IN FAITH

Following His Plan... Ann Riemann

Some of my earliest memories of religion were confusing. My mother was Catholic and my brother, sister, and I were raised as Catholics. We went to church each week, attended CCD, made our First Communions, and were confirmed in the Catholic Church. We did all of this without my father. He was a scientist and was raised as a Methodist but did not "practice" any religion.

My parents had an agreement that we would be raised as Catholics, but my dad never participated in our teaching. He did yard work while we went to church.

I don't ever remember him contradicting anything we were taught, but I knew he didn't agree with it all. When I pressed him about his beliefs when I was about 8, he told me he believed Jesus was a very good man, but not all that we were being taught.

I remember going shopping with my mom in preparation for my First Communion. We picked out a beautiful dress, rosary, and white prayer book. I was 7 years old and so excited. I was confused when my mom asked me not to talk about it with my

dad when we got home. She took me to my First Communion, all dressed up, by herself.

Our family Bible came with our set of Encyclopedias. I never knew how to use it.

My husband Ron and I were married in the church I grew up in. He was raised as a Lutheran and his whole family went to church together each week. His family was wonderful and did not object to us being married in the Catholic Church.

When our children, Jeff and Carly, were born they were each baptized in Ron's parents' church. It was a Christian, non-denominational church. Both of my parents had passed away by this time. As our children grew it became very important to us to raise them in a church. Ron and I were both flexible as to the denomination; I just wanted us to choose a church that our whole family would be a part of. After visiting many churches, we felt really at home at Cranbury Presbyterian. Jeff and Carly attended Sunday school, and our family loved being a part of Wednesday Celebration.

I know in trying to teach my kids I often learn as much or more than they do. This has been especially true when it comes to church and religion. I have been a Sunday school teacher, and was nervous that the kids would know more than I did about the Bible- they often did!

A few years ago I was invited to be a part of a wonderful Bible Group. I was anxious that these knowledgeable women would discover how little I knew about the Bible and its stories. When I was finally able to admit this, it was such a relief! No one judged me. On the contrary, they all taught me so much! I struggled sometimes with what I was learning and feeling. I realized that I had been torn between faith and science and my parents' differing beliefs. I felt almost disloyal to my father as I learned more about religion and the Bible, because I believed what I was learning! My dad and I had a great relationship and I could always say anything to him. I would have loved to have had the chance to "argue my case" about religion with him.

When I was asked to be a Deacon four years ago I thought they had dialed the wrong number. After agreeing to give it a try I struggled with which committee was right for me. I discovered I am not very good at planning Sunday school curriculum, but I can help plan a picnic or luncheon with the Congregational Life committee, and help collect food for Thanksgiving Baskets. I came to really understand that we all have different gifts and talents we can offer.

I have felt so accepted by our church at whatever point I am at in my faith journey. For me it truly is a journey - with so much to learn along the way.

WORSHIP NEWS

USHERS GUILD: If you are interested in joining the Ushers Guild, please contact Caren Anuszewski at (609)587-8883 or ccrab91@optonline.net.

Special Note

I wish to thank the Worship Committee and the congregation for the beautiful flowers given to me during the worship service on December 13th in recognition of my years of service to the church. It has been my privilege to prepare communion and coordinate the Ushers Guild for approximately 15 years. If I was not in a state of shock when I was called forward for the presentation, I would have said that the Usher Guild is made up of nearly 100 dedicated members who work as teams to perform many duties to make our worship service meaningful each Sunday. And I would have thanked each of them for making my job as coordinator an easier task over the past years.

As I retire, I am looking forward to relaxing and being able to travel whenever we want.

Wishing you Joy and Peace in 2010
Kay Hansen

January Birthdays

Hannah Anuszewski
 Ian Anuszewski
 Ethan Anuszewski
 George Arsnow
 Connie Bauder
 Adam Bloom
 Patricia Bohrs
 Debra Bond
 Liz Callaway
 Marty Cassidy
 Victoria Cassidy
 Darlene Chermak
 Jessica Cier
 Valerie Cier
 Kelly Cole
 Scott Collins
 Margaret Collins
 Katherine Davison
 Rose Eller
 Sydney Flyge
 Thomas Frascella
 Marlene French

Andrew Gaylo
 Christopher Gaylo
 Gail Geijer
 Katherine Gerberich
 Elizabeth Gerberich
 Kate Grande
 Kristen Hackett
 Hope Kleppe
 Bradley Kong
 Andrew Kremann
 Hannelore Kritikos
 Amanda Longo
 Pat Martin
 Leslie May
 Peter Miller
 Sarah Mills
 Lisa Mortensen
 Barbara Mortensen
 Karen Moutenot
 Thomas Patterson
 Brianna Pinedo
 William Probasco

Sarah Reddan
 Jennifer Rhodes
 Nancy Rhodes
 Brian Santoro
 Mark Sasso
 Lauren Scott
 Alex Senopoulos
 Katelyn Steenvoorden
 Kristen Stewart
 Robert Sullivan
 Franklin Sutton
 Russell Sutton
 Biagio Toto
 Crystal VanKirk
 Mark Van Zevenbergen
 Kirstie Venanzi
 Matthew Weidner
 Maggie Welch
 Elliott Wilson
 Scott Yeager

Happy Birthday!

<u>Pastors</u> Rev. Dr. Louis Mitchell Rev. Rosanna Anderson	<u>Worship Service</u> 10:30 a.m. Worship Service (Childcare provided)	<u>Church Office Hours</u> 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Office Closed on 1/1 and 1/18 Office Closes on 1/7 at 2:30pm	<i>"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases." (Lamentations 3:22)</i>
<u>Cranbury Presbyterian Nursery School (CPNS)</u> Janice Parker, Director Phone: 609-655-8663 cpnschool@comcast.net CPNS Closed 1/1 and 1/18	You can view the monthly newsletter, calendar and hear past sermons on our website at www.cranburypres.org . If you have suggestions, or want to submit information to be included on the website, send your request to webmaster@cranburypres.org . Requests made by Wednesday will be posted on the website by Saturday.	The deadline for the February Newsletter is January 21, 2010 . If possible, please submit articles as attachments via email to: FirstPresOffice@comcast.net	<u>Dates and Deadlines</u> 1/13 Annual Reports Due 1/14 9:00a Session Material Due 1/19 7:30p Session Meeting 1/21 Newsletter Articles Due