



**MINISTER'S MESSAGE**

I remember years ago when I was younger—in my middle twenties—and had less tact than I do today. I preached a sermon about immorality, a specific comment about a specific issue in our town. I was so incensed about the injustice of it, I sputtered in the pulpit. After the sermon that week, most of my church members were scandalized that I had been so direct and had meddled in places they would rather I politely ignore. I endured a lot of heat for what I had said, especially after it appeared in the local paper in black and white headlines with a picture of me looking all righteously indignant. We like preachers to know the truth, but we don't always want them to speak about it out loud in public. One of the dearest members of the church happened to have been in the hospital and missed the sermon. I went to see her that week. I brought it up in the visit, figuring she had not heard about the flap over my sermon. But I underestimated the power of gossip. She had already heard all about it. I asked her for her advice. Should I keep quiet and let things go. "No, David, if you don't remind us of the truth and the better way, who will?"

We live in a time of vague unease. We know things are not right but most of us in churches like ours are too polite to talk about the real problems. We just keep praying and hope for the best. Where is John the Baptist these days? Very rarely in pulpits like this. You have to leave this neighborhood. You have to go where the preachers glare out from behind a Bible and communicate with a directness that both repels and draws us. We all have expectations and hopes for a better world. Many of us—just this week—have done or said things for which we would love to have a chance of forgiveness and a second chance. During this last Sunday's silent confession we could not even bring ourselves to mention it to God. As if God doesn't know! What should we do?

"And [John] answered them, 'He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise....Collect no more than is appointed you....Rob no one by violence and false accusation and be content with your wages.'" (Luke 3:10-14)

There was more John told them. He stated that there was one coming after him who was mightier than he. That One who followed John still has the power of forgiveness. He is the key to grace. He can fill your lives with God's Spirit. He is the offerer of second chances. If you give yourself over to him, even though others take wrong paths and tempt you to take them, too, something will have changed inside you. You will know the way, the life and the truth. No wonder he draws us still, and it is good news.

It is a new year. A great time for a new start. I hope you let the church help you: coming to our Sunday worship, participating in a Bible study, volunteering to help on a committee or mission project, singing in a choir, giving. He is the God of second chances! ~J.D. Stinson

**January 10, 2010**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday After Christmas**

**8:15am Chapel/Communion**  
**10:15am Worship/Church School**

**The Rev. Dr. Joseph David Stinson, Preaching**  
**"The Baptism of Jesus" Luke 3:15-22**



**Child Care for the very young provided.**

Greeting you this week will be the Johns Family and John Dobbs. The ushers will be the Dobbs Family, Andy Song, The Shove/Rowan Family and Jon Intner. The acolyte will be Ione Bartlett. The Videographer will be David Overmyer. Counters in the Treasurer's Office, Sherry Brabham and Craig Wood. Barbara Stevens and Nancy Bigelow will deliver the flowers.

The attendance last week was 83 in the 10:15am service.

**✦ IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ✦**

- ◇ *At home:* Tom Agnew, Bob Kansky, James Hollander, Lauren Smith, Lorraine Rieder, Susan Booth, Karen Augis, Phyllis Domenic, Madeline Edgar, Scott Spoerl, Sandra Lefkovits, Mary Keller, Bob Runge, Jim O'Brien, Jack Cusick and Barbara Underwood.
- ◇ *In extended care facilities:* Al Brown (Mountainside), Tom Horton (Valley Hospital), Bill Luddecke (Van Dyk), Ed Warren (Stuart FL), Art and Marilea Schlobohm (Green Hill), Betty Bishop (Juniper Village, Chatham), Don Olson (Job Haines), Robert Martin Schaeberle (Ridge at River Woods, Exeter, NH), Peg Carr Waters (North Carolina), Lucy Force (Sunrise, Woodcliff Lake).

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

**ANTIQUES SHOW NEEDS YOU!**

Can you help? The Antiques Show opens Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>! We have many volunteer needs. Call the chair of one of the committees if you know them or call Chair Norma Batastini at 746-2936 to offer your help. We need and appreciate your commitment on this important fundraiser.



### WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION EPIPHANY BRUNCH

This Saturday, January 9, from 10:00am to 12 the Women's Association is hosting their annual Epiphany brunch. There will be a musical program after provided by Tom Mustachio. Marty Lacey will be offering child care as well. Come start the new year off with good food, fellowship and fun!

### ANNUAL REPORTS

A reminder to Chairpersons of all Ministries. Annual reports are due **NOW!!!** Please get them in as soon as possible.

### IHN FAMILIES ARRIVE JANUARY 10

Please sign up to help make our guests feel welcome and cared for. Signup sheets will be in Robinson Hall.

**We still have openings which must be filled: can you help?**

Tuesday, January 12: Breakfast 6am - 7am

Wednesday, January 13: Evening hosts: 7:30pm - 9:30pm

Wednesday, January 13: Laundry host - take guests to laundromat

Thursday, January 14: Overnight host: 9:30pm - 6am

Friday, January 15: Breakfast: 6am - 7am

Friday, January 15: Dinner hosts: 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Friday, January 15: Overnight host: 9:30pm - 8am Saturday

Saturday, January 16: Breakfast host: 8am - 11am

Saturday, January 16: Dinner Hosts: 5pm - 7:30pm

Saturday, January 16: Evening hosts: 7:30pm - 9:30pm

Saturday, January 16: Overnight host: 9:30pm - 8am Sunday

Sunday, January 17: Breakfast host: 8am - 9am

Sunday, January 17: Morning host: 9am - 11am

Sunday, January 17: Lunch host: 11am - pickup time (usually around 1:30)

Any questions or to sign up, call Cindy Reynolds at the church. Thank you!

### 2010 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

There are still some unclaimed contribution envelopes for 2010 in the narthex. A set was prepared for everyone who previously used envelopes or requested them on a completed pledge card. Forms are available to request a set if envelopes were not prepared for you. Please also let us know if a set of envelopes was prepared for you but you don't want them

### STEWARDSHIP: Where we stand....

As of Monday, Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>, we have received 138 pledges for \$429,000. We need to receive another \$170,000 to underwrite fully the costs of our church. The Ministry of Stewardship has begun contacting the 70 families who have yet to respond. To discuss your pledge, please contact the chair, Gordon Hunziker.

Glen Ridge Congregational Church  
195 Ridgewood Avenue  
Glen Ridge, New Jersey 07028

### PHOTO DIRECTORY

Plans are underway to produce a new photo directory (our last one was issued in 2001!) Photographers from Universal Church Directories will be here at the church January 12<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup>. We have already started to schedule appointments.

Online scheduling is available Monday through Friday- and easy! Simply go to the Universal website, [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com), click on the yellow sunburst icon, enter NJ106 in the Church Code field and enter glen in the Church Password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your appointment time.

If you prefer, you can schedule through Barbara Duym in the church office (973)743-5596 ext. 21.

Each family photographed will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and a directory and will have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits.

We hope that everyone will participate in this program.

### THE NEXT WEEK AT GRCC

<b>SUNDAY 1/10</b>	<b>THREE KINGS SUNDAY</b>
	<b>IHN ARRIVES</b>
8:15am	Chapel/Communion
9:00am	Bible Study
9:00am	Ministry of Children & Youth
9:15am	Chancel Choir
10:15am	Worship/Church School
11:30am	Fellowship/YPS Coffee
11:40am	Music Committee
<b>MONDAY 1/11</b>	<b>IHN</b>
7:00pm	Yoga
<b>TUESDAY 1/12</b>	<b>IHN JDS USN</b>
	<b>CHURCH DIRECTORY PHOTOS</b>
3:00pm	Confirmation
8:00pm	AA
<b>WEDNESDAY 1/13</b>	<b>IHN JDS USN</b>
	<b>CHURCH DIRECTORY PHOTOS</b>
3:15pm	Children's Choirs
4:15pm	Chapel Bellringers
8:00pm	Ministry of Finance
8:00pm	MOM
<b>THURSDAY 1/14</b>	<b>IHN JDS USN</b>
	<b>CHURCH DIRECTORY PHOTOS</b>
6:30am	Morning Glories
3:00pm	SCEEP
6:45pm	Carillon Bellringers
8:00pm	Chancel Choir
<b>FRIDAY 1/15</b>	<b>IHN JDS USN</b>
	<b>CHURCH DIRECTORY PHOTOS</b>
<b>SATURDAY 1/16</b>	<b>IHN</b>
	<b>CHURCH DIRECTORY PHOTOS</b>
<b>SUNDAY, 1/17</b>	<b>IHN LEAVES</b>
8:15am	Chapel/Communion
9:00am	Bible Study
9:15am	Chancel Choir
10:15am	Worship/Church School
11:30am	Fellowship
7:00pm	YPS