



*No matter who you are or  
where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome at the  
Glen Ridge Congregational Church*

# Glen Ridge Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

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## *Newsletter*

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March 2011

195 Ridgewood Avenue • Glen Ridge, New Jersey 07028 • (973) 743-5596

On the web at [www.glenridgecong.org](http://www.glenridgecong.org)

# *From the Minister*

## The Rev. Dr. Joseph David Stinson



### An Important Time for Our Church

One day last summer during the time I was recovering from surgery on my leg, I limped over to the Glen Ridge Pharmacy for supplies and while there took the dry cleaning to the cleaners. The couple who run that business are the kindest Christians. You know how hot it was last summer. (Nice to recall!) I was in shorts, so she saw my bandage and asked what happened to my leg. I told her about the surgery and the melanoma. She said, “You?” “Yes, me, but the results are all good, I’m going to be fine. God has answered many prayers.” It is odd to me—please don’t misconstrue what I am about to tell you—that so many people in the *background* of my life really went to bat for me during that time. She said something that still leaves me amazed. She took my hand and looked up at me right in the parking lot of the arcade: “This will have a great impact on your church, too. To have a minister who believes in and has experienced the mercy of God, answered prayers and a miracle will be a great thing for your congregation.” I have been thinking about that ever since she said it.

We are at a very significant moment of transition in our church. Everyone knows and complains about how tough things are but do we see the signs of life? Last fall we had a class of six new members. This winter, a class of nine. It stuns me what we have been able to do to our old building in this time of recession – a new slate roof! I think our church is not only going to make it but we are going to thrive and grow. It seems such an impossibly rough time for faith. Everyone succeeds when times are good. Yet tough times *can bring* a more important kind of success. They change us if we have faith.

I also remember Winston Churchill’s line in his book *The Gathering Storm*. I was reading that last summer during my recovery: “This was not the first time—or indeed the last—that I have received a blessing in what was at the time a very effective disguise.”

It is in times like these, we need faith and one another. During Lent, I hope you’ll make church a regular part of your week and life.

~ J.D. Stinson

# *From the Associate Minister*

## **The Rev. Cynthia F. Reynolds**



**I**n the very early days of the Christian church it was on Easter Sunday morning when the sacrament of baptism was celebrated. Prior to receiving the sacrament, new converts prepared by observing a time of fasting and penance – the origination of our present day Lent observance.

Many churches offer special classes during the season, sermon series designed to lead the congregation in through a time of repentance, and often congregation members take on a spiritual discipline in their private devotions. This year you are welcome to use a weekly Lenten devotional that will be available in the bulletins on Sunday mornings, on the Clark Street table each week, as well as on our website.

A friend of mine, Bob Stowe, wrote a book, *Breathing New Life into Lent*, and includes a powerful reflection which I share with you now:

A sign outside a long-established dry cleaners said, “38 years on the same spot!” Have you ever felt that way? Too many people are more bored than suffering. We wait restlessly, hoping God will tap our shoulder soon for an important assignment, only to live between dry cleaning pickups and school plays.

Where is the cross for those of us who know we are a little dull, for those of us who have been on the same spot for 38 years, trying to get clean or at least significantly dirty?

The cross is found in living deeply, meaningfully in the here and now; the call to bear the cross is an invitation to be available and used of the Lord. . . . we don’t need tragedy or drama to know the cross. We can experience the cross by paying attention to the bigger picture in our own community. The corner of Main and Main is rarely as dull as it appears. Jesus walks the familiar highways and byways as well, and yours may be the donkey he requires – an ordinary beast of burden for an extraordinary mission in everyday life.

How many signals have I missed, I wonder. How many times have I missed the touch of Christ on my life? We are asked to be available to Christ, to be ready when the Lord has need of us.

Let us make ourselves ready this Lent!

Peace and blessings,  
*Cindy Reynolds*

# MUSIC NOTES



We are thrilled that our choirs are enjoying growth and welcoming new members. We do still have some specific openings and needs...

CHANCEL CHOIR is in need of additional men, both tenors and basses. Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 8 to 10pm in the Blue Room.

CARILLON BELLRINGERS has two open positions for low bell ringers. Additionally, we could use a couple people who would be willing to serve as substitute rehearsal ringers – only joining us when a regular member must miss rehearsal. The Carillon Bells rehearse Thursdays from 6:45 to 7:50pm in the Music Room. High Schoolers are welcome!

Contact Minister of Music, Tom Mustachio if you are interested in singing or ringing: [tom.mustachio@glenridgecong.org](mailto:tom.mustachio@glenridgecong.org)



## **CANTOREI**

### **NEXT UP:**

### ***Ethnic Drumming***

On March 6 (11:30am – Noon) Cantorei will begin a 4-week unit on Ethnic drumming, learning some of the traditions of African drumming and Native American drumming circles. *Young people in grades 8–12 are welcome to join for just this one unit.* Please let Tom Mustachio know in advance, so we make sure we have enough drums!



## **HANDBELLS**

### **OPEN HOUSE**

### **HANDS-ON DEMONSTRATION**

### **SUNDAY, MARCH 27**

Immediately following the 10:15am service in the front of the sanctuary. **For all ages!** (*How do the bells actually ring? How hard is it to do? How can some of them hold four bells in their hands at the same time?!*) All these questions and any others you might have will be answered by members of the Carillon Bellringers who will demonstrate, guide you, and answer all your questions!

# CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

**Marty Lacey**

*Church School Coordinator*



## **LENTEN WORKSHOP**

Students will go directly to their classrooms on March 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 a.m.

- Everyone will join together in Robinson Hall for our annual “Lenten Workshop”. This year Mr. and Mrs. Noah will greet everyone and introduce a Heifer calendar bank project for each church school family to do during Lent.
- Another calendar, the Church seasons, will be distributed and Holy Week events will be discussed.
- A portrayal of the Last Supper will be a highlight of this year’s presentation.
- A very special surprise rainbow will be constructed and be on display on the new bulletin board in Robinson Hall. Hot Pretzels will be enjoyed with an explanation of the Pretzel legend. **THIS IS AN EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED.** We have invited the Pilgrim Families that would like to participate in the Heifer Calendar Bank project to join us.

## **PRETZELS**

### **FOR ALL!!**

During Coffee Hour on March 6, the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade will sell hot pretzels to raise money for their Heifer animal purchase. Be sure and check out the Pretzel Legend.



### ***THANK YOU***

Many thanks for supporting the various class fund raisers for our heifer project. The students enjoy planning and running their own events along with the help from teachers and families. During Coffee Hour on March 6, Heifer animals or shares of animals may be purchased .

**IT’S TIME TO GET ON BOARD THE ARK!**

***CARE PACKAGES FOR  
MARINES IN AFGHANISTAN  
ARE BEING FILLED BY SOME  
OF THE CLASSES.  
CONTACT MARTY LACEY  
FOR INFORMATION.***



Adam Niewood is a Jazz musician and American composer living in Manhattan New York, USA. Adam grew up in a musical household in Glen Ridge, New Jersey: his father Gerry, an improvising jazz musician and freelancing woodwind doubler; his mother Gurly, a classical clarinetist and pianist, with a full roster of local piano students.

*“Piano lessons on the first floor - Jazz on the 3rd floor - There was music floating around in the house every day!!!”*

This environment led to a young Adam marching around the dining room table with a penny whistle, and first tooting into a soprano Saxophone at age 2. By the time Adam was five years old, he had tagged along with his parents on two world tours with Paul Simon & Art Garfunkel, and Liza Minnelli.

Adam's first instrument was the clarinet in fourth grade, for instrumental music in Glen Ridge NJ public schools, but he quickly gravitated towards the Alto saxophone. In high school Adam's band director, Stan Jackson, decided to switch Adam from Alto to Tenor. Adam Niewood is a student of Berklee College of Music, William Paterson University, Manhattan School of Music, and the Juilliard School. Adam is enjoying finding a balance between traveling with many different bands, playing clubs, presenting clinics at schools across the country, while also spending time at home writing music and playing it with the numerous musicians who live in the artistic epicenter that is New York. Aside from Adam's own project “The Rabble Rousers,” you can hear Adam as a sideman with numerous bands: it all depends on the day.

**Most recently:** Adam is excited about his most recent recording project, recorded in August, 2010: Volume I of a multi-CD project called “*Niewood plays Niewood.*” The first CD features John Scofield, John Patitucci, and Jack DeJohnette. This project focuses on unrecorded music composed in the last 10 years by Adam's father, Gerry Niewood. With close to 80 unrecorded compositions by the late, great Gerry Niewood, “*there is work to be done; a volume of work left behind that he intended to document...I feel driven to do this for him.*” says Niewood.

Check out the [www.niewood.com](http://www.niewood.com) or [www.myspace.com/niewood](http://www.myspace.com/niewood) for more information on what Adam is doing, and where he's playing next.



**Confirmation Activities**

**March**

- 6.....Chapel #2 with Sponsors
- 13..... 8:45am Class
- 20.....No Confirmation Class  
Meet w/Sponsors 9:00am  
All in Worship for Integrity
- 22.....Music & Worship #1 at 3:15pm
- 27..... 8:45am Class
- 29.....Music & Worship #2 at 3:15pm

**April**

- 3..... 8:45am Class



**Stewardship Update**

To date, our congregation has collected **over \$465,000** in pledges for 2011 with 149 pledges. Thank you to the Women's Association who gave \$2,000 to help with the budget. Please send in your pledge card as soon as you are able.

**First Wednesday**

Join us in Robinson Hall for dinner between 6:30 and 7:30pm on Wednesday, March 2nd. ***This is for everyone!*** There will be activities for children. Following dinner, there will be a brief Taizé service of music and prayer in the choir loft at 7:30. ***All are welcome!***

**SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER**



**Tuesday, March 8  
Robinson Hall**

**Continuous seating from  
5:30 to 8:00 p.m.**

**MENU INCLUDES:**

- *Fresh, Homemade Pancakes*
- *Meat and Vegetarian Sausage*
- *Fresh Fruit*
- *Coffee, Tea, Milk*

**TICKETS:**

- \$ 8 Adult
- \$ 4 Children (age 12 and under)
- \$20 Family maximum

Tickets are available this Sunday during Coffee Hour (along with the Adam Nie-wood concert tickets) or from the church office. Sponsored and hosted by our Ministry of Music.

**POTLUCK SUPPER *and*  
HYMN SING**

*For the Whole Family!*

**Sunday, March 27, 2011  
5:00 to 7:00 p.m.  
Robinson Hall**

# Worship in March

<b>CHAPEL COMMUNION SERVICES</b> <b>at 8:15 a.m. on March 6, 13, 20, &amp; 27</b>
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**MARCH 6** **Transfiguration Sunday**  
Worship/Communion 2 Peter 1:16-21 10:15 a.m.  
Mr. Stinson: *"When the Morning Star Arises in Your Hearts"*  
Music by the Chancel Choir

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**MARCH 9** **Ash Wednesday**  
Worship/Communion 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 8:00 p.m.  
Mr. Stinson: *"Ambassadors of Reconciliation"*  
Music by the Chancel Choir, Cantorei

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**MARCH 13** **First Sunday in Lent**  
Worship 10:15 a.m.  
Jim O'Brien: *Addiction: "From Compulsion to Recovery"*  
Music by the Chancel Choir, Carol Choir

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**MARCH 20** **Second Sunday in Lent**  
Worship John 4:5-52 10:15 a.m.  
**SOULS OF INTEGRITY GOSPEL CHOIR**  
Ms Reynolds: *"The Woman at the Well"*  
Music by the Souls of Integrity Gospel Choir, Chancel Choir, Chips, Joyful Noise Choir

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**MARCH 27** **Third Sunday in Lent**  
Worship John 3:1-17 10:15 a.m.  
Mr. Stinson: *"Nicodemus Meets Jesus"*  
Music by the Chancel Choir, Carillon Bellringers

## Happening this Month

### March 2011

- 5 *Adam Niewood & Friends*  
Concert (8pm)
- 6 Lenten Workshop (10:15am)
- 8 Shrove Tuesday  
Pancake Supper (8pm)
- 9 Ash Wednesday Service (8pm)
- 13 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 20 *Souls of Integrity* at 10:15 service
- 27 Potluck Sing-along (5pm)

## Looking ahead...

### April 2011

- 1-2 Rummage Sale
- 3 New Members Join
- 17 Spring Concert

## OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

We'll serve at Bethel-Love on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup>. E-mail Emily Kopec to sign up [egroverkopec@gmail.com](mailto:egroverkopec@gmail.com)



The next Rummage Sale is April 1-2. Starting February 28 you may bring your rummage to the church.

Please do not leave items outside or in Robinson Hall, but neatly in the Biddulph Room. Thanks.



### OPPORTUNITIES

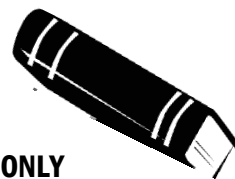
## Geary Batastini Scholarship

Geary Batastini was a strong proponent of education. As an average student in high school he grew to have a strong appreciation for academics by the time he graduated from Elizabethtown College with a BS in Biology. He continued his education at NYU studying environmental science and medicine first in a Master's program and then for his doctorate. He always felt that his success in the pharmaceutical business was in part due to his educational background. As a father he always wholeheartedly encouraged both children in their academic pursuits. One fond memory I have is of Geary sitting at the kitchen table one Sunday afternoon trying to get Meredith and a few of her friends to understand the biology material they were studying for a test. They were doing miserably in this challenging class but they all passed the test!

~ Norma Batastini

Do you know of members of the church who will pursue a graduate degree next year? Since we have other scholarships for undergrads, the Batastini scholarship was created solely for graduate studies. There are **no age restrictions**. We hope to award a scholarship this spring. If interested, please contact the church office for information about application.

**THE BIG BOOK:  
A GUIDE TO  
SPIRITUAL LIVING,  
NOT FOR ALCOHOLICS ONLY**



Jim O'Brien will offer a three session class/discussion during the Lenten season on the *Big Book* of A.A. He will preach a sermon on March 13. Classes will meet on Wednesdays, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and April 6<sup>th</sup>. More information will be available during the month.



*Looking  
for a  
Few  
Good  
People!!*

Nominating is always looking for folks to get involved on the ministries even as unelected participants but in particular they seek a Chair for the Ministry of Adult Education, two members for the AP&P Committee, one to two for Parish Life, Worship and Nominating.

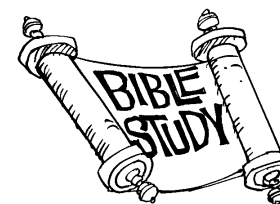
If you think you would do well on any of these Ministries please let Courty Bartlett know via email at:  
[cbartlett@bartlett-research.com](mailto:cbartlett@bartlett-research.com).

**FASHION WEEK AT GRCC?**

Think you can only find your cruise-wear and fashion forward pieces at the mall? Well think again! Our very own Glen Ridge Rummage Boutique is the best kept secret for today's fashion conscious woman. Join us for a reprise of the GRCC Rummage Sale Fashion Show. Coffee and dessert will be served while you enjoy the latest in fashions and accessories for the whole family.

DATE: Friday, March 25 – 7:30pm  
Robinson Hall

A goodwill donation will be collected with proceeds going towards the kitchen renovation. Hope to see you there!



Mr. Stinson leads two classes learning about the Gospel of John.

**Sundays (9:00am)**

Mar. 6 – John 19 “Execution & Burial”  
Mar. 13 – John 20 “The Resurrection”  
Mar. 20 – John 21 “Fishing Partners”

**Wednesdays (10:00am)**

Mar. 2 – John 17  
“Jesus’ High Priestly Prayer”  
Mar. 9 – John 18 “Arrest & Trial”  
Mar. 16 – John 18 “Trial Before Pilate”  
Mar. 23 – John 19 “Execution & Burial”  
Mar. 30 – John 20 “The Resurrection”

## Worship Ministry † † †

Worship helps build a faith foundation. People gather regularly to be together in fellowship and worship, yet each one of us is alone in the process. No one knows what enters our hearts and minds.

As we approach Lent, let us each continue to find strength and solace during worship. Each Sunday service begins and ends with music ~ a prelude and a postlude. It is a lovely time to meditate and reflect. The quietness grows, surrounding one with opportunities. Take time this Lent to let the prelude and the postlude broaden your personal opportunities for faith growth.

Readings, scriptures, and sermons guide one's thoughts. They are aligned with the Lectionary Readings used by many churches. When one listens to them or reads them, it brings great responsibility and joy to know that the focus for that week has commonality with our comrades of many denominations. We are not alone. Take time this Lent to say the words in the bulletin and listen to the words. Carry the bulletin home with you and meditate on the opportunities for personal faith growth.

The music offered by the choirs, the hymns, and Tom Mustachio are another rich source for paving faith's pathway. Each musical selection fits the theme for the Sunday. Whether they are familiar or unfamiliar, let the sounds enter your soul. Sing or read the hymns. Internalize the

words and let them prod your thinking. Mr. Stinson's sermon on church music Sunday captured the "emotional power of hymns" as a way to make "miracles happen together." Tap into another part of the brain, let your spirit soar, and use music as a modality for inner growth. Let music seek a spot in your soul this Lent.

Ms Reynolds is developing a Worship and Meditation Devotional guide for you to use each day and week during Lent. It will be in the bulletin each week and on the website. This Lent our hope is that you will take time as individuals or in groups to read, meditate, and sing as you grow in faith.

Mid-week food/fellowship (6:30–7:30pm) and worship, featuring Taizé music, continue to be offered on the first Wednesday of the month. Everyone is welcome. Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday are also opportunities for worship. This Lent join in these opportunities for worship.

*~ Janet Spoerl, Chairperson*



## Confirmand' s *Interpretation*

On February 20<sup>th</sup>, Wynne Zalewski read from Mathew 5:38-48.

“Figuring out what these two passages meant to me, and my interpretations of them was hard. I had, I guess, a case of writers’ block. But after a good amount of time and lots of pondering, I knew what I wanted to say.

### ***Teaching about Revenge***

This small passage from the Sermon on the Mount is focused on revenge. I think Jesus taught people this because he knew that many times man can be blinded by revenge. The person who is hit on the cheek and then offers the other is the noblest man there is. In a way he pities his persecutor, who is selfish and not confident. The man understands that by attacking his persecutor things will only get worse, a fight or maybe jail. I see this all the time at school. He pushed me so I pushed him, or how some crumble like a cheap suit when offended or even poked. But the man who offers his other cheek will never push someone, or crumble like a cheap suit. He will stand straight and tall because he knows what is right.

### ***Love For Enemies***

I think in this passage Jesus is telling us many things. One of them, I believe, is that we should give and lend to others and expect nothing in return. It goes with what we all learned when were little: when you do something good, your reward will be how you feel inside. I believe this passage

also teaches us that God loves everyone. He loves the poor, the sick, the misguided, the selfish and the good. And that we must follow in his footsteps and love everyone just like he does. Because there is something very unique and special about every one of us. Thank you...”



## March

1.....	Emily Wright
6.....	Grace Travia
7.....	Grace O’Grady
8.....	Sam Dobbs
8.....	Lilly Provost
10.....	Jamie Trunley
10.....	Kendall Smith
11.....	Mike Brown
13.....	Jacob Cinotti
13.....	Emiko Honma
18.....	Susan Hughes
22.....	Mary Duus
25.....	Sari Brown
27.....	David Mitchell
29.....	Emma Delorm
30.....	Debbie Cusick
30.....	David Dik
31.....	Will Bartlett

**Would you like us to  
remember your birthday?**

## IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

### Thank You from SCEEP

We are extremely grateful to each and everyone who contributed to the SCEEP Scholarship Fund. Because you cared there will be greater resources for support of our SCEEP high school graduates as they seek further education or training. We will keep you informed of the next steps in their lives. Thank you very much!

~ SCEEP Coordinators



### ***At home***

Irene Stevens Heun, Michael Brown, Sally Burkatt, Karen Augis, Al Brown, Bob Kansky, James Hollander, Lorraine Rieder, Bob Runge, Susan Booth, Phyllis Domenic, Madeline Edgar, Scott Spoerl, Sandra Lefkovits, Mary Keller, Jim O'Brien, Barbara Underwood, Bill Wood, Fred Worth, Frank Watson.

### ***In extended care facilities***

Bill Luddecke (Van Dyk), Ed Warren (Stuart FL), Marilea Schlobohm (Beaufort, SC), Betty Bishop (King James Care Center), Don Olson (Job Haines), Robert Martin Schaeberle (Ridge at River Woods, Exeter, NH), Lucy Force (Sunrise, Woodcliff Lake).

### ***Friends & family of our church***

Xavier Ross, and his parents Jackie and Nathan Ross, Barbara Hollander-Essig, Marie O'Grady, Roger Keller, Cheryl Vivona, Becky Bodnar, Courtney Connolly, Maureen Wetzell, Barbara Martindale, Grace Uliano, Eloy & Ofelia Hernandez, Andrei Padlowski, JC Egbert, Alison Krien, Stephen Strickland, Len Calvin, Andrea Row, Bob Sherman, Helen Brabham, George Boltnew, Agnes Joy Busk, Anna Withington, Jill Reintjes, Dan Glitzer, Sue Potter, Merrill Roberts, Joan and Frank Lytle, Barbara Acosta, Thomas Bright, Jim O'Brien, Sr., Amanda Oliver, Jean and Barry Frere, Jim Marturano, Elizabeth Knox, Pat and Betty Vigliotti, Paula Newman, Frank Pescatore, Mary Embree, Jeff Glock, Bill Phillips, and UCC Missionaries Jon and Dawn Barnes now on way to Mozambique for their new assignment and also our friends at Back Bay Mission in Biloxi. The service men and women in harm's way, particularly E4-Specialist Alex Tallmadge and Zach Tallmadge in Afghanistan.