



*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

Newsletter

April 2011

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

On the web at www.glenridgecong.org

From the Minister

The Rev. Dr. Joseph David Stinson



Meeting Jesus

As I write this it is the week after Jim O'Brien's fine testimony/sermon in our church. I hope many of you will be inspired to come to the class Jim will offer during Lent. Alcohol and addiction are big problems in our community. I'm glad we have Jim to help us as a church address the issue in a positive way and to point people a way out of this disease.

The choir's Pancake Dinner on Shrove Tuesday was a big hit with 175 people served. The next day, Ash Wednesday, penitence turned out to be less of a draw than the pancakes. Immediate vs. long term gratification is a harder sell!

Ms Reynolds and I will preach during Lent on several of the stories in the Gospel of John about people who met Jesus and how the encounter changed them. I hope you'll join us for these sermons and in the process have a new encounter with Jesus.

I am teaching my Sunday and Wednesday Bible study classes about the Lord's Prayer. The Sunday class started March 20th and the Wednesday class April 6th, details elsewhere in this newsletter. The early

church asked disciples to pray this prayer three times a day. Besides my invitation to you to join one of these classes, why not start the spiritual discipline of praying the prayer three times a day during Lent?

After Lent, the Ministry of Adult Education and I will offer a midweek, evening, book study. We are excited about Sarah Ruden's new book, *Paul Among the People: Reimagining and Reinterpreting the Apostle in His Own Time*. Paul continues to both fascinate and repel many readers. Ruden, a classics scholar, looks at the difficult Pauline passages about women, slavery, sexuality and love and explains how his arguments would have struck his first readers. Not what we think! It is a fascinating reread of Paul and challenges confusion about his views. Look for information on the class in May!

Easter is coming! I hope to see you often this month as we prepare our hearts and faith to meet Jesus again at his resurrection.

~ J.D. Stinson

From the Associate Minister **The Rev. Cynthia F. Reynolds**



We are blessed that God is able to provide when and where help is needed through us.

- 2 Corinthians 9:8-15

Deciding to share is tough sometimes, especially when we feel we barely have enough to get by ourselves. But compared to people whose lives have been ravaged by disaster, or who live on less than \$1 a day, we have great abundance.

On Sunday, April 3, we are invited to help people in need around the world and in communities impacted by disasters in the United States through the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering. As a church we are called to help one another, through the sharing of our own resources.

Pictures from the catastrophe in Japan break our hearts. As early as March 16, a \$25,000 OGHS grant was rushed to Church World Service, our partner in disaster ministries, to support emergency relief efforts in Japan. Our One Great Hour of Sharing Funds are available to provide much needed supplies to the Japanese earthquake/tsunami survivors.

Funds from OGHS continue to support in recovery from the devastating floods in Pakistan as well. “The loss remains incomprehensible, especially for those who have repeatedly witnessed a series of hardships over the past decade, including other floods, earthquakes, and civil conflict,” noted Church World Service Pakistan staff.

During this disaster because of OGHS gifts and others from the international community, CWS staff were able to distribute 16,540 food packages for the benefit of over 91,000 individuals. Temporary shelter supplies, household goods, medical supplies and 500 tents were also provided. Nothing can replace the loss of loved ones, but it does help to know that others care.

Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing are utilized on average every 2.5 days to respond to a disaster. Around the world, around the year, OGHS changes lives.

We can make a difference! Please give generously on April 3 to OGHS: sharing resources, changing lives, bringing joy! Thank you!

Peace and blessings,
~ *Cindy Reynolds*



Thomas Mustachio
Minister of Music

Glen Ridge Community Concerts

PASSION MUSIC

Stabat Mater
Gioachino Rossini

Requiem
John Rutter

+ + +

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

APRIL 17

3:00 P.M.

presented by

CHANCEL CHOIR,
GLEN RIDGE CHORAL SOCIETY
CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

under the direction of
THOMAS MUSTACHIO

*Begin your Holy Week by experiencing
these gorgeous musical works, sure to stir
your heart and feed your soul.*

❖ ADMISSION ❖

\$20 Adults • \$15 Senior Citizens • \$10 Students
available during coffee hour or from the office.



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 others you might have will be answered by members of the Carillon Bellringers, who will demonstrate, guide, and dazzle you!

Over 200 people packed Robinson Hall on March 5 to hear Adam Niewood and Friends jazz quartet keeping it real ... About 175 people enjoyed our delicious homemade pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, March 8... The Spring musical, 100% Chance of Rain, will take place on Mother's Day, May 8 at 10:15am... See you in church on Sunday!

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Marty Lacey

Church School Coordinator



FOLLOWING FOOTSTEPS

During this season of Lent we discuss and study with our children the teaching of Jesus and the events of Holy Week. We hope their footsteps will bring them to class on a regular basis and to come to the special events offered by the Ministry of Children and Youth.

The Sunday before Ash Wednesday the church school had its annual Lenten Workshop. The goal is to discuss the meaning of *Lent* and this year the Heifer calendar and bank project was distributed to all church families. The children met Mr. and Mrs. Noah in the chapel as they came in two by two representing various Heifer project animals. It was a very rainy day so the atmosphere was just right to discuss the 40 days the ark was at sea and this led to a discussion of the 40 days of Lent (plus Sundays). Church season calendars went home along with the Heifer calendars. Our eighth graders and their teachers: John Boyd and Evan Petracca followed the footsteps of Jesus and the disciples at the Last Supper. Their portrayal taught the younger students about Communion and the confirmands were wonderful role models. Everyone made a very special *cross* and a display of the rainbow crosses is on the Robinson Hall bulletin board. Each student wrote down the name of someone on their cross whom they would pray for dur-

ing Lent. The Workshop ended with hot pretzels, an appropriate Lenten symbol. Banks will be returned for the project by April 17th and additional donations are always welcome.

I wish everyone could follow the footsteps of our teachers and students on Sunday mornings. You would see the 4th grade teachers with huge smiles at the end of class saying, "Wow, those are great kids." The smallest class, the 3rd grade, filled three boxes with items and cards for service people in Afghanistan.

Their footsteps are already leading them to help others. And there are many more examples of "Christians in the making".

Our church school family is wonderful and it's important to recognize that our student's footsteps take them in many different directions. Although we miss them when they can't be in class we salute the many successes they are having with their activities. From swim team champs and cheerleading stars to future great musicians we have reason to be proud of their efforts. Jesus' footsteps took him to teach many people. We pray that no matter where our student's footsteps take them, what they learn at church school about God and their faith will help them in making good decisions in their lives.

APRIL 3 BIBLE JEOPARDY 10:15AM
APRIL 22 WAY TO THE CROSS 10AM

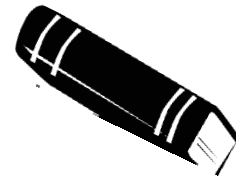


Confirmation Activities

April
3..... 8:45am Class
10..... NO Class
17..... 8:45am Class
24..... NO Class
May
1..... 8:45am Class

First Wednesday

Join us in Robinson Hall for supper between 6:30 and 7:30pm on Wednesday, April 6th. ***This is for everyone!*** This month's meal will be cooked by John Dobbs and some of our confirmands. Following supper, there will be a brief Taizé service of music and prayer at 7:30. ***All are welcome!***



You are welcome to join Jim O'Brien's class, *The Big Book: A guide to Spiritual Life, Not Just for Alcoholics*, in the Blue Room at 8:00pm to discuss the spiritual wisdom of Alcoholics Anonymous' Big Book and *12-Step Program*.



Palm Sunday April 17
 8:15am – Chapel (with baptisms)
 10:15am – Sanctuary
Maundy Thursday April 21
 8:00pm – Communion and Tenebrae
Good Friday April 22
 10:00am – *The Way to the Cross*
 8:00pm – Chancel drama by members of our Young People's Society (YPS)
Easter April 24
 8:15am – Chapel
 10:15am – Sanctuary

Easter Memorial Flowers

We welcome your donation for Easter Lilies in memory of or in honor of loved ones. Send your check (payable to the GRCC Flower Fund) and this form to Joanne Meeker, 38 Chestnut Hill Place, GR; 973 748-9581. Forms must be received by April 17th in order for your loved one's name to appear in the Easter Bulletin.

Your Name: _____

___ *in memory of* ___ *in honor of*

Worship in April

CHAPEL COMMUNION SERVICES at 8:15 a.m. on April 3, 10, 17 & 24

<u>APRIL 3</u>	Fourth Sunday in Lent	
Worship/Communion New Members Join	John 9: 1-41	10:15 a.m.
	Mr. Stinson: <i>"A Man Born Blind Meets Jesus"</i> Music by the Chancel Choir	
<u>APRIL 10</u>	Fifth Sunday in Lent	
Worship	John 11:1-45	10:15 a.m.
	Mr. Stinson: <i>"Martha at Her Brother's Tomb Meets Jesus"</i> Music by the Chancel Choir	
<u>APRIL 17</u>	Palm/Passion Sunday	
Worship	Romans 8:38-39	10:15 a.m.
	Mr. Stinson: <i>"Nothing Can Separate Us from the Love of Christ – Not Death or Life"</i> Music by the Chancel Choir	
<u>APRIL 24</u>	Easter	
Worship	John 20:1-18	10:15 a.m.
	Ms. Reynolds: <i>"He Is Risen"</i> Music by the Chancel Choir Festival Brass & Percussion	

Happening this Month

April 2011

- 1-2Rummage Sale
- 3.....New Members Class
- 17.....Spring Concert
- 17.....Palm Sunday
- 21.....Maundy Thursday Service
- 22..... Good Friday
- 22..... Way to the Cross
- 22..... YPS Good Friday Service
- 24.....Easter

Looking ahead...

May 2011

- 1.....Dinner at the Stinsons for persons interested in joining the church
- 8..... Children’s Musical
- 15..... New member class
- 22..... New member class

Next New Members Class

The Stinsons will host a dinner in their home on Sunday May 1st for people considering membership in our church. A class after worship will meet May 15th, 22nd and June 5th. If you are interested or know of someone who should be invited, please speak to one of the ministers.



WAY TO THE CROSS

April 22nd 10:00am

A program for all children! (young children should bring an adult with them)

Come and hear the Easter story.

Enjoy music by the children’s choirs.

Take a walk through Holy Week and see portrayals of important events.

The program will begin in the sanctuary and everyone will follow Jesus and the disciples outside to witness the story.

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Craft project, refreshments and a special gift for all children.



Stewardship Update

The Ministry of Stewardship has chosen a theme for this year, “The power of your pledge—giving your time, talent and treasure.” We feel that our Church is very special and hope all of you are enjoying being part of the Church family this year. To be involved is what will make it meaningful in your life. Many of you have stepped up and increased your pledge this year and we thank you for doing so. Thanks also go to all of you, who have pledged to date. Your generosity is making our church vital. We just wish we knew how to convince more members to pledge, so that the Church groups can plan activities and actions. If you haven’t done so yet,

please make this next step and join your 150 fellow members, who have pledged \$464,626 to date.

How about giving your time also? It is fun working on rummage sales, helping out at Bethel Love, tutoring at SCEEP, ushering, being on committees, etc. Being part of the action brings real meaning to what the Church is doing. Your talents would be a real help, if you would participate on our committees. What a great way to get to know your fellow Church members. This is a perfect time to get involved. Your help would be well appreciated. Come be a good steward!

GARDEN OF MEMORY

Spring activities are beginning to show

How wonderful to see the glorious signs of spring coming forth in our Church's Garden of Memory! As you walk down the path you can now enjoy seeing a new little Witch Hazel tree in full bloom. In the garden, the daffodils are emerging from their dormant winter stage. They should soon be ready to bloom. Be sure to enjoy them.

Plans are in the works to replant the east facing slope of the Garden property this spring. The present ivy has overextended itself and been joined by uninvited poison ivy and other undesirable and unattractive weeds. Under Tim Delorm's guidance we will beautify this bank. Keep a lookout for this project. We will keep you posted on its progress.

YPS Mission Trip Success

Thirteen high school young people went to NYC on Friday, March 18th. They were accompanied by Ben Woodworth and Anna Lehman. They cooked a meal at a soup kitchen on Friday night, spent the night on the floor of a Quaker Meetinghouse, and on Saturday fanned out all over the city volunteering at food pantries. You make us proud and grateful!

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

We'll serve at Bethel-Love on April 7th and the 21st. E-mail Emily Kopec to sign up egroverkopec@gmail.com



***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.



Mr. Stinson leads two classes learning about the Lord's Prayer; Matthew 6:7-15; Luke 11:1-4

Sundays (9:00am)

April 3 – “Give us This Day”
April 10 – “Forgive us Our Debts”
April 17 – “And Lead Us Not”
April 24 – No Class Session

Wednesdays (10:00am)

April 6 – “Our Father who Art in Heaven”
April 13 – “Thy Kingdom Come”
April 20 – “Give us This Day”
April 27 – No Class Session

Paul Among the People

The Ministry of Adult Education and Mr. Stinson are pleased to announce plans for a book study after Easter on Sarah Ruden's *Paul among the People: the Apostle Reinterpreted and Reimagined in His Own Time*. The Apostle draws strong reactions – both negative and positive – from modern readers. Ruden, a classics scholar, provides an exciting and very readable interpretation of Paul based on her understanding of authors in the first century and how his ideas would have sounded in his own time. Her scholarship provides a new perspective on Paul's views on women, slavery, sexuality, political authorities and love. The group will meet at 8pm four Tuesday nights in May (3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th). Copies of the book are available

from Amazon and B&N in electronic form (at \$12.99) or paper back (at less than \$9.50).



On April 3rd, we will welcome into our covenant: Arlene Baldino, Alicia & Paul Harrison, Josh & Angie Konetzni, Lottie Peppers, and Beth & Ray Vincent. Arlene, sponsored by Audrey Wood, is a retired French

teacher and loves church music. The Harrisons, sponsored by Ava and Alden Provost, have two children, Sophie and Blake. Sophie is in Pilgrim. Paul, a native of Manchester England is in the IT business. The Konetznis are sponsored by Andy and Stephanie Song and have two children, Zach and Ayla. Zach is also at Pilgrim. Angie is originally from Iowa and Josh from New Jersey. In business Josh works on websites related to health. Lottie Peppers, sponsored by her neighbor Elise Toland, has two sons Jackson and AJ, both active in church school and the children's choirs. Lottie, a native of Canada, moved here from Texas. The Vincents are sponsored by Francie Starnes whom Ray met working in the insurance business. The Vincent's daughter Holly is at Linden. Join us to welcome them into our church on April 3rd!

Confirmand' s *Interpretation*

Lou Augis' interpretation of 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

This scripture tells us that only God has the right to judge. It tells us that everyone will be judged by the Lord when the time comes, and only then may that person be judged. God is the only one with the right to judge for he can bring light to our dark secrets and expose our hidden purposes, things that we cannot do. This scripture also says that God judges his servants on how faithful they are not how much faith they show.

Lizza Waugh's interpretation of Psalm 32

I believe that this scripture explains the significance of confessing transgressions to the Lord. When one does not declare sins to the Lord, he or she feels great guilt and punishment. But, when sins are confessed, the Lord will forgive, but always remember. This passage says that in order for the Lord to listen, one must confess to him. When in distress, the Lord will listen. When unsure of yourself, the Lord will listen. Even when your faith is lacking, the Lord will listen, as long as you stay faithful and cleanse your soul of iniquity. For those who do not open towards the Lord, they will not receive his assurance. When you keep your heart open and stay true to God, life will be ultimately better.

PILGRIM NURSERY SCHOOL

Pilgrim welcomes spring and with the promise of flowers and warmth, we take a moment to think ahead to next year! We have a few spaces remaining for enrollment in the three year old class. The three year old preschool program runs from 8:45-12:30 and allows for lunch! Parents can choose between a 3 or 5 day week. The threes also have the option of attending the Afternoon School which is from 12:30 until 2:45. Please contact Betsie in the GRCC office or Mary Duus at extension x13. Thank You.

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Marilea Schlobohm recently turned 85 in South Carolina! Congratulations!!!!



**BIRTHDAYS
THIS MONTH**

April

1.....Sasha Provost
 9.....Susan Krien
 13.....Andrew Filliater
 13.....Niav O'Connor
 15.....Graham Johns
 15.....Betsie Delorm
 17.....Jill Simmons
 16.....Jessica Buchmann
 27.....Tom Coleman
 29.....Andrew Waugh
 30.....Lizza Waugh

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



At home

Bob Grace, Sr., Bruce Fergusson, Irene Stevens Heun, 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

Jon Adler, Xavier Ross, and his parents Jackie and Nathan Ross, Marie O'Grady, Roger Keller, Cheryl Vivona, Becky Bodnar, Courtney Connolly, Maureen Wetzel, 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.

