



*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

June 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



100% Chance of Rain

Since last fall we've done a lot of work on the church and parsonage roofs. We installed the new slate roof over the sanctuary. We replaced the roofs over the Blue Room and office wings. This spring we reflashed the parsonage's chimney and repaired slates on that roof and the garage. Then to top it all off, Tom Mustachio and the children performed a musical on Mother's Day, *100% Chance of Rain*.

How apropos! It showered in April but it really rained in May. Aren't you glad we fixed all those roofs!?

I don't think when I went into the ministry I realized how much energy and money it takes to keep church buildings in repair. I used to think it was too much and resented it. Then I realized in maturity that mine was a false choice to say it had to be mission *or* buildings.

Our building is the platform from which we launch mission initiatives in the world. It is here inside our building that we teach and preach the values of the Kingdom of God that inspire children and adults to live differently in the world. It is here inside

our building that we invite persons to become Christians and nurture their discipleship. All this requires a house for God and like all houses, God's house requires maintenance, upkeep, and funding.

Through Operation Mustard Seed and the ongoing work of the Ministry of AP&P we do our best to keep the house in shape, to make it a place where people feel the welcoming presence of God's love and a safe place to come when things in their lives turn sad.

We have several new initiatives during the warm season now beginning. We are going to improve the church driveway, to make it more handicap friendly. We are going to upgrade some appliances in our church kitchen. We are going to do some repointing of the stonework on the church building. We may even get some more efficient air conditioning in the meeting-house to make it more comfortable for worship, for weddings, for funerals during the warm months—April to October. The Garden of Memory will have some new landscaping.

Let's use what we have to further God's mission! See you Sunday!

~ J.D. Stinson

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



When the day of Pentecost had come they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Acts 2:1-4

It is on Pentecost when we honor the birth of the church: a great celebration filled with the joy of being together, Christ at the center. Yesterday I had the honor of preaching at an ordination service for one of my former high school group students back in Middlebury, CT. There are no words to describe that moment when the ordinand kneels in the front of the sanctuary and all gathered participate in the laying on of hands followed by the prayer of ordination. Jeff stood, surrounded by family and friends, his God-given talents acknowledged and affirmed, ready to begin the awesome tasks of the ordained ministry. It was breathtaking!

On Sunday, June 12, we too will participate in the laying on of hands with our confirmation class. This group of young people has completed a year of instruction, service, and worship and is now ready to

affirm those baptismal vows their parents made for them – it's their turn to say yes! And they will rise from kneeling in front of the sanctuary, ready to continue their journey of faith, to take their places as full members of not only this church, but the wider church.

The confirmation class of 2011 includes: Lou Augis, Madeline Baione, Will Bartlett, Andrew Dik, Kayla Herr, Laura Intner, Willem Jorgensen, Mira Kohli, Grace O'Grady, Alex Sheppard, Lizza Waugh, Andrew Waugh, and Wynne Zalewski. It has been an honor and a pleasure to walk with these students during this most special year. Thanks to those who have served as sponsors as well: Janet Dobbs, John Dobbs, Russell Prince, Deb Brandell, Evan Petracca, Pam Flippin, Kara Travia, Lizzie O'Brien, Sherry Brabham, Sandra Lefkovits, Kim Patterson, Andy Ogilvie, Tom Heinzen, and Maira Kinloch. These people have given the most important gift to our confirmands – their presence. This will be a wonderful celebration for our church – please join us on this most special day!

Peace and blessings,
~ *Cindy Reynolds*



Thomas Mustachio *Minister of Music*

Thank You Choristers!

As another wonderful year of music-making draws to a close, I'd like to recognize and thank the members of our choirs for their ministry throughout the year. Their talent and dedication help make worship so very special for this congregation. Thank you choirs!

JOYFUL NOISE CHOIR *Pre-K & K*

Elisabeth D'Elia	Alex Provost
Andrew Downey	Lilly Provost
Heather Downey	Katie Song
Rex Lord	Amanda Webster
Aksel (AJ) Peppers	Emma Webster

CHERUB CHOIR *Grades 1-2*

Caroline Auburn	Ryann Hillenbrand
Christopher Brown	Meghan Liddy
Emily Buchmann	Jackson Peppers
Travis Burnett	Sasha Provost
Megan Downey	Miller Rowley
Lucas Fink	

CAROL CHOIR *Grades 3-8*

Sam Auburn	Zipporah Hommel
Sari Brown	Clarice Johns
Wesley Brown	Abby Song
Sydney Carey	Grace Travia
Max Ferrara	Chloe Waldt

CHAPEL BELLRINGERS *Grades 4-8*

Sari Brown	Andrew Dik
Wesley Brown	Max Ferrara
Sydney Carey	Zipporah Hommel

CANTOREI *Grades 8-12*

Kimberlee Augis	Andrew Dik
Louis Augis	Wynne Zalewski
Stefanie Augis	

CARILLON BELLRINGERS *Adults-HS*

Karen Augis	Patti Gsell
Sherry Brabham	Linda Kerr
Deborah Brandell	Anne McKenna
Tom Coleman	Jill Simmons
Janet Dickinson	Cyndi Stinson

CHANCEL CHOIR *Adults-HS*

SOPRANO	ALTO
Stefanie Augis	Elli Albert
Rita Ellertson	Deborah Brandell
Pam Figlar	Claire Campbell
Emiko Honma	Debbie Cusick
Susan Hughes	Nicole Ramirez
Arlene Kansky	Laura Rowley
Susan Krien	Jill Simmons
Anne McKenna	Janet Spoerl
Karen Momary	
Genya Muzyczka	
Dorothy Waldt	
TENOR	BASS
Mike Brown	David Dik
Bob Hodgson	Dave Kerr
David Kellett	David Mitchell
	Russell Prince
	David Swain

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Marty Lacey

Church School Coordinator



June brings us to the end of another school year and as always, there are many fond memories of wonderful “happenings” that took place during the year. Long before I was the Church School Coordinator, the Children’s Minister, as she was called in those days, would greet us on Sunday morning waving her hands in the air and announcing in a loud voice, “There’s going to be a happening today, there’s going to be a happening!” (Some of the impersonations of this by our young people were quite impressive!).

But, thinking now about her announcement “There’s going to be a happening”, is a really great way to describe our church school events. And of course with each program there are people who have made it happen. Listing names is always dangerous as it is never possible to include every deserving name. Let me begin by saying, you would be hard pressed to find a more dedicated church school staff than ours here at the Glen Ridge Congregational Church. Some of the teachers the congregation may not often see, such as Betty and Bob Sheppard who watch over the very little ones in the childcare room. Betty and Bob love the children and have volunteered to be there Sunday mornings during the summer and again when our fall classes resume. From the little ones through high school there is a class and teachers for every level. Plans for staffing for the fall is underway and anyone interested in teaching please let me know.

We especially thank John Boyd and Evan Petracca for teaching our 8th grade class for many years. We will certainly miss them as

they retire from the classroom and go on to participate in other activities. John and Evan have shared their faith with many, many students.

We will also be saying goodbye to our high school seniors who have taught so faithfully in our church school. We wish them well in their future endeavors: Claire Naylor, Kasey Fillia-ter, Elizabeth O’Brien and Hunter Woodworth.

Many of the “happenings” have been planned and presented by the Ministry of Children and Youth. Stephanie and Andy Song are wonderful leaders of this fantastic committee providing guidance and encouragement (and Andy is our in house “Jesus” for special presentations). Thank you for all the work this committee has done for the children and youth of our church and community.

ANNOUNCING “*SPECIAL PARENTS*”
BULLETIN BOARD CONTEST----

THE WINNERS ARE:

Jackson and Aksel Peppers

Chris Brown

Wynne Zalewski

Abby Song and Katie Song

Chris Dunkin

Sasha Provost and Lilly Provost

David Stinson

Betsy Macdonnell and Charlie Macdonnell

Wesley Brown

PICTURES ARE STILL ON DISPLAY
BE SURE AND FIND YOUR FAMILY!



Confirmation Activities

June

- 5 – 8:45am Class
- 12 – 8:00am Breakfast
- 9:30am Confirmation

First Wednesday Supper and Worship

Join us in the Blue Room for supper between 6:30 and 7:30pm on Wednesday, June 1. ***This is for everyone!*** Following supper, there will be a brief Taizé service of music and meditation at 7:30. ***All are welcome!***



Beginning May 29 (Memorial Day Weekend), the church will begin its summer worship schedule with one Sunday service at 9:30am.

This will continue through Labor Day weekend, September 4, resuming two services on September 11.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

The office will go to summer hours starting June 20. The office will be open from 8:30am to 12:30pm, Monday to Friday.

Youth Sunday and the 30 Hour Fast

Support and celebrate the youth of our congregation with music, readings and, of course, the Senior Speeches on Sunday, June 5th at 9:30!

Youth Sunday is a wonderful service led by the High School Members of GRCC that celebrates the achievements of our Seniors and all the positive and meaningful outreach the entire YPS has done throughout the year.

The YPS theme this past year was Compassion – and as a final act, on Youth Sunday Weekend, the students will be participating in a 30 Hour Fast. Each YPS participant agrees to fast from Midnight on Friday until 6am on Sunday to realize and share what it means to be hungry. We’re asking the congregation to sponsor the group during this fast, either with a flat donation or a by-the-hour pledge. All proceeds will go to the YPS and the Church School’s Heifer Project. A sponsor sheet is available downstairs on the Robinson Hall bulletin board by the kitchen.

Thanks,
Ben Woodworth

From the Ministry of Outreach and Mission (MOM)



Please remember to keep our shopping cart in the narthex filled for our neighbors at the Bethel Love Food Pantry. Items most needed: cereals, tuna, mac & cheese, all kinds of soup and ramen noodles. Staples such as peanut butter and jelly are always needed. You may drop off your donations on Sunday mornings or any time during office hours. Thank you!

Interfaith Hospitality Network “Home for Good” Special Offering

Thanks to the generosity of this congregation in a special Mothers’ Day offering, a check for \$1,059 will be forwarded to IHN. Donations totaled \$559 from the congregation – the Ministry of Outreach and Mission (MOM) matched the first \$500.

Bethel Love Food Pantry

We’ll serve at Bethel-Love on June 2nd and the 16th. E-mail Emily Kopec to sign up egro-verkopec@gmail.com

Tornado and flood relief

Cash donations have been received in the amount of \$190 and families have made 23 health kits which will be distributed by Church World Service to victims of these **ongoing** natural disasters. We will continue to accept health kits for the next month if you would like to participate.

Items to be included - ONLY these items:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb
- One nail clipper
- One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- One toothbrush (in original packaging)
- Six standard size Band-Aids®

Place all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure, remove air from bag, and seal.

Our website (www.glenridgecong.org) lists other ways you can help. Thank You!

Gifts to the **One Great Hour of Sharing** special offering totaled \$2,173 – these funds will be used by the United Church of Christ for disaster relief both in this country and around the world. *Again, thank you for your generosity!*



On Sunday, June 12, Pentecost, the day we celebrate the birthday of the Church and welcome our confirmands, we will be receiving the *Strengthen the Church* special mission offering of the United Church of Christ.

This offering builds the UCC's future. It funds new congregations and renews existing ones. It supports programs for youth and young adults and nurtures current and future leaders. And it aids the God is Still Speaking Ministry to spread our message of inclusivity.

Directed to local Conferences, Local Church Ministries and the StillSpeaking Ministry, *Strengthen the Church* gifts help to create vibrant church communities of extravagant welcome.

Thank you for your generosity!

S.C.E.E.P.

S.C.E.E.P., an acronym for "Suburban Cultural Education Enrichment Program", is a tutoring program, which began years ago in Newark. At that time, it was a "storefront" operation, with people from the suburbs going down to help children with their homework.

After the Newark riots, a group of people, under the leadership of Tony Peele and Dorothy Knauer, developed the idea of transporting the children to the suburbs.

This concept grew, as churches, colleges, temples, private schools and corporations became S.C.E.E.P. sites. At this time there are nineteen sites throughout Essex County and beyond.

During the early spring of 1991, Nancy Bigelow, Lillian Ashenfelter and Marty Lacey introduced the idea of having a S.C.E.E.P. site at the Glen Ridge Congregational Church and the first group of children arrived in March of that year.

Twenty years later, we are working with children from Sussex Avenue School in Newark. They are completing their third year and will return in the fall as fifth graders for their final year with us.

The unique feature of the G.R.C.C. program is our annual alumni reunions and the Challenge Award, which encourages our children to stay in school and graduate from high school.

We were happy that SEVEN of our former S.C.E.E.P. Students received their Challenge Award of \$100 on May 22. We commend them on their up-coming graduation from high school and wish them well as they go on to the next step in their education. An eighth former S.C.E.E.P. student will also graduate in North Carolina and will receive her Award as well.

Worship in June

JUNE 5	Youth Sunday	
Worship	Led by the members of the Young People's Society (YPS) Music by Cantorei and the YPS Youth	9:30 A.M.
JUNE 12	Pentecost Sunday	
Worship/Communion	The Rite of Confirmation The Rev. Reynolds Preaching Music by the Chancel Choir	9:30 A.M.
JUNE 19		
Worship	Matthew 28:16-20 The Rev. Stinson: " <i>Because I live...</i> " Music by the Chancel Choir and Cantorei	9:30 A.M.
JUNE 26		
Worship	On the South Lawn, beneath the Tent The Rev. Reynolds Preaching Music by Tom Mustachio	9:30 A.M.

Happening this Month

June 2011

- 5.....New Members Class
- 5..... Youth Sunday
- 6..... Scholarship Applications Due
- 12..... Confirmation
- 19..... New members Join
- 19..... Reception for New Members

Confirmand Interpretations

Will Bartlett's interpretation of 1 Peter 1:3-9 on May 1:

This passage is about giving thanks to God for everything he has given you. God keeps all of his blessings in heaven where they can be safe. Be grateful because although now you must suffer, in the afterlife you will prevail. This means that in one's current life, suffering occurs because God is testing your faith, but in heaven when Jesus Christ is revealed, everything will be better. But you have to love him now even though you haven't seen him, and you must believe in him because you are receiving the salvation on your soul, which is the purpose of your faith in him.

Women's Association Picnic

There will be a picnic and annual meeting of the Women's Association at Linda Kerr's house, 15 Winsor Place, on Wednesday, June 8 at 5:30pm. All women of the church are welcome.

To The Women of the Church

Here is an event you won't want to miss! Coming up on Saturday, November 19, 2011...

"A Few of Our Favorite Things"

LUNCHEON

Presented by the *GRCC Women's Association* for the benefit of our Stewardship Campaign

As this year comes to an end, Let's gather together to celebrate all the good things, we have been privileged to enjoy in 2011.

At the luncheon, we will host members' local book clubs and getting their recommendations of favorite books read this year. Watchung Book Store will be on hand to help you with your holiday shopping, by taking orders for any of them you might be interested in purchasing. (20% of the sales will go toward our Church fiscal needs) The compiled list of suggestions will be distributed.

Recipes of our members' favorite foods will be assembled in a cookbook as a gift for all attending. It will include recipes of the dishes served at the luncheon. Extra copies will be available for gift giving and for those who are unable to attend. So everybody, get in your favorites and be part of the fund-raising.

New members, who have joined the Church during the year, will be welcomed and honored. A holiday boutique table will offer tantalizing gifts, which we hope you will make and donate. Upcoming Church

events will be featured. Most important of all, we will be together celebrating the joy of fellowship!

It is a chance for everyone to get involved and make this a memorable event. Get your favorite recipes that you have tried this year to Susan Griffith through the Church office any time between now and September 30th. Let us know if you would like to be on the committee. Mark your calendar and save the date.

Let's make this one of this year's favorite events.

*Joan Hayes, Chair
Cyndi Stinson, President*

Stewardship Needs Your Support—Are You On Board?

The middle of the year is one month away, Have you gotten in your stewardship pledge for 2011 yet? So far we have had the support of 159 pledges, which account for \$479,046 toward our budget of \$493,800.

It has been wonderful having our new members generously come on board and see that our church will be viable in the community. Unfortunately, we're missing the support of quite a few of you, who have pledged in the past. You could make the difference in our achieving our budgeted goal. Please send your pledge in before summer arrives.

Scholarship Applications

Applications for the two scholarships awarded each year to graduating seniors are due June 6. The awards will be presented in worship on June 19.

Parking on Clark Street

In order to be sensitive and good neighbors, we ask that you take care where you park so as to not hinder the ability for others to get in and out of their driveways. Thank you!

***Operation Mustard Seed* PRIORITIES**

We are at the three year mark in the Operation Mustard Seed Capital Campaign and have been able to complete almost all of the priority one projects. At this time we estimate we have approximately \$300,000 remaining in cash and yet-to-be-collected pledges. The Council has reviewed the remaining list of OMS projects. The work will be done as pledges are paid, In order of priority, these are:

- Exterior façade maintenance, stonework and wood, \$50,000
- Completion of Sanctuary, Blue Room and Upper Church School Wing Accessibility Project. This includes a new driveway with two handicap spaces and a turn-around, new walkway, and drainage remediation, \$40,000.


- Endowment/Mission 1st Contributions, \$10,000 to each, total \$20,000.
- Air Conditioning: Sanctuary, Offices and Blue Room, \$150,000
- New Appliances in downstairs kitchen, \$8,000
- Endowment/Mission 2nd Contributions, \$15,000 to each, total \$30,000.

We do not expect to have sufficient funds to create handicap access to Robinson Hall. The price tag of this work is about \$80,000 and includes an accessible bathroom in the lower church school wing and would make Pilgrim Nursery School barrier free. If you have never made a pledge to Operation Mustard Seed or would like to increase your current pledge now is the time to do so! If we are able to raise an additional \$80,000 we will be able to make our entire building handicap accessible.

For those of you who have yet to complete your OMS pledge, we ask you to do so by December 31, 2011.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me, Bart Brown or Linda Woodbury. Thank you to everyone for your generosity!

~ *Marcia Horton O'Grady*
President



**BIRTHDAYS
THIS MONTH**

June

2.....	Heather Downey
2.....	Jane O'Brien
3.....	Kyle Flippin
4.....	Marcia O'Grady
6.....	Phoebe Stinson
6.....	Maryanna Coleman
8.....	Sue Watson
9.....	Anna D'Elia
10.....	Ed Harris
11.....	Iryna Carey
11.....	Claire Naylor
11.....	Kaitlyn Bourne
12	Andrew Potter
13.....	Pam Dawson
14.....	Karen Augis
14.....	Shane Doss
14.....	Michael Overmyer
15	John Boyd
15.....	Prudence Younger
15.....	Alex Dawson
16.....	Barbara Stevens
17.....	Dennis Krien
23.....	Elisabeth D'Elia
23.....	Dave Shove
23.....	Marty Watson
25.....	Margaret Coleman
27.....	Mary Anne Miller
27.....	Walter Oliver
27.....	John Runge
27.....	Will Delorm
30.....	James Flippin

**Would you like us to
remember your birthday?
Notify the Office so we can celebrate
with you!**



- ✝ The Family of *Lucille Kindberg*, who died May 10, at the age of 93, in Lancaster, New Hampshire. Family members include her children, Jan Maroney of Vermont, Randy Kindberg of Vermont and North Carolina, and Larry; one brother, 4 grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Burial in the GRCC Memory Garden will be at a later date.

At home

Frank Watson, Bob Grace, Sr., 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.

In extended care facilities

Bruce Ferguson (NIH, Washington DC), 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, 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. Alex's address is 183rd Maint Co; 529 CSSB; Shindand AB APO AE 09382 and Zach's is 443rd MP CO; APO AE09354.