



*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

September 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



Ten years ago the morning of September 11th, big changes came crashing down on us. It's hard not to remember that week. I recall my unease trying to know how to be the minister of our church and the struggles over what to say in my sermons to give us hope and courage. Above all I remember the fear that something else would happen.

I was ready to retire from the Navy but had to shelve those plans. I didn't expect to be called to go wherever the President might send the Marines or sailors. I knew I was probably too senior for that. But the young chaplains, those who hadn't been in uniform for the 1st Persian Gulf War, they were frightened, worried about their families and churches. At least I could help them and did.

There were twelve homes in Glen Ridge bereft of loved ones: parents, children, grandparents. There were more of us who lost colleagues. One of us lost 60 colleagues he told me. We had to do something to help those people in their grief. Where to start? What to say?

In time there were arguments about the path we chose as a nation. I believe we

were right to stand up to the terrorists and thank God for the courage and sacrifice of sailors, soldiers and Marines I met over the last ten years. I thank God for their families who also went without them at home for long stretches, and sometimes permanently. I was glad to be a chaplain who could offer words of consolation and hope to them. And, happy at the same time, to be the minister of a church like ours as we rebuilt in the aftermath of the horror.

There will be many words said and written this month as we commemorate the 10th anniversary. One verse in Psalm 46: "*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear though the earth should change.*" I invite you again to come to our church to remember those events, losses and fears *in faith* with other members of your church. Besides gathering in our building on Sunday morning the 11th, we'll also participate at the Brookdale Christian Church at 5pm that day. Our choirs and ministers will lead an interfaith service. Join together in faith. Light candles, *together*. It's the hopeful, better way to remember such a time.

~ J.D. Stinson

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



The United Church of Christ emails a daily devotional to subscribers (logon to www.ucc.org and click on “Feed Your Spirit” daily devotionals). Recently it was written by Lillian Daniel, senior minister of the First congregational Church, UCC, Glen Ellyn, Illinois. I first met her when she served a church in New Haven, CT, and have followed her writings for many years. Lillian is also one of the finest preachers I’ve ever heard – dynamic, relevant, and very engaging. And her topic this day struck me!

Her reflection is entitled “Spiritual but not Religious? Please Stop Boring Me.” based on Matthew 16:18. “And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.” I share some of her writing here:

“On airplanes, I dread the conversation with the person who finds out I am a minister and wants to use the flight time to explain to me that he is “spiritual but not religious.” Such a person will always share this as if it is some kind of daring insight, unique to him, bold in its rebellion against the religious status quo. Next thing you know, he’s telling me that he finds God in the sunsets. These people always find God in the sunsets. And in walks on the beach. Sometimes I think these people never leave the beach or the mountains, what with all the communing with God they do on hilltops, hiking trails and . . . did I mention the beach at sunset yet?

Being privately spiritual but not religious just doesn’t interest me. There is nothing challenging about having deep thoughts all by oneself. What is interesting is doing this work in community, where other people might call you on stuff, or heaven forbid, disagree with you. Where life with God gets rich and provocative is when you dig deeply into a tradition that you did not invent all for yourself.

You are now comfortably in the norm for self-centered American culture, right smack in the bland majority of people who find ancient religions dull but find themselves uniquely fascinating. Can I switch seats now and sit next to someone who has been shaped by a mighty cloud of witnesses instead? Can I spend my time talking to someone brave enough to encounter God in a real human community? Because when this flight gets choppy, that’s who I want by my side, holding my hand, saying a prayer and simply putting up with me, just like we try to do in church.”

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for creating us in your image and not the other way around. Amen.

As we begin a new school year, a new program year in our church, and the flight gets choppy, let’s reach out, hold each others’ hand, and pray together!

Peace and blessings,
~ Cindy Reynolds



Thomas Mustachio, *Minister of Music*

MUSIC MINISTRY READY FOR ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!

Here's all the start-up information regarding the various choirs of GRCC. We have choirs for all ages, from 3-years old on up. Part-time and full time opportunities are available. Make this a *singing* and *ringing* season! All are welcome!

GR CHORAL SOCIETY *H.S.–Adults*

Members join our Chancel Choir for short periods throughout the year to prepare for special concerts and events such as our All Saints' *Requiem*, *Welcome Christmas!* and Spring Concerts. Rehearses Thursdays: 8-9 pm.

CHANCEL CHOIR *H.S.–Adults*

Providing the main musical leadership of our weekly 10:15 am service. Rehearses Thursdays: 8–10 pm starting 9/8.

CARILLON BELLS *H.S.–Adults*

Truly mastering the art of handbell ringing, this choir ministers in worship approximately once per month, as well as for special occasions and concerts. Rehearses Thursdays: 6:45–7:50pm, starting 9/15.

CANTOREI *Grades 8-12**

Between singing, playing handbells, instruments, Orff instruments, drumming and drama, this busy group rehearses Tuesday evenings from 7:00–7:30pm starting Tuesday 9/13. (Rehearsals move to Sunday: 11:30am–Noon beginning in December.)

**8th Graders are welcome to participate in Cantorei and/or Chapel Bells.*

CAROL CHOIR *Grades 3-7*

Singing, playing instruments, participating in the Christmas Concert and Spring musical, our Carol Choir sings in worship about once per month. We begin with gathering/snack time on Wednesdays at 3:15pm in Robinson Hall. The children then move to their individual rehearsals. Carol Choir rehearses Wednesdays: 3:15–4:15pm, starting 9/14.

CHAPEL BELLS *Grades 4-8**

An introduction to handbells and hand chimes, focusing on technique and music reading. Rings in worship about every 4–6 weeks. Rehearses Wednesdays: 4:15–5:00pm, immediately following Carol Choir, starting 9/14.

CHERUB CHOIR *Grades 1-2*

Singing, crafts, choir chimes, games and fun. Sings in worship about every 4–6 weeks. Rehearses Sundays for 20 minutes when the bell rings at the end of Church School, starting 9/25. Directed by Mrs. H-K. Please let us know if your child will be participating, as participants will be *shepherded* from their classrooms to the rehearsal room.

JOYFUL NOISE *Ages 3 through Kindergarten*

An introduction to music and worship in a fun, supportive, nurturing environment. Children participate in rather than perform music. We begin with gathering/snack time in Robinson Hall. Rehearses Wednesdays: 3:15–4:00pm, starting 9/14. Directed by Mrs. Lord.

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Marty Lacey

Church School Coordinator



**YEA! CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES
RESUME ON SEPTEMBER 11TH**

**YOUR TEACHERS WILL BE WAITING
TO GREET YOU!**

Childcare: *Mr. and Mrs. Sheppard*

3 yr. olds: *Mrs. Waugh*

Mrs. Petracca

4 yr. olds: *Mrs. Stinson*

Mrs. Harpster

Ms. Bartlett

Kind.: *Mrs. Brown*

Nicole Gsell

1st Grade: *Mrs. Song*

Mrs. Downey

Mrs. Peppers

Kim Baionne

2nd Grade: *Mrs. Feimster*

Khristina Shove

Lesley Krien

3rd Grade and 4th Grade

Mrs. Younger

Mr. Younger

Lolly Kruse

Amy Patterson

5th Grade: *Mrs. Carey*

Mackenzie Carey

Anna D'Elia

Mrs. Johns

6th Grade: *Mrs. Pappas*

Grace O'Grady

7th Grade: *Mrs. Travia*

Mrs. Ege

Mike Overmyer

8th Grade: *Emery Younger*

Mr. Travia

Mr. Wood

Mr. Song

High School: *Mr. Ogilvie*

Substitutes: *Mrs. Flippin*

Mrs. Dobbs

Mr. and Mrs. Filiater

Ms. Fitzgerald

Music: *Mrs. Hernandez-Kinloch*

Superintendent: *Frank Sheppard*

Looking forward to seeing you on the 11th. Students leave the sanctuary to go to class during the 2nd hymn. There will be a class activity at each grade level to pray for peace and compassion on this 10th anniversary of 9/11. Students will meet their families on the front lawn following worship.

*There is always room for additional help in the classrooms. Please speak to me if you are interested on being on a teaching team.

WORSHIP...THE SHORE
WORSHIP...THE MOUNTAINS
WORSHIP...ADVENTURES
WORSHIP...FAMILY
WORSHIP... HOW AND
WHERE DID YOU
WORSHIP THIS SUMMER?

Worship is when one grows personally through a moment with God. It can be anywhere. Sunday congregational worship provides experiences, words, melodies, and opportunities to build a deep and solid foundation. When life's storms arise, and they always do, the soul digs into the foundation for support. Worship helps and guides us.

As we enter the September memories of 9-11, help us draw on these building blocks, face our fears, and faithfully move forward.

Come and worship at GRCC.

*~ Jan Spoerl, Chair
 Worship Ministry*

First Wednesdays Resume in October

Join us in Robinson Hall for supper between 6:30 and 7:30pm on Wednesday, October 5. ***This is for everyone!*** Following supper, there will be a brief Taizé service of music and meditation at 7:30. ***All are welcome!***

OPEN CHOIR SUNDAY *on* Open Door Sunday – 9/18

Join us at 9:30am to learn the special anthem that ***anyone*** can master and be a part of. Young...Old... Young at Heart. ***All are welcome!*** See what choir is like. See things from a different view! **SING FOR JOY!**

The Ministry of Music presents...

Pasta



and



Pops

Popular Food! • FUN • Popular Music!

Saturday, October 1st
6:30 p.m. (ends at 8:30)

featuring...

The Chancel Choir
The Carillon Bellingers
The Carol Choir

*(and members thereof) – like you've never quite heard them before! **Special guests too!***

~ FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY! ~

❖ **TICKETS** ❖

\$10 Adults • \$7 Children • \$30 Family

Tickets available during Picnic (9/18),
 Coffee Hour (9/25), or the church office.

From the Ministry of Outreach and Mission

Disaster Relief Needed!

Hurricane Irene Relief:

UCC Disaster Ministries is currently working with Conference Ministers and Disaster Coordinators to assess needs in affected areas. A One Great Hour of Sharing emergency grant has already been sent to help provide cleanup and recovery. How you can help:

1. Pray for the people and communities impacted by Hurricane Irene and all those who serve as first responder emergency personnel.
2. Make gifts payable to GRCC marked for hurricane relief which will be sent on to denominational officials for distribution.
3. Assemble Church World Service cleanup and hygiene kits which are urgently needed both in this country and around the world

Church World Service Kits being used in New Jersey after Hurricane Irene

Again, Church World Service is issuing an appeal for hygiene kits and emergency clean up buckets, some of which are already in use at the community Foodbank of New Jersey in Hillside, NJ.

To assemble a Hygiene Kit you will need:

- 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 excess air from bag, and seal.

To assemble a Clean Up Bucket Kit you will need:

- One five-gallon bucket with resealable lid
- Five scouring pads
- Seven sponges, assorted sizes
- One scrub brush
- Eighteen cleaning towels (reusable, like Easy Wipes®)
- One 50-78 oz. box dry laundry detergent
- One 12 oz. bottle of liquid concentrated household cleaner (like Lysol®)
- One 25 oz. bottle liquid disinfectant dish soap (like Dawn®)
- One package of 48-50 clothespins
- Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.
- Five dust masks
- Two pairs latex gloves (like Playtex®)
- One pair work gloves (cont'd) ►

Clean Up Bucket Kits (cont'd)

- 28-bag roll of heavy-duty trash bags (30-45 gallon)
- One 6-9 oz. bottle of insect repellent (pump, drops or lotion, not aerosol)

Please bring your donations to the church and we will see that they are forwarded to Church World Service.

Also, please remember that a **cash donation of just \$5** will provide a warm blanket – 600 blankets have already been sent to the Chesapeake (Maryland) Red Cross.

Again, thank you for your generosity!

Make any checks payable to GRCC, marked “Hurricane Relief” or “CWS Blanket”

For further information check www.churchworldservice.org or www.ucc.org/disaster/hurricane-irene-update

GRHS REACH PROGRAM

The high school will begin a class this fall using a classroom at the church for its community based instruction course. The students are 18-21 year old graduates learning life skills. The class will follow the school schedule.

S.C.E.E.P. in the Summer

Fifth Graders Paula Marchena and Arnold Martinez spent a week at Johnsonburg Camp.

High School Freshman Chauncey Gibson attended a four week Du Bois Seminar at Princeton University.

The Fifth Graders came to the church on August 25th to receive school supplies given to them by the Glen Ridge Girls Club and Boiling Springs Savings Bank. Some new tutors will be needed when they return regularly on Thursdays in October. Please call the Church Office if you can fill this important role.

College Freshman Vanessa Mitchell received money from the Scholarship Fun to help with her first semester expenses. Two more college freshman submitted requests for financial support. Monies will be determined in September and forwarded to them from the Scholarship Fund.

Your support of S.C.E.E.P. continues the year round. Please consider becoming a tutor. Thank you!

Worship in September

**CHAPEL COMMUNION SERVICES
at 8:15 a.m. on September 11, 18 & 25**

SEPTEMBER 4

LABOR DAY SUNDAY

Worship/Communion

9:30 A.M.

Ms Reynolds Preaching

Music by Thomas A. Mustachio, Minister of Music

SEPTEMBER 11

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Worship

Genesis 50:15-21

10:15 A.M.

Mr. Stinson: *"But God Meant it for Good"*

Music by the Chancel Choir & Carillon Bellringers

SEPTEMBER 18

OPEN DOOR SUNDAY

Worship

Philippians 1:21-30

10:15 A.M.

Mr. Stinson: *"Lives Worthy of Christ"*

Music by the Open Choir/Open Door Festival Choir

SEPTEMBER 25

Worship

Philippians 2:1-13

10:15 A.M.

Mr. Stinson: *"Yours in Christ Jesus"*

Music by the Chancel Choir

A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE A DAY OF HOPE

***Sponsored by the Synagogue and Churches of
Bloomfield and Glen Ridge***



Let us come together
As One Community
in Worship on the
10th Anniversary
of Nine Eleven

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2011 – 5:00PM

at

**BROOKDALE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
1350 Broad Street
Bloomfield, NJ**

The cash offering received during the service will benefit
MEND (Meeting Emergency Needs with Dignity)

Mr. David Stinson will preach at this service

Mr. Mustachio and an Ecumenical Choir will lead the music

(Plenty of parking in the lot next to ShopRite, just across the street)

Happening this Month

September 2011

- 8..... Chancel Choir starts
- 11..... Day of Remembrance
- 11..... Sunday School starts
- 12..... Pilgrim Nursery School starts
- 14..... Carol & Joyful Noise Choirs start
- 15..... Carillon Bellringers start
- 18..... Welcome Back Sunday Picnic
- 25..... Cherub Choir starts

OFFICE HOURS

The office will go to regular hours starting September 6. The office will be open from 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday

In the Life of the Church

It is with warm wishes that we say God speed to Allin and Libby Tallmadge who have moved to Atlanta this month. Also we say farewell to Debbie Cusick on her move to Florida. They all have been very active members of the church for many years and they will be sorely missed by both the church and all their many friends. Debbie as well in the choir.

“A Few of Our Favorite Things”

LUNCHEON

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

November 19, 2011

MINISTRY OF STEWARDSHIP

The Waugh Family Testimony

As a new school year starts once again, I take a moment to reflect on how I can make my life better and try to learn from events of the past year. If I look at various element of my life, I know that GRCC plays a large role in supporting my family and the community.

I joined the church 13 years ago. My son, JP, was a student at Pilgrim Nursery School and my twins, Andrew and Lizza, were not even a year old yet. I was looking for a good Sunday school program for my children and was also in need of some spiritual nurturing for myself. GRCC seemed like the perfect fit for us. I was already acquainted with Jean Williams and Marty Lacey, so I felt comfortable coming to church on my own. I quickly signed up for the new member’s class and from that experience made some lasting, precious relationships.

Over these years, I have witnessed many significant events: the baptism of Andrew and Lizza, surviving the aftermath of the 9/11 disaster, joining a women’s spiritual study group, becoming a Sunday School teacher and President of the Women’s Association, managing many Rummage Sales, working the Pantry Corner at the Antiques Show, serving lunch to the ladies of Integrity House and seeing the confirmation of all my children. This is just the short list of the wonderful experiences that I’ve had at GRCC. Of course, all of these events were supported by the extraordinary people that give ►

so much love and time to serve others.


Truly, the folks at GRCC are the most meaningful aspect for me of becoming a member. They have been my family in good times and in bad. The church for me is a place of learning and reflection. Also of giving. GRCC is a cool drink of water on a hot, blistering summer day. GRCC is a haven from the cold, dark desert of despair.

My hopes for GRCC in 2012 are that it continues to be a place of nurturing for current members and a place yet to be discovered by anyone in need, both physical and spiritual. We must strive together to maintain the physical structure as well as the educational aspects of our church home.

I will love, cherish and respect other's thoughts and feelings. I will do my best to be a good listener and lend a helping hand to those in need whenever I can. If I am unable to do that I will accept the help of others who need to heal my pain.

I cherish the opportunities at GRCC to fulfill my destiny as a compassionate being. I invite anyone to join me on this journey of growth and enlightenment. I will attend worship as often as I can and strive to fulfill by financial commitment on timely basis. I will encourage those who are suffering from doubt or despair in their lives to share their burden with us. Together, we can bear the weight more easily.

~ Ann Waugh



September

2.....Rita Ellertson
3..... Anise Kilgen
3.....Jane Anderson
4..... Matthew Van Pelt
6..... Sherry Brabham
7..... Betty Bishop
7..... Pam Flippin
7.....Jonathan Dodd
7..... Chris Fletcher
8.....Anna Lehmann
9.....Jeffrey Domenic
9..... Vlady Shove
10..... Gertrude Chemnitius
11.....Roger Nelson
12..... Michael Overmyer
14..... Bill Wood
15..... Bob Hodgson
16..... Carol Honaman
16..... Andy Dickson
17..... Lynn Ritchkoff
18..... Darren Gage
19..... Brock Cusick
23..... Hugh Bartlett
24..... Cliff Stevens
26..... Holly Finneran
27..... Karen Ruiz
27 Sarah Singh
27..... Nadine Wilkes
28..... Jackson Peppers
29..... Sue Booth
29..... Roddy Borden
29..... Olivia Kinloch
30..... Rod Borden

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



At home

Karen Kilgen, Bruce Ferguson, Bob Grace, Sr., Irene Stevens Heun, 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

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

Freeman Reynolds, Jean Sparks, Theodora Wilcox, Ginnie Moriarty, Lynn Scott, Jon Adler, Xavier Ross, and his parents Jackie and Nathan Ross, Marie O'Grady, Roger Keller, Cheryl Vivona, Becky Bodnar, Courtney Connolly, Maureen Wetzell, 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 in Mozambique. Our friends at Back Bay Mission in Biloxi. The service men and women in harm's way, particularly E4-Specialist Zach Tallmadge in Afghanistan. and Zach's is 443rd MP CO; APO AE09354.