



*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

October 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



Jesus said, “Come to me...for my burden is *easy* and my yoke is *light*.” (Matthew 11:28-30). He said elsewhere, “I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:20). It is like two different Jesuses.

To the first hearers, ‘yoke’ was a word associated with living by the Torah. Living this way was acknowledged not to be an easy path. It was and is, rather, the narrow way. Given what he taught in the Sermon on the Mount about the necessity of loving enemies, going the extra mile, forgiving 7 times 70, who dares say Jesus’ way can be *easier*?

Which Jesus is the real Jesus? The one who said our lives have to be stricter than that of the scribes and Pharisees or the one of the easy yoke and the light burden? We know which one we prefer!

The key to the mystery is in the first line of the ‘easy’ verse. “Come to me, all you who are overburdened and I will give you rest.” Wrote the late Oswald Chambers:

“The questions that truly matter in life are remarkably few and they are all answered by these words—‘Come to me.’ Our Lord’s words are not, ‘Do this, or don’t do that,’ but—Come to me. If I will simply come to Jesus, my real life will be brought into harmony with my real desires.... ‘Come to me.... Personal contact with Jesus changes everything.’”

I must say, I never looked at it that way. I always focused on the burden part—what I *have to do* and what I *cannot do*. I often also focus on the “*head*” part of following Jesus—what I have to believe. But to come to him as one person to another! That is different, isn’t it? Yes, we still have to follow his way, his path. We have to adjust the way we live to follow in his steps. He is not inviting us to a life of leisure, but rather offering us something else, not “the artificial burdens of human religion.” When we put our lives in relationship to the person of Jesus, and rely on his power, he will show us the way around our pride, our egos, our obstinacy and will to sin.

“Come to *me*, and I will give you rest.” Why had I never noticed that before?

~ J.D. Stinson

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



School has been back in session for 2 weeks now – and already I’m hearing from stressed out parents about children’s schedules becoming overwhelming! Driving to the far western part of our state for a field hockey game on a beautiful Sunday afternoon just about put one of my friends over the edge this week – while it’s a real honor for her daughter to be playing in this league, my friend wanted nothing more than to be home working in her garden on a spectacular fall day. When she got home, her first words to me as I was outside cleaning out my own planters, were, “How lucky you are to be able to spend this afternoon outside in your garden.” Now, both of these activities are worthwhile for sure but it seems a little discouraging that just 2 weeks into the school year, my friend is feeling so overwhelmed.

I turn again to a reflection from Lillian Daniel about multi-tasking – something we’re all too familiar with!

She writes, “Remember the days, decades ago, when multitasking was hailed as the greatest invention time management had ever seen? Well, decades later, most of us know that it really doesn’t work. We still do it, check our emails while we’re on the phone, balance laptops on our laps when we watch television, sometimes two channels at once. But we’ve learned the hard way that it’s not all it’s cracked up to be. Maybe in haste you sent the wrong email to the wrong person, because

you were moving too fast. More seriously, people have crashed cars and trains because they’ve been distracted by multitasking. But now comes the scientific backup for what we are beginning to suspect is true. There was an article from *NeuroImage*, a science journal, which determined that managing two mental tasks at the same time significantly reduces the brainpower available to concentrate on either task, ultimately damaging the quality of the final product. Scientists reporting in the *Journal of Experimental Psychology* found it takes our brains four times longer to recognize and process when we switch between tasks. So if we just showed more patience and stuck with one thing at a time, we might actually be more efficient.”

Here’s the challenge for us all: when’s the last time you threw a ball for your puppy to chase, cleaned out a planter enjoying being outside, turned off all your electronic devices and just talked to your family, played a game on the dining room table, just took some time to be quiet and let God in? Listen for that still, small voice and feel refreshed, focused, and re-energized for your day. Try it – you’ll like it!

See you in worship,
Peace and blessings,

Peace and blessings,
~ Cindy Reynolds



Thomas Mustachio, *Minister of Music*

MUSIC NOTES

Music Ministry is off to a terrific start with new members in all choirs • Sports activities taking place on the Sabbath continues to be a challenge • the Glen Ridge Choral Society (our Chancel Choir plus guests) is busy rehearsing for All Saints' Sunday, November 6 • The Glen Ridge Community Concerts brochure was mailed to every Glen Ridge household, and all GRCC members...additional copies are on the *Action Table* • A brand new Music Ministry brochure is also available on the *Action Table* • See you in church next Sunday!

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY
Sunday, November 6: 10:15 a.m.



Requiem
by Gabriel Fauré

*presented by the Chancel Choir and
 Glen Ridge Choral Society*

GLEN RIDGE COMMUNITY CONCERTS



**The
 Vecchione ~
 Erdahl
 Duo**

Carrie Vecchione
oboe/English horn

Rolf Erdahl
Double bass

Sunday, October 23
3:00 p.m.

Jim Millar
piano

*Featuring and celebrating the music of
 Glen Ridge composer, Tim Goplerud.*

Called “pioneers” by Minnesota Public Radio for “forging ahead with a new chamber music combination”, the engaging and entertaining Vecchione/Erdahl Duo charts new territory for their combination of instruments in music that is accessible, challenging, enlightening, and virtuosic. This award-winning chamber group of a different color will share with you their own repertoire of evocative music influenced by ethnic folk songs, dances and All-American jazz. You can hear music that grabs your ear as the ink dries, and sends you out the door humming a new tune.

FABULOUS FIFTH! ... October 30
10:15 a.m.

*A Martin Luther – Reformation
 Hymn Festival*

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Marty Lacey

Church School Coordinator



Church School is off to a great start with classes for all ages from childcare through high school. They are staffed with wonderful teachers looking forward to sharing our Biblical stories with their students. The curriculum we use, The Mustard Seed, is a Biblically based course of study, concerned with teaching the entire person: body, mind, spirit and character. "It is concerned with both thought and emotions. It is not limited to schooling but is a lifelong process". From the youngest grades to the oldest the teachers relate the Biblical stories to the lives of their students today.

David Stinson shared an article with the Church Council about a survey led by Christian Smith, an eminent sociologist. The interviews were part of a larger study others had been conducting on the state of America's youth concerning young people's moral beliefs. The results found were depressing. Not many of the young people had given much or any thought to many of the questions they were asked about morality. "I don't really deal with right and wrong that often", is how one youth answered.

Mr. Stinson posed the question, "Will the young people who grow in Glen Ridge

Congo have the moral language to answer survey questions about moral choices? My answer is YES. (with God's help). Why? Because our young people have parents that care, and bring their children to church. We have dedicated teachers that share their faith openly, and clearly teach them right from wrong using our Biblical heritage as guidelines for discussions.

Will our young people always make the right choices? Of course not, but they will have the freedom to make their own decisions based on their ability to use what they have been taught, and to have had many good role models to follow.

The question I pose, is, **Do** the families of the youth make sure their children experience the teachings of Jesus, learn from our Biblical heritage and grow in their Christian faith?

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING A FULL HOUSE IN CHURCH SCHOOL.

Oct. 2 Children go to worship for the commissioning of the confirmands and then to class.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RETURN YOUR INFORMATION ENROLLMENT FORM (old and new friends)

MINASIAN BIBLE PRESENTATION:

When George A. Minasian was active in the Memorial Presbyterian Church in Brooklyn, New York, back in the 1890's, he had an idea of annually presenting a Bible to an outstanding teacher in the Sunday School. Children had always gotten a variety of attendance awards, but he thought some recognition should be given to their faithful teachers as well. The Minasians moved to Glen Ridge in 1906 and he soon became active in this church, serving on many of our ministries and as Church Treasurer for 12 years up until 1924.

In 1910 he continued the tradition of presenting a Bible to outstanding teachers – after his death the Bible was presented by his son in memory of his father. On September 25th, we presented the 101st Minasian Bible to Bob & Betty Sheppard. Here is a list of all who have received it since 1963.

1963 Dorothy Knowles; Polly Boothe
1964 Agnes Lovell; Nancy Bigelow
1965 Mary McArthur
1966 Charlotte Kilpatrick
1967 Dorothy Armbruster
1968 Marty Lacey
1969 Syd Minasian McLaren
1970 Al Christiansen
1971 Rudolph Keller
1972 Bob and Joan Hayes
1973 Jean Morrow
1974 Lou and Cherry Provost
1975 Janet Dickinson
1976 Ericka Erskine
1977 Sue Watson
1978 Linda Pursley
1979 Linda Kerr
1980 Barbara Eager
1981 Al and Lorraine Brown
1982 Fred Williams; Connie Carluccio
1983 Ron Goebel
1984 Dave and Judy Shiffer
1985 Ric Price

1986 Vicky Johnson
1987 Gwen Paduch
1988 Debbie Cusick
1989 Ronnie Ping
1990 Sandy Sharanevych
1991 Jean Williams
1992 Barbara Stevens
1993 Jan Spoerl
1994 Jane O'Brien
1995 John Boyd; Tom Jones
1996 Marianne Round
1997 Randy Petsoff; Linda Pendergrass;
Kim Patterson; Susan Martinetti
1998 Sue Van Pelt; Donna Heinzen;
Wendy Petracca
1999 Prudence Younger; Joan Donnelly
2000 Cyndi Stinson; Carol Harpster;
Kathee Cousins
2001 Jim and Marcia O'Grady; Geary Batastini
2002 Jim Watson; Steve Younger
2003 Helene Woodworth; Ben Woodworth
2004 Angel Schade; Margo DiStefano
2005 Joanne Fitzgerald; Ann Waugh
2006 Evan Petracca
2007 Betsie Delorm
2008 Todd and Kara Travia
2009 Iryna Carey
2010 Cindy Reynolds
2011 Bob and Betty Sheppard

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 service of hymn singing, prayer and scripture at 7:30.
All are welcome!

From the Ministry of Outreach and Mission

Mission: 1 11.1.11 – 11.11.11

Nov. 1 – 11, 2011...ONE UNITED CHURCH on a shared mission for 11 powerful days to feed the hungry and confront food-related injustice.

This is Mission: 1

In 11 days, the United Church of Christ will collect more than 1 million items of healthy food and other household items for local food banks and outreach services.

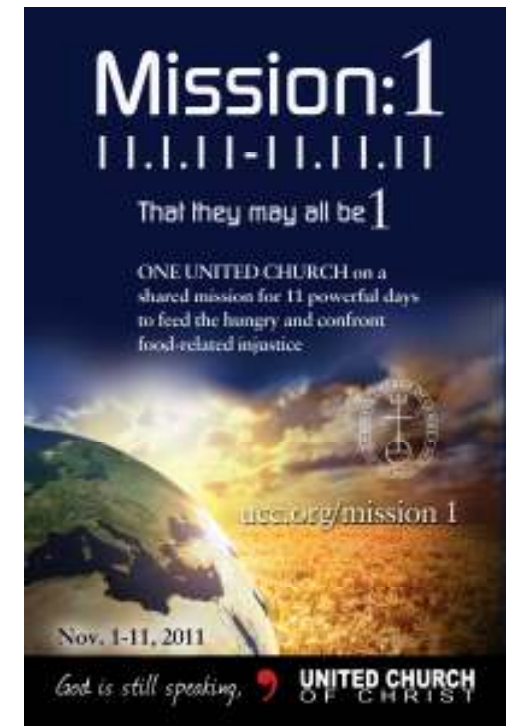
In 11 days, the United Church of Christ will make an extra push to gather contributions of more than \$111,111 for NEIGHBORS IN NEED, offerings that will be shared with hunger-action purposes with agencies of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

In 11 days, the United Church of Christ will offer more than 11,111 letters to congress, asking our government to reform U.S. foreign assistance in a way that more effectively benefits hungry and poor people worldwide.

Most important, our UCC motto and Jesus' prayer "that they all may be 1" will become a focused, concerted mission emphasis across the whole United Church of Christ

to educate ourselves and each other about food related policy issues, to advocate on behalf of hungry people at home and around the world, to raise money for hunger action purposes, and to share bread – and tuna and peanut butter and vegetables and cereal with our neighbors in need.

Watch for opportunities to participate with our sister churches in this very special mission in November!



New Members

Thinking of joining the church? The Stinsons invite you to their home on Sunday, October 2nd at 5:00pm to explore becoming a member and for dinner with some of the church leaders and others who are considering membership. If you decide to join us, three classes on Sunday in October and November will be offered. For more information, please speak to one of the ministers.

Blessing the Animals

Join with members of St. Francis Catholic Parish for a service of Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 2 on the South Lawn at 1:00pm.

In The Life of the Church

Congratulations to Bruce Hyland who is retiring on October 3rd.

Our sympathy to Janet Dobbs and her family on the death of her mother, Phyllis Alexy, in Pennsylvania on Sept. 24.

Also our sympathy to the family of Bob Runge who died on September 26 at the age of 98.

Jackie and Nate Ross sent this Thank You.
Dear Church Members, Thank you so much for all the prayers for [our son] Xavier. He has recovered and is doing well. God has blessed us. Please continue to remember us. He goes back into the hospital on Oct. 11 for testing. The 12th,

he will have an MRI on his heart and brain and his second open heart surgery will be the 13th. God Bless you...

Community Concerts

If you would like to be a contributor to the community concerts and would like to have your name in the first program, please have your donations in by October 17.

Newsletters!

We hope you have been enjoying this new version of the Newsletter. As we go forward we need to remind you that this was supposed to be a cost saver for the Church. We ask you to pick up your monthly newsletter at Coffee Hour generally on the First Sunday of the month. If you prefer to get an e-mail version instead, we encourage you to please let the office know. We are trying to go **Green!**

Bethel Love Soup Kitchen

The October dates are the 6th and the 20th. Please call Emily Kopec at egroverkopec@gmail.com to volunteer. It is a great experience.

Ministry of Adult Education

Heading to Philadelphia in October?

Perhaps you would like to plan to take in the special exhibit at the Philadelphia Museum of Art: **'Rembrandt and the Face of Jesus'** (through October 30).

From the New York Times "The works in this exhibition amount to a gutsy makeover of the most depicted man in Western art. Jesus was, of course, Jewish. But few artists emphasized his ethnicity, or his humanity, as frankly and directly as Rembrandt did. . . . this show is a powerful declaration of faith-"This exhibition reunites the 7 surviving portraits by Rembrandt and his students and is complemented by 50 related paintings, prints and drawings. Never before have so many of Rembrandt's finest paintings, etchings and drawings that depict Jesus Christ and events of his life been assembled for an exhibition. Tickets in advance (215) 763-8100.

Come Celebrate the Glory of Advent - Join fellow church members on a Field Trip to New York...

For a special visit to the Cloisters Museum in Fort Tryon Park, Manhattan and enjoy a concert of early music in the beautiful Fuentidueña Chapel which will be decorated with greens for the season. Join us on Sunday, December 4 for a concert at 3pm, presented by **Cappella Pratensis**, a Dutch ensemble acclaimed for its historically informed performances of 15th and 16th-century polyphonic music presenting *Sounds of Salvation: Music for*

a 15th-Century Bruges Merchant.

Tickets for the concert are \$35.00 per person, and include admission to the museum. *All seats are unreserved.* We hope to carpool as necessary to enable all with interest to be able to attend.

Please email Holly Eastman of the Ministry of Adult Education or the Church Office with interest. A sign up for reservations will be available at coffee hour.

**Email: hollyeastman@hotmail.com -
Subject: Cloisters Trip**



Worship in October

**CHAPEL COMMUNION SERVICES
at 8:15 a.m. on October 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30**

OCTOBER 2

Worship/Communion Exodus 20, Philippians 3:4b-14 9:30 A.M.

Mr. Stinson: *“Being Found In Him”*
Music by Thomas A. Mustachio, Minister of Music

OCTOBER 9

Worship 10:15 A.M.

Ms Reynolds preaching
Music by the Chancel Choir

OCTOBER 16

Worship Matthew 22:15-23 10:15 A.M.

Mr. Stinson: *“Where is God’s Image?”*
Dedication of the New Children’s Choir Vestments
Music by the Chancel Choir; Carol & Cherub Choirs

OCTOBER 23

Consecration Sunday

Worship 10:15 A.M.

The Rev. Robert Martin, preaching
Music by the Chancel Choir; Chapel Bellringers

OCTOBER 30

Reformation Sunday

Fabulous Fifth!

Worship Romans 3:19-28 10:15 A.M.

A Martin Luther – Reformation Hymn Festival

Mr. Stinson: *“The Righteousness of God through Jesus Christ”*
Music by the Chancel Choir, Carillon Bellringers & Cantorei

Happening this Month

October 2011

- 1.....Pasta and Pops
- 5.....Mid-Week Worship
- 23..... Community Concert

“A Few of Our Favorite Things”

LUNCHEON

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

Recipes are needed to make our cookbook the best ever. Please share your favorites with the rest of us by getting them into Susan Griffith immediately.

Mark the date on your calendar now for this great event on Saturday, Nov. 19th. It is being held as a special fund-raiser for Stewardship and we need your support.

If you are in a book club, we hope your group will recommend favorite books read recently, and do ask your club members to join the party even if they aren’t church members. We are looking to compile a recommended list for your gift giving and personal enjoyment. Watchung Book Sellers will take orders and donate 20 % to help defray our budget deficit.

Tom Mustachio will see that we are musically entertained. There will be a holiday boutique for your shopping benefit and we will be serving some terrific food from recipes submitted for the cookbook, which will be a special gift for you. Do you have any items for our boutique? The Women’s Association would greatly appreciate having them.

Can you help bake? We will be hoping you will further support us by making deserts for the event.

There should be something for everyone! To make it a success, we need your support. Speak to Joan Hayes if you can help out.

Stewardship On October 23 we will be coming together in Church for Consecration Sunday. Please make a special effort to be there, and bring your pledge for next year! It is a very inspiring moment, when all of us come together to enthusiastically look to the year approaching. In this case, it will be one in which we celebrate our Church’s 125th year.

The theme for the Stewardship campaign is “What Will We Be As A Church For You and Your Family and For The Community?” Think how you feel. What will you pledge to make the Church strongest?

Let’s join together in high spirits and anticipate a memorable year to come!

Offering Envelopes/E-Giving

If you place regular contributions in the offering plate but do not have a set of pre-numbered envelopes, we encourage you to request a set. By using envelopes, you will be sure to receive a tax receipt for all contributions made in cash or by check. Also, when you fill out your pledge card, please be sure to indicate whether or not you choose to use offering envelopes.

We also remind you that, as an alternative to offering envelopes, we support a convenient system of Electronic Giving whereby regular payments are made directly to the church from your bank account on a schedule you pick. For more information on E-Giving, please contact the church office or Bart Brown.


MINISTRY OF STEWARDSHIP
The Brown Family Testimony

The Brown family came to Glen Ridge in 2000, and found not only a wonderful town, but a special group of people in the Glen Ridge Congregational Church. Our church is more than a place to worship on Sundays. It is a wonderful community of warm and talented people who have come together as an extended family. Where spirituality is celebrated, music is cherished, and children are given opportunities to grow and learn. Says Wesley, “I love Church School because I love to learn about God and the Old Testament.” Sari likes to go to church to hear and participate in the music, while Christopher likes to hear the stories of Jesus and the Holy Bible.

The Church helps us to live in God’s Grace, offering us the opportunity to help others in the service of Jesus Christ. Our families have lived this way for generations, and we want our children to carry on this legacy and see the importance of living and loving in God’s Grace. In church, and everywhere we go, we are given this opportunity and we need to stay

open to seeing how to help each other. We are very grateful for these opportunities and for your and God’s unconditional love.

Tyra, Michael, Sari, Wesley and Christopher



October

1.....	Bob Runge
1.....	Emilya Padlowski
1.....	Christian Kopec
2.....	Curt Schade
2.....	Ariel Lefkovits
3.....	Sarah Munson
3.....	Beth Rowan
3.....	Hannah Stinson Pickard
4.....	Grace Travia
5.....	Tom Heinzen
6.....	Janet Singh
6.....	Erin Wong
7.....	Susan Callaghan
7.....	Evon Magnusson
8.....	Jim Waters
10.....	Deb Cerruti
12.....	Thomas Messineo
12.....	Cherry Provost
12.....	Molly Cody
13.....	Lizzie O'Brien
15.....	Matthew Buchmann
17.....	Millicent Younger
17.....	Chris Schade
21.....	Kristen Cousins
25.....	Reed Patterson
27.....	Emma Hanson
28.....	Scott Watson
28.....	Joanne Meeker
28.....	JP Waugh
31.....	Haley Feimster



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.

At home

June Marck, Karen Kilgen, Bruce Ferguson, Irene Stevens Heun, Karen Augis, Al Brown, James Hollander, 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

Bob Kansky (Van Dyk), 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

Jeff Domenic, 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 Wetzal, 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