



*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

November 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



Some people call them saints. Others call them disciples. They are people whose Christianity is deep in them, so much a part of who they are that they exude faith, love and goodness. They also are often leaders in the church. They are the people we wish we had more of in any church. The church needs to intentionally cultivate a new generation of such people. Is it our priority? If not, why not?

I've been reading Gordon MacDonald's *Deep People: Becoming a Person of Influence*. Now retired GMAC was one of my teachers. He's increasingly concerned about how best to create, coach, and cultivate this kind of person for the future of Christianity.

In his new book he talks about how a church might have to rethink its priorities, particularly as they relate to pastoral duties. What does it take for ministers to work more consciously in this area, cultivating a new generation of leaders who have the spiritual acumen to respond effectively and creatively to the ways of God and the needs of God's people?

GMAC spends a lot of time in his book looking at how Jesus gathered a small

number of disciples around him and how his method of teaching them was very much like that of a rabbi. He taught them and spent time with them and then prepared them to go and make disciples of others.

The church in its earliest days seemed to have had a knack for doing this cultivation. Paul directed Titus to appoint elders for the congregations after he left. (See Titus 1:5-9.) He said they should be blameless, good family people, not greedy or quick tempered or bullies. They should be self-controlled, love what is good, sensible and holy. How do we think Titus found such people? They don't fall out of heaven this way. They have to be cultivated and 'growable.'

I'm thinking this is a very important issue for us, too. It's a big idea, something we need to be strategizing about. Are we intentionally cultivating, growing and teaching the next generation of young adult Christians to lead our church?

~J.D. Stinson

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



Confirmation classes began this month – this year 10 of our young people are embarking on a year-long study of not only what it means to become a member of this church, but also, and more importantly, what it means to become a disciple of Jesus Christ. Most of the class has grown up here in Glen Ridge: many were baptized here as infants, attended Sunday School classes, participated in the children’s choirs, came to countless *Advent Workshops*, *Way to the Cross*, *Star of Wonder* and many other of our traditional activities.

Now, they spend time trying to understand what this all means – for them, for their families, for their lives so involved in schoolwork and sports. The major question for the year: “What difference does all this make?”

How would you answer these questions: Who is God? Who is Jesus Christ? What is the Holy Spirit? What is the church? How do we come to find God, know God, serve God? It’s truly an honor to be part of the faith journey of our young people: and if the first class is any indication, it’s going to be a wonderful year! Already lots of profound and thoughtful questions.

Thank you, too, to the adults of the church who have volunteered to be

sponsors for these confirmands: Kevin Filiater, Marcia O’Grady, Caroline Bartlett, Janet Dobbs, Roben Dunkin, Andy Ogilvie, Tim O’Connor, John Dobbs, Dan Kopec, and Andy Song. They, too, will share in this awesome journey we all travel together.

Please join the confirmands on their journey: Carter Travia, Harlan Schade, Scott MacConnell, Nathaniel Johns, Carl Gantuah, Rynne Ege, Sydney Carey, Chaz Burnett, Matt Buchmann, and Charlie Bodell. Look for them to read and interpret scripture at the 10:15 worship service – watch for them serving the church through a variety of service projects (most of them have already worked at this last Rummage Sale). They’ll attend the annual meeting in February in preparation for taking their places as voting members of this church – and they’ll have many wonderful ideas on how to make this an even more vital and meaningful church community. And the most important thing to remember: they watch all of us as mentors – what do we teach them by our own participation?

See you in worship,
Peace and blessings,
Cindy



Thomas Mustachio,
Minister of Music

About 140 people braved the inclement weather to enjoy *Pasta & Pops 2011* on October 1st. It's impossible to name just one highlight of the evening – the food was delicious, (thank you Chef Jesse!) the entertainment was incomparable! (and Arlene Kansky's feather boa was handled like a pro!) • New choir robes were purchased and dedicated on October 16 for use by our children's choirs...we are so grateful to the family of Sid Metro for their generosity! Our combined Carol & Cherub choirs wore them on 10/16. On 10/23, our Chapel Bellringers wore them for their terrific season debut • We opened the Chapel Bell-ringers to 3rd graders who are in Carol Choir, and have had five new 3rd grade ringers join in the past five weeks! The first Glen Ridge Community Concert was held on Oct. 23 at 3pm, featuring the incredibly entertaining and diverse talents of the Vecchione/Erdahl Duo...thanks to all who attended! For those who couldn't make it – you truly missed something special! • Your support of the Arts in our community is vital...it's not too late to become a *Friend* of the Concert series. Patron forms are within the Concert Series brochure (available on the *Action Table*). • See you in church on Sunday! ~ Tom.



ALL SAINTS'
SUNDAY

November 6 • 10:15 A.M.

Requiem

by Gabriel Fauré

*presented by the Chancel Choir,
Glen Ridge Choral Society
& Instrumentalists*

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Marty Lacey

Church School Coordinator



The first Sunday in November is a special day for the church school staff. A teacher appreciation breakfast will be held at 9 a.m. in Robinson Hall. Following our traditional theme of “apples” this year we will be focusing on *thanking the teachers for planting seeds of faith in their students.*

The Ministry of Children and Youth have planned a delicious breakfast and following the meal teachers will share together meaningful times they have had with their students in their classrooms.

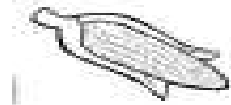


During November the **MUSTARD SEED CURRICULUM** used in Kindergarten through 7th grade will include themes developed from Biblical Text such as *Thankfulness, Freedom, Forgiveness, Fairness and True Worship of God.*

Thanksgiving will be a time to remember all the blessings God has given us. A meaningful reminder of the sacrifices and hard times of the Pilgrims is to place five kernels of corn by each place at the table on thanksgiving as a reminder that only five grains of corn were rationed to each individual at a time in the 1620s.

Putting the five kernels of corn by each place is a symbol of the sacrifices of our

ancestors, as a symbol of a grateful heart today, and as a renewer of strength for days to come. Doing this is an old New England custom.



The last Sunday in the month, November 27th is a special day for EVERYONE. The **ADVENT WORKSHOP** will take place at 3 p.m. This year children and adults will work together in Robinson Hall. There will be wreath making and several craft tables with projects for all ages. The theme of the workshop is **THE PRINCE OF PEACE**. Some of the planned crafts include *peace bead bracelets, dove wind chimes, treasure bottles, and many surprises!* A Potluck supper will follow with lighting of the first Advent candle and singing of Christmas Carols. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW. THIS IS AN EVENT YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS.**



First Wednesdays

First Wednesday Fellowship and Worship is Wednesday, November 2, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. The Nominating Committee has graciously agreed to serving the meal this month. Worship is at 7:30 p.m. Remember ~ come for all or any of the evening's events. Start the month of November by being thankful . . . thankful for church friends, fellowship, and worship. Some ministry committee meetings follow at 8:00 p.m.
All are welcome!



Town Turkey Drive

Please bring your frozen, never-thawed turkeys to the GR Train Station on Sat, Nov. 19th, from 9am to 2pm. You may also bring canned goods to this food drive. The turkeys and food are contributed to the *NJ Foodbank* and distributed throughout the year to emergency food pantries throughout the state.

An Angel in Women's Wear

A long time Rummage Sale customer was counting out her coins to cover the cost of her purchases. They were not adding up but before the price could be lowered, a teenage girl (unknown to the workers) put a dollar on the table to cover the cost.

That spontaneous act of kindness blessed all the time and effort that is put into a Rummage Sale.

Thank you to all who were there and put in their time and talents to make the October Rummage Sale a success.

NEW CHILDREN'S CHOIR ROBES DEDICATED

We dedicated the new vestments for our children's choirs on Sunday, Oct 16th, in memory of Charles S. Metro. Following the service, his daughter Susan Levy wrote me a thank you note. She said, "*...just thought I would share something with you about the dedication of the choir robes in my dad's name. Growing up, dad would always sing loudly and out of tune in church. We as kids would always say, no dad STOP SINGING! He would just smile and continue singing out of tune...perhaps a bit worse than before. We got a laugh out of the fact that of all things, the choir robes were dedicated to dad.*" --D. Stinson

Bethel Love Soup Kitchen

The November dates are the 3rd and the 17th. Please call Emily Kopec at egroverkopec@gmail.com to volunteer. It is a great experience.

From the Ministry of Outreach and Mission



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

Our Mission: 1 challenge:

Can we contribute 111 items of non perishable food for the Bethel Food Pantry? Let's fill the shopping cart every week!

We will receive the United Church of Christ annual NEIGHBORS IN NEED offering that will be shared with hunger-action purposes with agencies of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

The churches of 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. Sample letters

will be available on the Clark Street table for your use.

The Neighbors in Need annual offering will be received on Sunday, November 13. This offering supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two thirds of the offering is used to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. This offering also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC – working with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, and others in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Nebraska. **Neighbors in Need** helps make another world possible. Our brothers and sisters need your support! Thank you for your generosity.

A big thank you to Betty Sheppard and sons Alex and Frank for their faithful support of the **Bethel Love Soup Kitchen and Food Distribution** effort. Wouldn't you like to join them in serving our neighbors in need so close to home? We serve the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month – please contact Cindy or Emily Grover-Kopec for more information. We need your help!

Again, thank you for your generosity!

In The Life of the Church

Viola Lorraine Elliott Rieder remembered the Glen Ridge Congregational Church in her will. The exact amount of the bequest is still being determined and is estimated to exceed \$150,000. This amount, when received, will be split equally between our general operating fund and our endowment fund. For those of us who do not remember Lorraine, she was an active member of the Church and the daughter-in-law of our organist, Harold L. Rieder. The cross which sits on the communion table was given by Lorraine in his memory. Please keep Lorraine and her family in your prayers as our acknowledgement of these gifts. Have you remembered the Glen Ridge Congregational Church in your will?

Karen Kilgen expressed her thanks for all the thoughts and prayers during her illness. She is currently in remission and hopes to remain that way...

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!

SAVE THE DATE ...

WELCOME CHRISTMAS!
a holiday music celebration

Sunday, December 11 - 3:00 p.m.

Ministry of Adult Education

**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 November

CHAPEL COMMUNION SERVICES
at 8:15 a.m. on November 6, 13, 20, & 27

NOVEMBER 6**All Saint's Sunday**

Worship/Communion

10:15 A.M.

Fauré Requiem

Music by the Chancel Choir, Glen Ridge Choral Society & Instrumentalists

NOVEMBER 13

Worship

10:15 A.M.

Ms. Reynolds preaching

Music by the Chancel Choir; Cherub & Joyful Noise Choirs

NOVEMBER 20**Christ the King Sunday | Thanksgiving Sunday**

Worship

Matthew 25:31-46

10:15 A.M.

Mr. Stinson: "*Christ in Judgment*"

Music by the Chancel Choir; Carol Choir; Chapel Bellringers

NOVEMBER 27**The First Sunday in Advent**

Worship

Isaiah 64:1-9

10:15 A.M.

Mr. Stinson: "*Anyone Calling?*"

Music by the Chancel Choir; Carillon Bellringers

OUR FAVORITE EVENT IN NOVEMBER

You are invited to a luncheon to celebrate **'A Few of our Favorite Things'** on **Saturday, Nov. 19th**, at 12 Noon in Robinson Hall. Please plan to come help us celebrate past and future favorite times in the year 2011. Luncheon will feature **favorite recipes** from our newly assembled cookbook, which will be your gift from the event. **Favorite up-coming church events** will be on display. Musical entertainment will be provided by Tom Mustachio and some of his **favorite musical friends**. Guests will receive a list of **favorite books** recommended by our members and their book club friends to offer gift-giving choices for the winter holidays. Watchung Booksellers of Montclair will be with us to take our orders and will donate 20% of the event's purchases to the church to help defray some of this year's expenses.

A Christmas Boutique will feature gift items donated by church members. We look forward to making this fundraising luncheon a **real favorite memory** for us all. And remember, this luncheon is presented by the GRCC Women's Association for the benefit of the Stewardship Campaign. Won't you help by calling some friends and planning to attend?

Tickets are \$25. Reservations may be made through Barbara Duym in the church office by Monday, November 13th. It won't be the same without you!

MINISTRY OF STEWARDSHIP *The Ashenfelter Family Testimony*

In 1951 we moved to Glen Ridge and followed friends into a membership in a church in East Orange. Our four boys were baptized there. We were active in church groups. However, when the boys entered Glen Ridge public school, they made friends who attended Sunday School at the Glen Ridge Congregational Church.

Since we wanted a situation that encouraged them to have a happy experience receiving a caring religious experience, we decided to attend and join the GRCC. Our family found a church family. And so the little children shall lead you.

The boys faithfully attended Sunday School (without prodding), joined the children's choirs, played basketball on the church team and were active in the Young Peoples Society. We found a religious training and experience that fostered individual growth in faith. The opportunity to volunteer in such endeavors as Broughton House, the Womens' Association, SCEEP, etc. brings these teachings of Jesus into our lives. We treasure our journey faith guided by a most caring staff of ministers, our church friends and the sign out front which reads ALL ARE WELCOME!

Horace and Lillian Ashenfelter

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.



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6!!

Pledge Followup

As of Consecration Sunday the church has received 72 pledges for \$259,000 towards our projected budget. Thank you to all who have pledged.



FAURÉ *REQUIEM* ON ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

On Sunday, November 6th, we will offer a lovely choral communion service with instrumentalists for All Saints' Worship. Since our financial resources are limited, we depend upon the support of members and friends to help underwrite this event. To have the name of a loved one memorialized and listed in the bulletin, please clip this form and mail it to the church office before Monday, October 31st.

Your Name

In Memory of

Potluck Supper, Nov. 6

Join your friends at church on the 1st Sunday of November at 5:00pm. Bring a dish to share. After dinner there will be a program for children and a presentation by Jim O'Brien for adults and teenagers. He promises it will be humorous!!! See you on the 6th!!

	
<div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">November</div>	
1.....	Mackenzie Carey
2.....	John Carter
2.....	Lynne Palmer
3.....	Abby Song
4.....	Doris Hollander
5.....	Cindy Reynolds
6.....	Scott MacConnell
7.....	Maggie Hinchliffe
7.....	Karen Momary
7.....	Janice Wurfel
7.....	Madeline Baione
8.....	Connie Booth
9.....	Bob O'Brien
9.....	Pam Figlar
12.....	Laura Rowley
15.....	Liz Allen
16.....	Wynne Zalewski
16.....	Alex Lefkovits
17.....	Scott Spoerl
18.....	Bonnie Kingston
18.....	Matthew Toland
20.....	Bruce Ferguson
20.....	Tom Agnew
20.....	Andrew Provost
20.....	Kimberly Baione
22.....	Claire Fletcher
23.....	Ed Currie
23.....	Clarice Johns
24.....	Mira Kohli
26.....	Christopher Brown
26.....	Marie Zolcinski
27.....	Tom Meeker



At home

Joan Hayes, Bob Kansky, 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 the hospital

June Marck (UMDNJ)

In extended care facilities

Bill Luddecke (Van Dyk), Ed Warren (Stuart FL), Marilea Schlobohm (Beaufort, SC), Don Olson (Job Haines), Lucy Force (Sunrise, Woodcliff Lake).

Friends & family of our church

Kady Zumwalt, 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 Wetzel, Barbara Martindale, Grace Uliano, Eloy & Ofelia Hernandez, Andrei Padlowski, JC Egbert, Stephen Strickland, Len Calvin, Andrea Row, Bob Sherman, Helen Brabham, George Boltnew, 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.