

VISIONS



January 2011

A New Year

This Sunday in worship we will be celebrating together one of my favorite parts of the Christmas story, the visitation of the Magi to the Christ Child. We are going to be doing some fun and new things in worship this Sunday, adults will be receiving a Star Gift and children a mini King Cake. One of my New Year's Resolutions for ministry this year is to get even more inventive and expressive in worship. Many of my friends who went to Seminary with me are doing some exciting new things in leading their congregations across our country in expressive elements in worship, and so I am committing this year as one of my ministry-resolutions to try new things at least once a month in worship. Worship is the heart of what we do together at WAPC—it is the fuel for the rest of our week, and it is our praise of God that leads us forward into mission and ministry.

I hope you will put worship as your #1 New Year's Resolution, commit to be with us more, to offer feedback, share with me ideas for topics to be explored in worship, and sign-up to participate in leadership!

Speaking of new things—this is the last official WAPC church newsletter in this format. Don't worry! We are still going to have a church newsletter, but it is going to be different starting February 1st! We are moving to electronic marketing software (aka Constant Contact) for the newsletter. Many of you receive these sorts of e-newsletters in your email inbox all the time and many congregations are going in this direction. Here are some important new features:

- The newsletter will now come out twice a month, making it shorter, easier to read, and with more directive information for you. It will arrive to you on the 1st and 15th of each month. **Please send in your submissions to Kathleen in the office by the 10th and the 20th of each month for inclusion.**
- Richer color, fully web-enabled content, meaning direct linkages to the church website and other areas on the web to offer places for spiritual practices, articles referenced, and other information (such as linkages to the Presbytery, PC(USA), etc.)
- Will enable you to with just a few clicks register for church events online
- Social Media buttons on every single church article allowing you to easily share all the wonderful opportunities for spiritual connection and mission at WAPC with your personal network of friends and family—helping us to push our message and invitation far out beyond our regular channels of communication.

Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church
170 Watchung Avenue
North Plainfield, NJ 07060



Telephone: 908-755-2781 / 2775
Email: wapc@verizon.net
Web: www.wapc.net
Fax: 908-756-7981

I know that some of you are saying to yourself “But I don’t do email or have a computer, what about me?!” **Don’t worry! You are not going to miss out!** You will still be able to pick up your paper copy at the church or have it mailed to your house.

So, if the church does not yet have your email address, now is the time to get it to the office! We have email address for the vast majority of our church members, and so this is going to be a big cost savings for the church going forward on the newsletter, and will allow for us to continue to expand our outreach!

It’s a New Year! Great New Things happening in ministry at WAPC! Join us!

Peace,

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannan". The script is cursive and fluid, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo

JANUARY WORSHIP

Jan 9th: **Epiphany**

Scripture: Isaiah 60: 1-6 (Spanish)
Matthew 2: 1-12

Sermon: "Living into our History"

Jan 16th: **Baptism of the Lord**

Kori Phillips preaching
Martin Luther King Sunday

Jan 23rd: **Week of Christian Unity/**

Ecumenical Sunday
Father George Farrell, preaching from
St. Joseph's. Pastor Shannan preaching
@9:00 am English & 12 noon Mass
Spanish at St. Joseph's.

Scripture: Isaiah 9: 1-4 &
Matthew 4: 12-23

Jan 30th:

Scripture: Micah 6: 1-8
Matthew 5: 1-12

Sermon: "Dangerous Prophets on Hills"

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has set the date for our 2011 Congregational Meeting for **Sunday February 6th**. We will share lunch in the Parish Hall immediately after worship followed by our meeting. Childcare will be provided free of charge during the congregational meeting (kids have lunch first up in the Parish Hall). If you are in need of childcare during the congregational meeting, please **RSVP** to Kathleen, in the church office by **February 1st**.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Sunday February 6th is Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday. Please give as generously as you are able. We are collecting for F.I.S.H.!

2011 PER CAPITA AMOUNT

Our assessment from the **PCUSA** for 2011 is \$36.60 per member. If each member pays their share, it will free up money for other purposes. Place your \$36.60 in the per capita envelope in your envelope packet.

JANUARY WOMEN'S RETREAT

The Presbyterian Women's Retreat for Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church will be on Saturday **January 29th at Mount Saint Mary's House of Prayer in Watchung** <http://www.msmhope.org/>. All women of the church are invited to attend the retreat whether or not they are active in PW. All are welcome!!!!

- To sign up for the retreat, please contact Beverly Krausse 908-757-6654. The cost for the retreat is \$15 and Beverly will also give you an assignment of an ingredient to bring for soup.
- The retreat begins at 9am and ends at 3pm. It will include morning and afternoon sessions, time for silent retreat, walking the grounds, a visit to the Mt. St. Mary bookstore, lunch, and worship with communion.

Please join us! We're looking forward to a wonderful day together of fellowship, renewal, and friendship!

YOUTH GROUP

January 9th – Planning for Souper Bowl of Caring and Parents Meeting.

January 23rd – Wrap candy for Fund Raiser

January 29th – NYC trip for presentation on Bullying, at the First Presbyterian Church, Manhattan, NY.

FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY

There are many opportunities to provide flowers for the sanctuary this fall and winter. **The 2010 Flower Chart** is posted on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Please sign the chart for the Sunday of your choice and complete all required information on the signup sheet. It is the responsibility of the donor to contact a florist (or bring flowers from your garden)

If you do not have a florist, **Gray's**, Rte. 22, in Watchung has been a good source (908 757-0400). If you want Grays' to deliver, make sure you instruct them to do so.

Leslie Hansen is also interested in doing flower arrangements; she may be called at 908 604-0337. Leslie will place your flowers in the Sanctuary on Sunday morning when she comes for choir.

Gail Smith, PW Flower Chairperson
(908-753-1249)

SOUP-A-THON

Sunday, **March 6TH** @ 12 Noon, Parish Hall
Enjoy a variety of soups and dessert too! Tickets are \$ 6 for adults and \$3 for children 10 & under.
If you would like to donate a soup, call Estelle at 908-756-2077. If you would like to donate a dessert call Peggy 908-668-0051 or Faye 908-755-8413.
Get your appetite ready and join us for great food and a great time.

PANCAKE DINNER

Youth Group Mission Trip Fundraiser

Save the date - Tuesday, **March 8, 2010**.
Shrove Tuesday supper for the family.
Tickets will go on sale in February.
More information later.

CIRCLE OF GRACE

Circle of Grace will meet **Tuesday Jan. 11th** at the home of Fran Young. **Monday Feb 7th** at the home of Judith Botzan. **Monday March 7th** at the home of Colleen Parlman. **Monday April 4th** at the home of Dot Fenz.

CIRCLE OF HOPE

Circle of Hope will meet on **Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2011** at the home of Faye Steinau.

CIRCLE OF JOY

Circle of Joy will meet on **Thursday Feb. 3, 2011 in the WAPC Parish Hall**, Evie LaMaire hostess.

WINTER COATS

Our friends at St. Joseph's have received a donation of nearly 2,000 new winter coats for all ages and sizes! If you or anyone you know is in need of a warm winter coat, please call the St. Joseph's office at 908-756-3383 to schedule a time to pick up your coat(s). Or they are having a coat pick up extravaganza ***Saturdays January 8, 15, and 22 from 9-11am!!*** Coats can be picked up and the extravaganza visited at 99 Westervelt Ave. N. Plainfield.

2010

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE PROGRAM

Faye Steinau and Peggy Bunnell want to thank all the people who donated generously to the Giving Tree. You all helped 50 children have a Merry Christmas!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY WINTER MEETINGS

The Prayer Shawl Ministry of WAPC now has a name. We are "Hearts, Hands & Stitches." Our members feel that this name reflects who we are and what we do. The ministry continues to meet monthly. We stitch at our meetings and on our own time to create comforting shawls. Our Winter meetings are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, January 11th, at the home of Gwyn Gronlund

Tuesday, February 8th, at the home of Fran Young

Tuesday, March 8th, at the home of Gail Smith

All evening meetings are held from 7:15 pm to 9:30 pm.

We have a time of quiet, prayerful stitching, plan our projects, and have refreshments, of course. All are welcome to join.

You may speak to Gwyn Gronlund for more information (908) 754-1251

DID YOU KNOW!

The Bereavement Hospitality Committee was set up by Dot Fenz in 1996, to be of assistance to members of the church at the time of a death in the family. The purpose of this committee is to coordinate an informal luncheon or dessert to be served in the Parish Hall following a funeral or memorial service. Members of the committee set up, serve and cleanup in addition to supplying coffee, tea and dessert. The family of the deceased is responsible for the main course and paper products. If in need of this service or you would like to serve on this committee, please call Faye Steinau.

WOMEN'S CRAFT GROUP

Bring your scrapbooking, knitting, or other projects and come enjoy each other's company, plus get a break from your busy week. We meet on Friday evenings from 7:30 – 9:30 PM - sometimes in the church library and sometimes at someone's house. We even go on field trips occasionally! Come join us whenever you can – just call Gwyn Gronlund (908-754-1251) or Marilyn Cortright (home: 908-753-2859, cell: 908-295-4754) to find out where we will be meeting that week!

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

If you would like to help out with a new local mission, we will be partnering with Crescent Avenue on the third Thursday of each month to serve meals at the Plainfield YMCA shelter. You can be a cook (who prepares food ahead of time and drops it off), a server, a helper, or all three! This is a great way for families to participate in mission together. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Ellen (Velasquez) Billard who is the Elder co-chair of our Mission Committee at: 908-757-2929

ECO-TIPS

To Care for God's Creation

Toxics: Many cleaning products contain chemicals that are bad for your health and the environment, and have not been adequately tested for their harmful effects. Clean safely by making your own green cleaners. Follow this simple recipe for an all-purpose cleaner:

4 cups warm water
2 Tablespoons of vinegar or lemon juice
1 teaspoon baking soda
2 Tablespoons of natural liquid soap (such as Dr. Bronnors orange scented)
10 drops of essential oil (Lavender, Pine or Tea Tree)—optional, but helps disinfect and adds a good smell
Mix water, vinegar and baking soda first, then add the soap and essential oil.

• **Toxics:** Pesticides are designed to be harmful, and have been linked to many severe illnesses in both humans and wildlife (Beyond Pesticides). Children are especially susceptible to these chemicals since they are frequently touching surfaces, and they breathe more air per pound of body weight than

adults. Search for the least toxic methods for controlling pests in your home:

<http://www.beyondpesticides.org/alternatives/factsheets/index.htm>

• **Food:** Worldwide meat production releases more greenhouse gas emissions than the entire transportation sector combined (Source: UN Environment Programme). Start small by eliminating meat one day per week, or challenge yourself by taking a week-long vegetarian pledge. See www.meatlessmonday.org or www.vegetariantimes.com for good recipes and more information.

• **Food:** A typical carrot travels 1,838 miles to reach your dinner table (Sustainable Table). Support your farmers close to home and reduce your carbon footprint by visiting farmers' markets or participating in Community Supported Agriculture: www.localharvest.org

• **Food:** Nearly 70% of commercial fishing grounds are depleted or recovering from overfishing (Source: UN Food and Agriculture Organization). Before ordering seafood, reach for your Seafood Watch pocket guide:

www.seafoodwatch.org which will give you the 'red' light or 'green' when deciding what to choose.

• **Food:** As much as forty percent of the energy used in the food system goes towards the production of chemical fertilizers and pesticides (Sustainable Table). Can't afford to eat everything organically? Some fruits and vegetables are sprayed with more pesticides than others, and cannot be cleaned of pesticide residues as easily—start small by choosing organic for these 'Dirty Dozen' fruits and vegetables that fit this category: peach, apple, bell pepper, celery, nectarine, strawberries, cherries, kale, lettuce, grapes (imported), carrot, and pears.

<http://www.foodnews.org/>

PRAYER LIST

- Prayers of healing for *Jennifer Hernandez* recovering from aburst appendix.
- Prayers of strength for *Kori Phillips* as she takes a three-week Hebrew Intensive class.
- Prayers of comfort and healing for the family of *Dennis O'Brien*, who passed away last week.
- Prayers of celebration for *Barbara Goellner* who has completed all of her cancer treatments.
- Continued prayers of healing for *Ellwood Whitely*.
- Prayers of healing for *Joan Brown*, recovering at home.
- Prayers of healing and comfort for *Joan*, a friend of Rick Butare's, for the loss of her son Michael and for son Jason, awaiting brain and heart surgery.
- Prayers of healing for *Bob Block*, son of Rev. Russ Block (retired) and Nancy Block, suffering head injury after being hit by car while running.
- Prayers of healing and strength for *Hope Dolan*.
- Prayers of healing for *Christopher & Christin Hopp's twin girls*, born premature.
- Prayers of healing for *Tim Cortright*, anticipating surgery later this month.
- Prayers of healing for *Bob Hildebrandt*.
- Prayers of healing for *Joyce Veress*, Shannan and Juan's friend, who is battling breast cancer.
- Prayers of healing for *George & Colleen Parliman*.
- Prayers of healing for the *City of Plainfield* and for the end of gun violence.
- *Mary Wirth*, Pat Dell Bene O'Mara's grandmother.
- *Amanda Lake*, prayers of strength and courage.
- *Vi Krieg*, at home.
- *Alberta Vosburgh*, at Arbor Glenn Continuing Care, Rm. 636.
- *Helen Stagg*, in Cranford Extended Care Facility.
- *Helen Miller*, at home.
- *Henry Coates and Kori Phillips*, Our Seminary Interns.
- *Edwin Estevez, Jr.*, our Seminarian.

CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS to DIRECTORY

Please make the following corrections/additions in the Directory:

Sally Stagg

5 Linbergh Ave

Warren, NJ 07059

John Piel

(Michael & Christopher) 201.394.3652

26 Red Oak Way

Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Bunnell email - jsbunnell@verizon.net

Mullen email - Juliemullen1@verizon.net

Lake email - lakee@live.com, Tyler (Goodman)

Ellen Velasquez is now **Ellen Billard**.

Jacob and Shelby Watters - 908.296.4026

Colleen Parliman email -

goldenmomcp@comcast.net

Griffin phone # - 908.377.9042

SULLIVAN, JOHN

732-218-5480

708 Cricket Lane

Woodbridge, NJ 07095

Jts1166@aol.com

NEWMAN, CRAIG

(Sam)

908-548-8039

74 Farragut Place

North Plainfield, NJ 07060

Craig_man@hotmail.com

SMITH, BIELKA & (DREW)

(Zamea)

908-422-0102

621 Parkview Avenue

North Plainfield, NJ 07060

Bielkasmith89@gmail.com

February Birthdays

Andrew Lake	2-Feb
Katy Strasko	6-Feb
Faye Steinau	7-Feb
Harry Krausse	10-Feb
Miguel A. Ramirez	12-Feb
Harriet Stambaugh	14-Feb
Leslie Hansen	17-Feb
Evelyn LaMaire	21-Feb
Helen Bradley	22-Feb
Emilio Peleaz	23-Feb
Patricia Taylor	25-Feb
Ethan Gottshall	25-Feb
Debbie Borberly	26-Feb
Autumn Rodriguez	27-Feb

Worship Services & Regular Meetings

Regular Sunday Schedule:

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
10:00 a.m. Worship
10:20 a.m. Church School
11:00 a.m. Coffee/Fellowship

Weekly

Wednesday Bible Study 10 a.m. in Lounge
Wednesday Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
Thursday Bible Study 7:30 p.m.-Lounge

Monthly

1st Sunday Holy Communion
1st Sunday FISH (Food Bank) Collection
1st & 3rd Sunday Confirmation Class(12-1:30)
2nd Sunday Healing Service
2nd Monday Session meets at 7:30 p.m.
3rd Monday Trustee's Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
2nd & 4th Sunday Youth Group 11:30-1p.m.
4th Sunday Men's Breakfast
4th Monday CHATS - 7:15 p.m. in Library

Key Cards

We have a new policy for replacement of key cards. Due to the cost of the cards we will need to collect a fee of \$10.00 for replacement of lost key cards.

WAPC Schedule of Regular Events

Sunday Schedule:

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Worship
10:20 am Church School
10:55 am Coffee/Fellowship
7-9 pm Iglesia Cristo Mi Rey
Parish Hall

Monday Schedule

8:15 am Head Start
2:30 pm ASP
7:15 pm CHATS (4th Monday)
7:30 pm Boy Scouts Parish Hall

Tuesday Schedule

1-Jan 8:15 am Head Start
9:30 am WIC (Tuesday)
2:30 pm ASP
7-10 pm Iglesia Cristo Mi Rey
Parish Hall & classroom

Wednesday Schedule

8:15 am Head Start
10:00 am Bible Study
2:30 pm ASP
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday Schedule

8:15 am Head Start
2:30 pm ASP
7:30 pm Bible Study

Friday Schedule

8:15 am Head Start
2:30 pm ASP
6-8 pm Girl Scouts Parish Hall

Saturday Schedule

9-11 am Heritage Choir Parish Hall
7-10 pm - Iglesia Cristo Mi Rey
Parish Hall & classroom

Visions is published monthly.

The due date for articles for the **February** newsletter is: **Monday, January 24, 2011**

Pastor: *Shannan Vance-Ocampo*
Pastor Emeritus: *Brooks Smith*
Student Pastors: Henry Coates & Kori Phillips
Director of Music: *Sam Chapin*
WAPC After School Program – 908-755-8202
ASP Director: *James Winston*
Visions Editor: *Kathleen Golmont*

Summer 2011 Youth Group Mission Trip

June 26-July 1, 2011

Stony Point, New York

Co-led by Pastor Shannan (Watchung Avenue) and Pastor Rob (Crescent Avenue)

Join the youth of Watchung Avenue and Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Churches for our Summer 2011 Mission Trip. We'll be going to Stony Point, NY to help with the building of a new arts building for the Stony Point Center, one of only three national conference centers of the Presbyterian Church (USA). In the evenings we will have the opportunity engage in Bible Study with the Community of Living Traditions—an interfaith (Jewish, Christian, Muslim) young adult ministry group that resides at the Stony Point Center and is committed to nonviolence. Together with them we will learn about the common roots of our faith and how together we can be agents of peace in the world.

We are very excited about this trip that will offer the youth of our congregations the opportunity to do physical and spiritual work as we build up ourselves as disciples of Jesus Christ!

Cost \$600/participant

Each participant is asked to contribute \$200 towards the cost of the trip, to fully participate to help fundraise towards our trip, and our two congregations will help with the rest. *Scholarships are available—see Pastor Shannan*



Register via the WAPC office with your \$100 deposit made out to "Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church". Note "youth mission trip" in the memo line. Please register ASAP