

This May we will celebrate six of the youth of our church who are being confirmed. In the Presbyterian Church, baptism and confirmation are tied together. When we are baptized, someone else (our parents) take vows on behalf of us, promising to raise us in Christian faith. Confirmation is when we are old enough to think through what our parents said “yes” to for us, decide if it is what we really want, and then officially state our faith independently and say “yes” I want to be a part of the Christian faith, and “yes”, I am ready to take responsibility for my own journey of faith. Confirmation is when as parents we let go of our children and their faith journey, step back, and let them make it their own.

### **Easier said than done!**

I am very excited about our newest six church members: Lily Durick, Jenny Jones, Shelby Watters, Christopher Piel, Michael Piel, and Ryan Thomas. They are each interesting, committed, and faithful young people. Each one of them is different and unique, and each one of them is a part of a family that takes their journey of faith seriously and is a committed part of the WAPC community. They have written or drawn insightful statements of faith that we look forward to sharing with you, they have participated in class this year, gone on trips together, and visited other places of worship. Confirmation Sunday is May 23<sup>rd</sup>—do not miss this important Sunday in worship when we welcome them to the church and they will be confirmed.

Of course, nothing really stops on Confirmation Sunday. Just like when you and I were confirmed as youth or joined a congregation as adults—the journey of faith goes on, and will take twists and turns that we cannot predict or know. I didn’t have everything figured out in 9<sup>th</sup> grade when I was confirmed, and I am still working on my faith journey every day. We all are. That’s why we join a church—so that we have a community around us to take the journey with us, support and help us. We all need it! Our youth will continue to need us after Confirmation Sunday, as they become more and more a part of us, as they begin to leave us to go on to college, as they grow into the people that God created each one of them to be. And we need them, to help us as we live out our faith every day.

As we have been preparing our May newsletter, I am reminded that it has officially been one year since I began my ministry at Watchung Avenue. Some days it feels like a year, other days I wonder where the time went. I have found myself in a very reflective mood this past week as I’ve thought and prayed about the transitions in my life, in the life of my family, this congregation, and our world in the past twelve months. So much has happened to all of us. Most of all, I find myself giving thanks for all the good of the past year, and so much that we have done together. Both you and I have been learning about each other, easing into new schedules and new relationships, trying new things on for size, and hopefully (most of the time) enjoying the process! It has been quite a year. My sense very much is that God has been with us on this journey of our first year together, and I want to say a “thank you” to each of you for your ongoing gracious welcome to me, to my family, and the ministry we are creating together. It continues to be a great honor and joy to be here as the Pastor of this congregation, and to be doing God’s ministry in this place and during this exciting time.

Peace,

Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo

## ***MAY WORSHIP***

### May 2<sup>nd</sup>: **Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Joint Plainfield Area Churches  
Worship Service: Combined Choir  
and Church School

Sacrament: Communion

Scripture: Psalm 24 &  
John 5: 1-9

Sermon: "Can We Love Like Jesus?"

### May 9<sup>th</sup>: **Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Scripture: Acts 16: 9-15 &  
John 5: 1-9

Sermon: "Signing Up With Jesus"

### May 16<sup>th</sup>: **Seventh Sunday of Easter**

Scripture: Acts 16: 16-34 &  
John 17: 20-26

Sermon: "The Problems of Participation"

**4pm** Community Garden Dedication, Worship, and Family Activities. Led by Revs. George Farrell, Ken Gorman, and Shannan Vance-Ocampo. Services at Church of the Holy Cross in North Plainfield.

### May 23<sup>rd</sup>: **Pentecost Sunday**

Sacrament: Confirmation for Lily Durick, Jenny Jones, Shelby Watters, Christopher Piel, Michael Piel, and Ryan Thomas

Scripture: Acts 2: 1-21 &  
Romans 8: 14-17

Sermon: "Are you Sure You Want to Say, Yes?"

### May 30<sup>th</sup>: **Trinity Sunday**

Scripture: Proverbs 8: 1-31 &  
John 16: 12-15

Sermon: "The Wisdom of Jesus"

## ***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 who is the Elder co-chair of our Mission Committee at: 908-757-2929

## ***PASTORAL CARE***

Over the past two months, there have been a couple of times where I have found out after the fact that a member of the church has been hospitalized or had day-stay surgery. Please remember to let the church office know (or have a family member reach out) if you are in the hospital or in need of pastoral care. I hate to find out late that I missed out on the opportunity to visit someone! If you do not wish for the congregation to know about your condition, and do not wish to be included on the church prayer list, we will not list it and will keep anything confidential you wish. There are many things I find out from time-to-time that never get passed on or make the prayer list because they are indeed, confidential. If you have any questions about pastoral care, please do not hesitate to reach out and I will be very happy to have a conversation with you to talk about what works best for you!

Thank you....Pastor Shannan



After a year of learning and growing in faith, our confirmation youth will be officially received into membership at the May 10<sup>th</sup> Session Meeting. We will celebrate their **Confirmation in worship on Sunday May 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Please join us as we rejoice in this important step on the faith-journey of: **Lily Durick, Michael Piel, Christopher Piel, Jenny Jones, Shelby Watters,** and **Ryan Thomas!** We are very proud of each of them!

## ***WEDDING***

Joe and Faye Steinau are excited to announce the upcoming wedding of their son **Joseph Vincent Steinau to Laura Christine Pepe** on Saturday, May 8, 2010, at The Primavera Regency.

## ***BLANKET SUNDAY***

Blanket Sunday was celebrated on Sunday March 21, 2010. This year our total gift to Church World Service was \$1,115. Imagine, 223 blankets to victims of floods, earthquakes and the many other catastrophes!

I want to thank Debbie, so much, for I couldn't do "PW Blanket Sunday" without her help. I also would like to thank Shannan, who in the Children's Sermon, helped them to understand how much help our \$5.00 gift, for one blanket, gave to so many in need.

My sincere thanks, from CWS, for all of you who show your love and care each year for this mission.

Peace and Love,  
Virginia Metz  
CWS Representative

## ***CIRCLE OF HOPE***

Circle of Hope will be meeting at the home of **Dianne Ledder on Tuesday, May 4th, at 7:30pm.** Please call Dianne if you are planning to attend.

## ***CIRCLE OF JOY***

We will meet at the home of Estelle Kennedy on **Thursday May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm.** If you are looking to join a circle, call Beverly at 908-757-6654 and learn what we're all about.

## ***SOUP-A-THON COOKBOOK***

Cookbooks will be available Sunday May 9<sup>th</sup> for \$1.00.

## ***PW "Colonial Candy and Confections"***

So you have a sweet tooth? You will want to attend "Colonial Candy and Confections"-a PW event. **Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>** will begin with a covered dish dinner, a short business meeting followed by a sweet evening.

Don your colonial outfit and/or hat, make a covered dish to share and join the women of WAPC for a "sweet" evening, beginning at **6:30pm.**

Let us know you are coming by contacting a circle chairperson or the church office to sign up.

## ***ACT***

### ***Active Christians Together***

**"A Trip Down the Amazon" Saturday, May 8, 2010-6:30pm, WAPC Lounge.**

Fascinating slide show of a trip down the Amazon River, refreshments including Brazilian Coffee, an assortment of tropical fruits, snacks and dessert items. Please sign up with Pat Roselli or Judith Botzan.

### ***Supporting the Larger Community***

Presbyterian women support the mission of the church worldwide, beginning with the fellowship of their Circles and extending that inclusive caring to all of God's children.

#### ***Hygiene Kits***

- One hand towel, approximately 16" x 28"
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb
- One nail clipper
- One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- One toothbrush\* (in original packaging)
- Six Band-Aids®

Seal all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure **OR** donate \$11 to provide a health Kit. \*Toothpaste that has an extended expiration date will be added to Health Kit shipments just prior to shipment.

#### ***School Kit Contents***

- One pair of blunt scissors (rounded tip)
- 3 70-count spiral bound notebooks (210 sheets).
- One 30-cm ruler (12")
- One hand-held pencil sharpener
- Six new pencils unsharpened with erasers
- One eraser, 2-1/2"
- One box of 24 crayons (only 24)

Place all in a cloth bag provided by Bev Krausse for \$2, or make your own 12"X14" bag with cloth handles. Secure with a Velcro, snap or button closure **OR** donate \$13 to provide a school supply kit.

**Monetary Donation may be made in lieu of kits:**  
**Processing/Shipping:** \$2.00 per Kit,  
School Kit \$13 or Hygiene Kit \$11

## ***ANNUAL USED BOOK SALE***

The Princeton Theological Seminary Stewardship & Mission Committee Annual Book Sale is Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup> until Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. Whiteley Gymnasium, on the corner of Hibben Rd. and Stockton Street/ Rte 206 in Princeton, NJ. Friday and Saturday 9am-8pm, Sunday 12pm-8pm, Monday 9am-4pm. (A \$50 entrance fee from 9am-3pm Friday). 7,000 books for the 2010 sale. Proceeds help seminary colleagues around the world.

### ***To the WAPC Youth Group:***

Congratulations to all of you for the work you've completed on your meeting room. You took on a big project, considering the condition of the room when you started. You completed the work to meet your goal for Andrew's last Sunday, and the room is a cleaner, more inviting place to be even though some work remains. Congratulations also to the adults and other children that assisted with your project, and to Judy Botzan for making this work a Youth Group priority since it was important to you.  
WELL DONE!

## ***BROADCAST TEXT MESSAGING***

WAPC is proud to announce that we now have a broadcast text messaging system available to our members and their families. You now can receive text messages for important church sponsored events, activities and other messages/ announcements. Signing up is fast, easy and free! To participate, simply email the church office ([wapc@verizon.net](mailto:wapc@verizon.net)) with your mobile phone number and carrier. Participation is voluntary and you will receive only messages sent by WAPC - unwanted advertising, and/or other spam messages are illegal. Normal text messaging rates apply per the individual plan you and others who sign up have.

## ***iGIVE.com***

Would you like to help the church with some extra income while you shop online? Follow these easy steps:

1. Go to [www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com)
2. Create a free account for yourself
3. Designate Watchung Ave Presbyterian Church as your charity (using their navigation menu, go to NJ and then Religious/Spiritual Institutions)
4. Every time to shop online, first go to iGive.com and then go to your shopping sites FROM their website
5. Donations are automatically generated at NO cost to you (what this means is that vendors like LLBean, Amazon.com, etc. then give a % to us)
6. You can watch your shopping history and donations generated by your shopping on their calculator

Take a look at iGive's list of vendors! They have over 700 and counting—and almost all are popular websites you are probably already using. Ask your family and friends to sign up and help out our church! Thanks!

## ***MOTHER'S HELPER***

An Almost 17 year old female is looking for a job as a mother's helper/ babysitter, during the summer. Has completed a child care class at High School. Call Krausses at at 908-757-6654.

## ***THANK YOU***

We would like to thank WAPC for being such a warm, caring, loving congregation. We had a lot of visitors on April 25 that came for the Baptism of Chase and Lyla and several of our friends and relatives commented on how welcoming our congregation was. Some of them were amazed that people got out of their pews and came to them during the Passing of the Peace. Others were impressed with the wonderful message presented by Shannan and how it all wove together so beautifully. I think sometimes we just take it for granted because we know no other way so when it's pointed out to us we realize how blessed we are to be a part of this wonderful Church. Thank you all for being you!

We'd also especially like to thank Shannan for the wonderful service and the powerful words that she spoke regarding the meaning of Baptism and the charge given to the family and to the congregation. Several people expressed "wow" and "how awesome" to us as she and Doug walked the babies around the congregation. We heard one person say "she really makes you realize that you are a part of the lives of these babies". Which to us is what it's all about!

Sam and the Choir also deserve a huge thanks especially for the gorgeous rendition of Amazing Grace with Leslie Hanson as soloist. Heidi's favorite hymn is Amazing Grace and to have that as part of the service on the day the babies were baptized was extra special for her. The music was absolutely glorious and we appreciate your beautiful voices.

Thank you to the very helpful assistance of Tom and Dianne Ledder, Joe and Faye Steinau, Peggy Bunnell, Sarellen Hogan and Gail Smith. The help you gave with serving the reception and helping to set up/clean up made for a very relaxed family so that we could interact with all that attended. It's wonderful to have friends that are ready and willing to help!

Thank you and God Bless each and every one of you!

Heidi, Shawn, Chase and Lyla Rapach  
Doug, Cathy and Monica Boleyn

## ***PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY***

Would you like to learn to knit or crochet? Are you a little "rusty" and want to polish your skills? Come to a Knitting and Crocheting Workshop on **Saturday May 15 from 9:30 to 11:30 AM in the lounge**, offered by the members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Open to women, men, teens; even younger children may come with a parent and learn spool knitting.

Our next regular evening meeting will be on **Tuesday, May 18 at the home of Cathy Boleyn, from 7:15 to 9:30 PM**. Please bring your current project to be blessed by the group.

This new ministry has become such a blessing to the participants and recipients alike. Please join us! Call Gwyn Gronlund for more information (908) 754-1251

## ***2010 PER CAPITA AMOUNT***

Our assessment from the **PCUSA** for 2010 is \$30 per member. If each member pays their share, it will free up money for other purposes. Place your \$30 in the per capita envelope in your envelope packet.

## ***LET'S GET TOGETHER!***

The Fellowship Committee under the WAPC Session has plans for some wonderful happenings in the coming months. To name a few:

❖ Recognition of our 50 year members

We are looking for people who want to help put these events together. If you are able to help with plans already under way, or if you have an idea that will give congregation members a chance to join together outside of worship, please let us know.

Dianne Ledder, Fellowship Elder  
Peg Bunnell  
Fay 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!

## ***CONTRIBUTING ELECTRONICALLY TO WAPC***

Ok, a quick show of hands – who pays their bills and does their banking on line? I know, I know you're reading this; I just wanted to get your attention.

Did you know that when paying your bills on line you can also make your contribution to WAPC that way too? It is true. If you use your bank's on-line site and pay monthly bills you can also make your contributions to WAPC that way.

It has certain advantages too:

- No catch up contributions – it insures that your contribution is made even if you miss a Sunday or two.
- Helps budgeting for both you and WAPC with an even flow of contributions
- It makes you "Greener" as you no longer use envelopes – next year we will not order envelopes for those that want to use the on-line payment method.

It's easy. Just set up WAPC in your bill paying module, key in the WAPC mailing address and schedule the payments for the frequency you prefer. (Monthly is probably best). Your bank will then send a check to WAPC for the amount.

If we get enough people participating we can also give out our banking info for a transfer of funds.

Please keep this in mind.

Thanks and peace to you all.

Garrett Hansen

## ***NEW GROUP AT WAPC***



We are beginning a group at the church to talk about our faith and the environment. Anyone in the church who is interested in talking about the environment and our faith is welcome to join us.

Some things we are working on:

1. Having an energy audit of our church facility done to assess our energy use and make a plan for lessening our environmental impact and our utility bills at the church.
2. Celebrating a special worship service focused on the environment in April
3. Continuing our growing connection to GreenFaith, a NJ-based national interfaith environmental ministry
4. Being a hosting site in November for a GreenFaith regional conference on the environment that will be in conjunction with the Elizabeth Presbytery, Drew Seminary and other local partners.
5. An adult education program in 2010 about ecology and Christian faith
6. The project we are very excited about, a jointly run Community Garden on the grounds of the Church of the Holy Cross here in North Plainfield that will begin to be organized over the next month. This will be open to all churches in North Plainfield to participate in. All the food grown in our garden will go to the hungry in our community and will be a great new way for us to be reaching out to those in our community! If you are interested in being a part of the garden group or want to work on the garden, let Shannan know!
7. Pick up a special lent calendar in the mission room to make Care of Creation part of lent this year!

Interested in learning more about our faith and the environment? Check out these websites for more information: [www.greenfaith.org](http://www.greenfaith.org) GreenFaith  
[www.pcusa.org/environment](http://www.pcusa.org/environment) Presbyterian Church  
(USA) Environmental Ministry Office  
[www.prcweb.org](http://www.prcweb.org) Presbyterians for Earth Care

## ***NORTH PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY GARDEN***

Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church, Church of the Holy Cross, and the Catholic Community of St. Joseph are joining forces this spring, summer, and fall to host a

vegetable garden on the grounds of the Church of the Holy Cross (40 Mercer Avenue). The garden measures about



15 feet by 20 feet and 100% of the food that is grown will be donated right in our community to those who are hungry. We are very excited about this joint mission of our three congregations and for the outreach that we will be able to provide right here in North Plainfield.

**We are looking for all sorts of volunteers for our garden!** We are having our next meeting on **Friday May 7<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the Church of the Holy Cross** to sow our seeds for the garden! Just give Shannan a call at the church office or email [svanceocampo@yahoo.com](mailto:svanceocampo@yahoo.com) to let me know if you'd like to participate and help out, we would just love to have you be a part of this exciting local mission opportunity!

Save the date for **Sunday May 16<sup>th</sup> at 4pm** at Holy Cross. We will have a service of Blessing and Dedication for the garden. This will be followed by a shared meal, gardening activities, and give-aways for all ages!

## ***PRAYER LIST***

Prayers of healing and comfort for *David Eichinger and family*, on the passing of his mother.

Prayers of healing for *Evie LaMaire*, recovering from cataract surgery

Prayers of healing for *Betty Lou Divin*, Fran Young's sister.

Prayers of healing for *Alice Lester*, recovering at home.

Prayers of healing for *Bob Hildebrandt*.

Prayers of healing for *Lanier Attkisson*, Shawn Watters grandfather.

Prayers of healing for *Bob Goellner*, awaiting heart surgery.

Prayers of healing for *Fred Thul*.

Prayers of healing for *Colleen Parliman* recovering from surgery.

Prayers of healing for *Bruce Gronlund* recovering from surgery.

Prayers of healing for those in Haiti and Chile. *Harry Krausse*, at home.

*Mary Wirth*, Frank Dell Bene's mother and Pat's grandmother.

*Amanda Lake*, prayers of strength and courage.

*Agnes Marinelli*, JoAnn Hoppe's Mother.

*Frank Dell Bene*, at home.

*Vi Krieg*, at home.

*Alberta Vosburgh*, at Arbor Glenn Continuing Care, Rm. 636.

*Helen Stagg*, in Cranford Extended Care Facility.

*Helen Miller*, at home.

*Edwin Estevez, Jr.*, our Seminarian.

## *June Birthdays*

Joanna Serieux	1-Jun
Elizabeth J. Kennedy	1-Jun
Kristan Serieux	4-Jun
Mark von Bradsky	6-Jun
Nancy Squier	17-Jun
Matthew Lyttle	23-Jun
Randy Blain	24-Jun
Chrissie Imperato	25-Jun
Lisa von Bradsky	25-Jun
Reese Jenkins	28-Jun
Tracey Ledder Falck	29-Jun

## *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*

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

## *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

### 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

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

### Saturday Schedule

7-10 pm - Iglesia Cristo Mi Rey  
Parish Hall & classroom

*Visions* is published monthly.

The due date for articles for the **June** newsletter is: **Monday, May 24, 2010**

Pastor: *Shannan Vance-Ocampo*  
Pastor Emeritus: *Brooks Smith*  
Director of Music: *Sam Chapin*  
WAPC After School Program – 908-755-8202  
Interim ASP Director: *James Winston*  
Visions Editor: *Kathleen Golmont*

## *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.

# May 2010 Church School Calendar and Activities



	<b>Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Sunday May 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Sunday May 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Sunday May 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Sunday May 30<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Scripture Reading and Theme</b>	<i>Psalm 24 &amp; John 12: 31-25</i>  Talking about Loving like Jesus	<i>Acts 16: 9-15 &amp; John 5: 1-9</i>  What does it mean to “sign up” with Jesus?	<i>Acts 16: 16-34 &amp; John 17: 20- 26</i>  What do we do when people do not understand us?	<i>Acts 2: 1-21 &amp; Romans 8: 14-17</i>  Learning about the meaning of Pentecost	<i>Proverbs 8: 1-31 &amp; John 16: 12- 15</i>  Learning what it means to be “wise” as a Christian
<b>Younger Children</b>	Special Craft Activity	Special Activity and Craft for Mother’s Day	Talking about the Acts passage and bullies Games of Peace	Science Activities about wind	Making an illuminated wisdom poem
<b>Older Children</b>	Special Craft Activity	Special Craft and Activity for Mother’s Day	Talking about places in the world where we need peace and making peace cranes	Science Activities about wind	Making an illuminated wisdom poem
<b>Special Information</b>	<b>Joint Worship with Plainfield Presbyterian Churches</b>  We are sharing church school activities too!  Come meet some new friends!!!	<b>Mother’s Day!!!</b>  <b>Don’t forget to register your children for Vacation Bible School this summer. See Pastor Shannan if you have questions!</b>	Don’t forget to attend the special worship and activities for kids at <b>4pm today</b> at Church of the Holy Cross to dedicate our garden to feed the hungry!!!	<b>Confirmation Sunday!!!</b>  Say congratulations to Lily, Shelby, Jenny, Christopher, Michael, and Ryan!!!	<b>Memorial Day Weekend!!</b> Give thanks to God for those who serve and for an extra day with your family!!!

# May 2010 WAPC Activities

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2—Combined Worship & Communion 10am-Worship & Church School	3	4	5 10am—Bible Study	6  7pm—Bible Study	7  6pm—Garden Planting at Holy Cross Church	8  6:30pm—ACTS Meeting—Brazil Photography Night!
9 10am-Worship & Church School	10  6:45pm— Confirmation Dinner 7:30pm—Session	11  4pm—PW Gathering, Parish Hall	12 10am—Bible Study	13  7pm—Bible Study	14	15 9:30am—Prayer Shawl Meeting-- Lounge
16—Confirmation 10am-Worship & Church School 11:15am—Deacons Mtg.  4pm—Garden Dedication Service	17  7:30pm—Trustees Meeting	18	19 10am—Bible Study	20  Service Night at Plainfield YMCA  7pm—Bible Study	21	22
23 10am-Worship & Church School	24	25  5pm—Presbytery Meeting (South Amboy)	26 10am—Bible Study	27  7pm—Bible Study	28	29
30 10am-Worship & Church School	31 Memorial Day— Church Office Closed					

# VACATION BIBLE FUN

SPONSORED BY THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. JOSEPH

JUNE 28 - July 2, 2010 (Monday - Friday)

9:30 AM TO 1:00 PM\*

Location: St. Joseph Church/Parish Hall

41 Manning Ave, No. Plainfield

**FUN**

**MUSIC**

**GAMES**

**FAITH**

**FRIENDS**

(Open to children starting Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade)

Fees: \$30 – 1 child, \$50 – 2 children, 3<sup>rd</sup> child free

Name of Child/Children: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade/Grades in Sept. 10 \_\_\_\_\_

Church/Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirt size/sizes: \_\_\_\_\_  
Small Medium Large X-Large

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Activity help needed - Snacks Music Crafts Games Skits – Circle one or two choices

Volunteer Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Church/Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Info: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Children Starting Grade 7 and up are welcome to sign up to help out! We need you!! Parents are welcome to volunteer also – we need you too! Volunteers will be asked to attend planning/training meetings in May. As in the public school system, the Diocese of Metuchen requires fingerprinting and background checks of all those over the age of 18 who regularly come in contact with minors. In addition, attendance at the Protecting God's Children Awareness Session is mandatory. No fees involved.

\*We will only hold this program if 25 children register, and we get enough volunteers.

Questions ??? - Contact Mrs. Giannone (908) 230-0061 or [maryann@sjnp.org](mailto:maryann@sjnp.org)

**REGISTRATIONS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED UNTIL  
MAY 15, 2010**

***PLEASE COMPLETE REVERSE SIDE***

**ST. JOSEPH CHURCH**  
**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**JUNE 28 – JULY 2, 2010**  
**CRISIS PLAN: STUDENT INFORMATION**

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade (Sept. 10) \_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Home Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Work or Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Work or Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency, list the name and phone number of ONE local person, other than the parent, who is authorized to pick up your child. This person must be available during VBS time.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**With Whom Does the Child/Children Reside?**

\_\_\_\_\_ Mother & Father

\_\_\_\_\_ Mother only

\_\_\_\_\_ Father only

**If a custodial agreement exists, please attach a copy to this registration form.**

-----**Medical information**

The only medicine that will be allowed to be self-administered by a student is an inhaler or Epi Pen - treatments used for potentially life-threatening conditions. Please indicate if your child would require use of either of these medications? \_\_\_\_\_  
Yes \_\_\_\_ No

If you checked yes, we will contact you in reference to filling out the necessary paperwork.

-----  
DOES YOUR CHILD/CHILDREN HAVE ANY ALLERGIES? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

DOES YOUR CHILD/CHILDREN HAVE ANY SPECIAL NEEDS THAT WE SHOULD BE AWARE OF? Please explain.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# +RENEW



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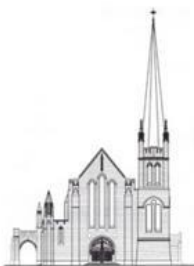
**5:00PM-7:30PM**

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## Missing in action

### **Merritt: to reach young adults, the church must recognize their challenges**

by Duane Sweep  
Special to Presbyterian News Service

**DEERWOOD, Minn.** - As church-goers we should "begin to imagine our churches a little differently," said the Rev. Carol Howard Merritt, an author and Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) minister, who spoke April 17 at the Clearwater 2010 conference here.

Using the Israelites' time in the wilderness as a metaphor for today's church, Merritt said, "We're kind of in a wilderness. We're in decline. Everyone knows it." Addressing the conference theme – "Finding Our Way in the Wilderness" – Merritt asked, "What's over the horizon?"

Speaking of the first congregation she served in Louisiana, Merritt said, "I looked out at my congregation. I started adding 20 years and it didn't look like my congregation was going to be here."

As a denomination, Merritt said, we are quick to lament the "missing generation," acknowledging the need to attract young adults and families with young children. That group is missing from churches. Merritt placed the number of "the missing" at 6 million.

While young adults are missing from church, Merritt said, the church fails to understand how to relate to this younger generation.

"The women's group is meeting on Tuesday morning and they're angry because the young women aren't involved," Merritt said, noting that it doesn't seem to occur to them that on Tuesday mornings many younger women are working.

Merritt, author of *Tribal Church: Ministering to the Missing Generation*, said substantial generational differences can be found along the lines of employment, finance and commitment. Those substantial differences cause barriers when it comes to church.

The pastor of Western Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C., Merritt said, we are in a time "where most young adults aren't making it."

In the area of employment, she said young adults are often working more than one job and more than 30 percent of 19- to 20-year olds have no health insurance, a higher proportion than any other age group.

In the last 10 years, Merritt pointed out, college costs have increased 44 percent and young adults are carrying substantial student loan debt in a stagnant economy that only offers temporary employment.

At the same time rent has increased by 50 percent while income has remained stable.

But, Merritt said, congregations see young adults as lacking commitment and saying, "If they didn't buy expensive coffees and iPods, they could afford a house."

She cited statistics that show 57 percent of men and 47 percent of women ages 18 to 24 are living with their parents. Young adults are marrying later and having children later. During the 1970s, women had their first child at age 21; now the average age is 25.

Merritt said the church does a good job of caring for children from the time they are baptized until they are confirmed, but then the situation changes. "We have beautiful, great graduation ceremonies, but in a lot of ways we're saying goodbye," Merritt said. "We expect them to be gone until they have a baby. Then we expect them back."

Young adults of today, she said, are "worried and consumed thinking about money." Merritt described a "can't win" situation for many young adults. She said a stable household today requires two working adults, but in order to get to that level of stability, both adults need to be financially stable before entering the relationship.

"Less than 25 percent of households today are made up of a mom and dad and child," she said.

At the same time our churches, she said, "expect young people to become something they're not before coming to church."

Merritt called on the church to see young adults differently, keeping in mind that the church is in the wilderness and searching to find "what and to who God is calling us to be."

Merritt encouraged the church to establish relationships with young adults offering them the opportunity to connect with God, with the world and with one another.

The connection with God will likely require a change in worship, but it doesn't necessarily mean the creation of a praise band. Merritt offered contemplative worship options, including taize and Iona, that enable young adults to connect with God, to know "we're alive" and to know that "we're created from our heads to our toes by God."

To connect with the world, Merritt said young adults "need to be connected to a greater cause." Citing a popular coffee house marketing effort in which a portion of each purchase is donated to support a specific cause, Merritt said, "People don't just want to buy a cup of coffee. They want to change the world." The church can do the same, she said, "because we're changing the world."

The church also needs to show young adults that it can provide a personal connection. An important part of that connection comes when church members recognize differences. It also comes, she said, when the church provides "a place where people can count on one another."

The biennial Clearwater conference is held at Presbyterian Clearwater Forest, a camp on the shore the lake that bears the Clearwater name. It is sponsored by the presbyteries of Minnesota Valleys, Northern Waters and Twin Cities Area, and the Synod of Lakes and Prairies.

In addition to Merritt, other conference leaders were Byron Wade, vice moderator of the 218th General Assembly; J. Andrew Dearman, longtime professor of the Old Testament at Austin (Texas) Presbyterian Theological Seminary and now director of Fuller Theological Seminary's regional campus in Houston, Texas; and Diana Stephen, former associate for network support for rural and small church ministries of the PC(USA).

Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, Strawberry Point, Iowa, led conference worship.

*Duane Sweep, associate for communications for the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, is a frequent contributor to Presbyterian News Service.*

<http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/2010/10362.htm>

## **NEWS** Presbyterian News Service

### [The boat is gone](#)

#### **Wade says this is 'not your mother and father's church anymore'**

by Duane Sweep  
Special to Presbyterian News Service

**DEERWOOD, Minn.** — The Rev. Byron Wade, vice moderator of the 218th (2008) General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), looked out on his audience at the Clearwater 2010 conference here, and asked for a show of hands from the "boomers."

He told them, "You are the last generation that goes to church on a regular basis."

In an April 17 address on change in church, Wade spoke about a church in a foreign land. The conference had the theme, "Finding Our Way in the Wilderness."

"We're going through something in the church," Wade said. "Our current church is in a foreign culture. ... You can't put the same old thing in a new culture and expect it to survive."

Wade used the example of the cruise-ship captain who advises travelers to take their cameras with them when they leave the ship in port. Why? So they can look at the pictures and remember what it was like if they miss the boat when it leaves.

"This is not your mother and father's church anymore. The boat is gone," Wade said.

A minister's Sunday sermon is now only one of many ways, enhanced by modern technology, that a pastor interacts with his or her congregation, Wade said. The library is being replaced by Google. He asked his audience to remember their years in college, a time of receiving letters in the mail and paying someone to type class papers.

"Those days are gone forever," he said.

He contrasted the "modern era" characterized by single truth, central authority and standardized worship with the "post-modern era" of shifting world views, changing power bases and more expressive forms of worship.

"We're going from control of chaos to people living with ambiguity," Wade said. We are becoming a community that is "contextually responsive."

Though the world continues to change, Wade — pastor of Davie Street Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, N.C. — used three biblical texts to inform his view of church transformation. He cited Romans 12:2, which calls on the church to be transformed; 1 Corinthians 12:27, pointing to the diversity within the body of Christ; and Matthew 28:16-20, where Christ commissions the church to make disciples.

"The wilderness is not a bad thing," Wade said, pointing out that the church can transform "only through the help of God the Spirit."

With that guidance, Wade said, church transformation requires vision, leadership and change.

Vision comes through discerning God's calling for the church. It is developed around the question, Wade said, of "what is God calling us to do?" The vision is vital, he said, because "if you don't know where you're going, you won't get there."

Leadership, he said, is "the essence of how things run." Leaders must encourage broad participation in the vision and change process because without participation there is dissension.

"You hear people say, 'I would be more willing to change if you would include me in the change,'" Wade said.

Another important element in bringing about change is the recognition of loss — loss of culture, history and tradition. "The reason we cannot change is that we haven't recognized that someone else is going to lose something," Wade said.

The recognition of loss must take place and those who will suffer loss need to be included in the change process, Wade said.

"We live in a totally different world," Wade said. "We are now in a foreign place," and vision, leadership and change, led by God the Spirit, are required for survival.

"We don't change for change's sake," Wade said. "Change is hard."

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In addition to Wade, other conference leaders were the Rev. Carol Howard Merritt, author of *Tribal Church: Ministering to the Lost Generation*; J. Andrew Dearman, longtime professor of the Old Testament at Austin (Texas) Presbyterian Theological Seminary and now director of Fuller Theological Seminary's regional campus in Houston, Texas; and Diana Stephen, former associate for network support for rural and small church ministries of the PC(USA).

Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, Strawberry Point, Iowa, led conference worship.

*Duane Sweep is associate for communications for the Synod of Lakes and Prairies. He is a frequent contributor to Presbyterian News Service.*

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