

VISIONS October 2011

Most of the people I know will not join organizations. The concept of “membership” is a foreign one to most people today. I know many of us value and prize membership. We join, our names are on the rolls of members, we pay our dues, and we participate in activities.

But that’s not where many people are anymore in how they relate to organizations and membership. One of the reasons so many people I know my generation won’t join as “members” is because the idea has become empty to them. They have experienced organizations where they have been treated as just a name on a list, a number, and worst of all: someone to solicit for money without any tangible benefit.

People want to *be* more than that, and they want to *do* more than that. They want to be a part of groups and movements that invite them into leadership, encourage them to share their gifts, and help them grow and develop. I believe that people are looking for new ways of forming community.

Unfortunately, this “anti-membership-organization attitude” affects long-term congregations like ours that are membership-based. People who do not know anything about congregations, who have not had the joy of participating in them, can assume that we are like other groups out there that they have had bad relationships with. And as you and I also know, many people have had or heard about very painful experiences others have had with religious groups. These things stack up against us and we have little control over them. Until people experience who we are and what we are like, it’s hard for them to come in the doors and give us a try. It’s a real challenge for congregations today, because there are no easy answers on how to encourage people to give us that first try, and then to engage them in ways that allow them to use their gifts in ways that make sense to them, not to us.

Bob Goellner, Jeanne Fedoryk, and I are tasked with the jobs of long-range planning and church growth for the Session. We’ve been working on a variety of things, but we want to begin this fall with having regularly-scheduled Sundays where every single member of WAPC (no matter your age) to invite a friend to come and worship with us. We want you to reach out and invite someone who is not part of a church, who maybe doesn’t even know what “church” is, or who you think is looking for something more in their lives. **Invite them to join you on a Sunday at WAPC. You are our best advertisers and evangelists about WAPC because you love the church, you are here week in and week out, and you know the joys of being a part of this community.**

We are not asking anyone to join the church. We do not want to push membership on people, that’s not the point and we know that pushing membership will turn many people off and be counterproductive. Just an open invitation, no pressure, no strings attached. I believe if we live into an attitude like this we can grow our congregation and create an atmosphere of welcome for all people.

Just this past Tuesday night Doug Boylen, Bob Goellner, Mary Anne Ronk, and I went to a presentation of the Presbytery on our new Form of Government in the Presbyterian Church. A lot of it is technical, and can be a bit boring, but there is also some beautiful new language in the Church about who we are and what we do. Some of the best language in it

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



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is about membership. I encourage you to read it and contemplate its meaning in your life. Just because we are members, part of the church, does not mean we stay in one place emotionally or spiritually! ***God does not call us to be stuck in our ways—but to be about personal and community transformation every single day of our lives!***

Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ's mission. A faithful member bears witness to God's love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ's Church. Such involvement includes:

- ***proclaiming the Good News in word and deed,***
- ***taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation,***
- ***lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support,***
- ***studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life,***
- ***supporting the ministry of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents,***
- ***demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church,***
- ***responding to God's activity in the world through service to others,***
- ***living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life,***
- ***working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment,***
- ***participating in the governing responsibilities of the church, and***
- ***reviewing and evaluating regularly the integrity of one's membership, and considering ways in which one's participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful.***

“Membership” in the church isn’t about our name on a roster or the rolls. It’s not about numbers. It’s about the character and the quality of our witness as people who follow Jesus Christ. It’s about transformed lives and transformed communities. It’s about a radical choice to follow and lead. I am always much more excited about these things than counting heads, and filling out membership demographic forms.

Jesus was into a Way of Life—not numbers, and not statistics. Jesus was about transformation and about actively engaging the world. We have really, really Good News to tell our friends, family members, neighbors, and co-workers. We have something substantial and engaging to invite them into.

So mark Sunday October 23, 2011 on your calendar. Make the commitment whether you are an adult, a child, working, retired—no matter who you are to invite someone to our church on that day.

The responsibility is for every single one of us. We want everyone to participate and to extend the hand of welcome and invitation in the name of Christ to someone you know.

And we'll let the Spirit do the rest.

Peace,



Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo

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Do you want to help grow the church?
Not sure how to do this?
Have a friend who isn't doing anything on Sunday morning?

THEN THIS SUNDAY IS FOR YOU.

We're not asking them to join.
We're not asking them make a commitment.
We're only asking them to visit us.
Give us a try.
See how God might speak to them.

So invite a friend.
Someone who might be looking for something.
That they might just find here.
At Watchung Avenue.
Where we

Welcome Everyone
Celebrate Diversity
Follow Jesus

Reach Out
Invite Someone
Bring a Friend
Sunday October 23, 2011
10AM
wapc.net

October Worship and Church Information

October Worship

October 2nd **World Communion/Peacemaking Sunday**

Guest: Rev. Milton Mejia from the Iglesia Presbiteriana de Colombia will co-celebrate communion.

Sacrament: Communion

Scripture: Exodus 20: 1-20 &
Mathew 21: 33-46

Sermon: "World Communion Sunday:
We all Sit at One Table"

Interment of the Ashes of WAPC
Member Robert Hildebrandt in the
Memorial Garden following worship.

October 9th: **Pet Sunday/Blessing of the Pets
11:15 on Lawn**

Scripture: Genesis 1: 24-31,
Psalm 148: 1-5, 7-13 &
Matthew 6: 25-33

Sermon: "Giving Thanks for the Gift of
all Living Creatures"

October 16th:

Sacrament: Communion

Scripture: Exodus 33: 12-33 &
Matthew 22: 15-22

Sermon: "Does God Want us to Pay
Taxes?"

October 23rd: **Invite A Friend to Church
Sunday/Crop Walk 12:45pm**

Scripture: Deuteronomy 34: 1-12
Matthew 22: 34-46

Sermon: "Nothing to be Afraid Of"

October 30th: **Reformation Sunday
Children wear Halloween Costumes to church**

Scripture: Micah 3: 5-12
Matthew 23: 1-12

Sermon: "Remembering Where We
Came From"

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.

Flowers For The Sanctuary

There are many opportunities to provide flowers for the sanctuary. **The 2011 Flower Chart** is posted through **December** 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)

WAPC Online

Don't forget to visit our church online!

The website is updated weekly with new blog posts, news articles, worship recordings and other updates! www.wapc.net

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook (click the links at the top of the WAPC website to join us on Social Media!)

Dollars Destroying the Deficit!

If every WAPC member gave an additional \$1/day all year-we would eliminate 100% of the church deficit! We would have more funds for mission & ministry. Put your \$ in the DDD envelope found in your pew rack and then the offering plate each week.

Visions is published monthly.

The due date for articles for the

November newsletter is:

Monday, October 24, 2011

Pastor: *Shannan Vance-Ocampo*

Student Pastor: *Christopher Bailey*

Pastor Emeritus: *Brooks Smith*

Director of Music: *Jeremy Messmer*

Visions Editor: *Kathleen Golmont*

Mission Opportunities

Mission Project—Help a Child

School Kits are desperately needed in many parts of the world. School Kits give children in impoverished schools, refugee camps, or other difficult settings some of the basic tools for learning. As you buy school supplies for your children or grandchildren this fall, please pick up a few extra items to donate.

PW will be collecting the following items to be assembled into School Kits for Church World Service.

Blunt scissors (rounded tip)
70-count spiral notebooks
30-centimeter (12") rulers
Hand-held pencil sharpeners
New pencils with erasers (not sharpened)
Large erasers
24 count boxes of crayons.

Baskets will be placed at the Sanctuary doors all four Sundays in September for collection of school items. Thank you for helping a child to learn.

Local Mission

WAPC partners with Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church on the **third Thursday of each month** to serve meals at the Plainfield YMCA shelter. Members of CAPC prepare the meals, and Pastor Rob and Barbara Martin transport and serve the meals. We volunteer to help to load the food, drive it to the Y and to serve the dinner. This is a great way for families to participate in mission together. Our next date to serve at the YMCA is **October 20th**. If you are interested in helping out, contact Gwyn Gronlund of the Mission Committee for details at 908-754-1251.

SHIP Needs Your Help

SHIP (Samaritan Homeless Interim Program) HQ in Somerville was flooded during the hurricane and lost all of the supplies they store as well as their food pantry on the first floor. We are in need of new clothing and also canned goods and toiletries that we hand out to the needy that come to SHIP for assistance on a daily basis. If you can help call us at 908-393-. Let me know if you can help in any way or have questions. I pray that you and your families are safe and make it through this difficult time. **Tom O'Leary, SHIP's Captain**

Want to Help Out with a Local Mission Here in our Building!?!?

The HeadStart Program needs volunteers during the day, 9AM-2PM!

- Classroom Helpers
- Read to the Children
- Arts and Crafts Leaders



Please contact Ms. Freda Oferi to sign up to help at 732-846-8888. A short background check is required, HeadStart pays for the expense.

A great way to volunteer and be a positive force in the lives of the children of the North Plainfield Community!



El Centro-Hispanoamericano

525 E Front St, Plainfield, NJ

Contact: Silvia Hernández, 908-753-8730

E-mail: shernandez@elcentronj.org

The mission of El Centro is to assist immigrants from Latin American and elsewhere; particularly those who do not have access to publicly funded services. The center provides immigration and related free or subsidized low cost legal services, social services, education and advocacy regarding immigration issues. El Centro is housed in the lower level of the United Presbyterian Church in Plainfield since 1984.

Volunteer Wish List:

Teach English as a Second Language

Conduct citizenship classes (training provided)

Help with research, grant writing, or non-profit administration skills

Clothes: winter coats and clothing for infants and toddlers

Donations of unwrapped toys for Annual Christmas Toy Drive

Monetary donations for the purchase of non perishable food.

Presbyterian Women

Circle Of Hope

Circle of Hope will meet **October 4**, 7:30pm, at the home of Peggy Bunnell.

Circle Of Joy

Circle of Joy will meet **October 6th**, 7:30pm, at the home of Beverly Krausse.

Circle Of Grace

Circle of Grace will meet **October 7th**, 7 pm, at the home of Judith Botzan.

Upcoming Events for Presbyterian Women

All women of the church, of all ages, and their guests are always invited!

Saturday, October 15, 2011

WAPC hosts Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery for continental breakfast and program, 9:30 a.m. until about noon.

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Women's Christmas covered dish dinner and worship service, beginning with punch bowl at 6:15 p.m.

Sunday, December 18, 2011

Annual Cookie Walk, in Parish Hall, following worship. Everyone invited!

Saturday, January 28, 2012

Day Retreat at Mount St. Mary House of Prayer, 9 am to 3 pm

Sunday, March 4, 2012

Annual Soup Luncheon, in Parish Hall, beginning about noon. Everyone invited!

Sunday, March 18, 2012

Basket weaving learning experience, all ages welcome, after worship, Bring bag lunch; dessert and beverages provided comforting shawls. Our Fall meetings are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, October 18th, at the home of Cathy Boleyn

Tuesday, November 15th, at the home of Gail Smith

We will not hold an evening meeting in December.

Friday, April 13 to Saturday, April 14, 2012

Spring Retreat at Stony Point:
"How to be a Caring Congregation"

Stay overnight in a beautiful Victorian mansion and enjoy delicious meals.

Sunday, May 20, 2012

Tea for women and their children, grandchildren or young friends, In Parish Hall after worship

Sunday, June 3, 2012

Old Fashioned Strawberry Festival

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AS MANY EVENTS AS YOU CAN!

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!

Prayer Shawl Ministry Fall Meetings



Hearts, Hands & Stitches, the Prayer Shawl Ministry of WAPC, continues to meet monthly. We stitch at our meetings and on our own time to create All evening meetings are held from 7:15 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.

Call Gwyn Gronlund for more information:
(908) 754-1251.

WAPC PEOPLE, BIRTHDAYS, AND PRAYERS

October Birthdays

Ellen Lake	1-Oct
Kathryn Proffitt	2-Oct
Amy Cortright	3-Oct
Nancy Krausse Rackham	5-Oct
Michael Slattery	5-Oct
Mary Anne Ronk	6-Oct
Tom McCann IV	7-Oct
Joshua Ralston	10-Oct
Steve Peloso	12-Oct
Juan Gabriel Ocampo Valle	12-Oct
Shirley Ferri	13-Oct
Zamea Smith	15-Oct
Ethan Proffitt	16-Oct
Tim Young	18-Oct
Lance Proffitt	20-Oct
Steven Smith	22-Oct
Christy Thomas	28-Oct
Susan Langan	29-Oct

Change of Address

Grace Hughes
 Cadbury at Cherry Hill, Apt. #355
 2150 Route 38
 Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

Prayer List

- Prayers of comfort for the family of *Joseph Carmichael*, who passed away this week. Cards to Jeanne Carmichael can be sent to 333 E. 30th Street, Apt. 12J, NY, NY, 10016.
- Prayers of healing for *Jeff Marsh and his family*, he is recovering from a severe head injury, friend of Joe & Faye Steinau.
- Prayers for *Amanda Lake* who is incarcerated at Somerset Detention Center and for her family.
- Prayers of comfort for the family of *Manny Ferri* who passed away. Cards to Shirley can be sent to 445 Oakridge Avenue North Plainfield, NJ 07060.
- Prayers of healing for *Tom Ledder* recovering from shoulder surgery.

- Prayers of healing for *Mateo Pua*, 7-years old with leukemia. Mateo is the son of a Presbyterian pastor in Colombia.
- Prayers for those facing famine and hunger in the Horn of Africa and for the relief agencies working to save them.
- Continued prayers of healing for *Colleen Parliman* and *Luis Lugo*.
- Prayers of strength for *the people of Libya, Syria, and Bahrain*.
- Prayers of healing for *all of those affected by natural disasters*.
- Prayers of healing for the *City of Plainfield* and for the end of gun violence.
- *Shirley Ferri*, at Sunrise Assisted Living, Basking Ridge, NJ.
- *Alberta Vosburgh*, at Arbor Glenn Continuing Care, Rm. 636.
- *Helen Miller, Joan Brown, Helen Bradley & Estelle Kennedy*, at home. 1-Sep
- *Christopher Bailey*, Our Seminary Intern.
- *Edwin Estevez*, Our Seminarian.



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.

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

Monthly

1st Sunday Holy Communion
1st Sunday FISH (Food Bank) Collection
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
3rd Tuesday Prayer Shawl Meeting 7:15 p.m.

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
7-10 pm Iglesia Cristo Mi Rey
Parish Hall

Monday Schedule

8:15 am Head Start
2:30 pm ASP
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
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

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

The Abbott Society *(The WAPC Legacy Leaders League)*

Planned Giving

It is a pleasure to again report that the roster of members is growing significantly as more members have been added. We have now added **THREE NEW MEMBERS!**

The current members are NOW:

- Alice Abbott
- Doris Abbot
- Wayne Fabricius
- Dorothy Fenz
- Robert Foster
- Robert Goellner
- Robert Hildebrandt
- Harry & Beverly Krausse
- Fred Landsperger
- Al Smith
- Dick & Gail McKenna
- Brooks & Gail Smith
- Al Christ
- Dot Gannon

These folks have mentioned WAPC in their Wills and WAPC wants to make sure that they receive the recognition they deserve.

If YOU know of anyone else that has done this, or left WAPC a legacy, please contact Pastor Shannan or Bob Goellner, his email is mr.bobg@yahoo.com Shannan can, of course, be reached through the office.

If you would like information about how to remember WAPC in your Will or Estate Giving, please reach out to Bob Goellner who will be happy to speak with you.

A Blessing of the Pets Ceremony

For any of your furry, feathery, or scaly friends

11:15am Sunday October 9th

Front Lawn of the
Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church
North Plainfield, NJ

(corner of Watchung and Fairview Avenues)

Human and Pet Refreshments will be served

†

All pets and their humans are welcome to worship with us in the Church Sanctuary at 10am and then join us for the Public Blessing following Worship! Yes, Pets can come to church this Sunday!!!

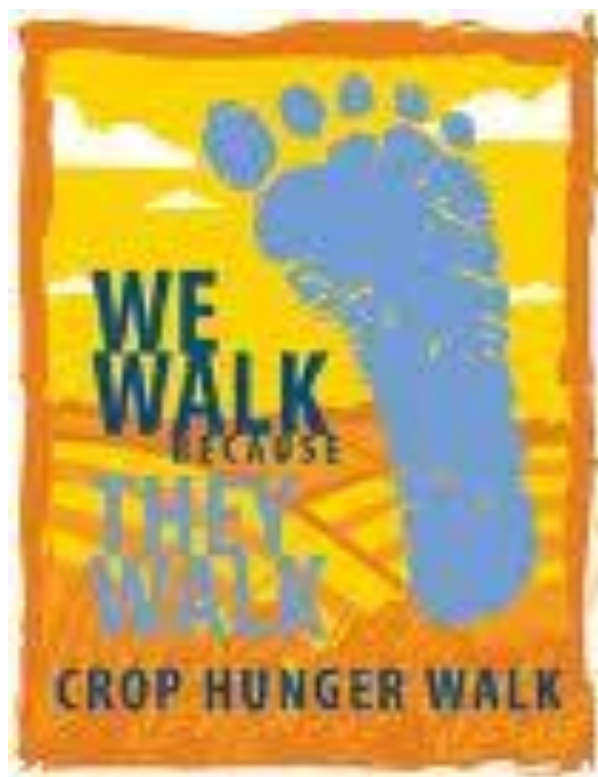
Please bring your pet in their appropriate leash, carrier, or cage

Questions/Directions: 908.755.2781 www.wapc.net



WAPC HOSTS THE ANNUAL CROP WALK--SUNDAY OCTOBER 23, 2011

12:45PM--Rain or Shine!!!



Join us for our annual CROP walk where we will walk to end hunger, bring awareness to the needs in our community, and support our Church World Service partners.

The walk kicks off on the front steps of Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church. [\(Click here for directions\)](#). We begin with a little bit of music and a prayer, and then head out for the walk. This is a great time to get to know others in the Plainfield/North Plainfield community and to be a part of the solution to hunger!

All ages and abilities are welcome, the walk also ends at Watchung Avenue where we will have some goodies, photographic memories from walks in years past, more music, and fellowship.

Money raised in the walk supports the ministry of [Church World Service](#) and projects directly in our home community. Want to help out? Contact Tom Ledder or Al Smith via the church office (908-755-2781 or wapc@verizon.net)

You can sign up for the walk and download forms at www.wapc.net or pick them up from Tom Ledder or Al Smith during coffee hour every Sunday after worship!



Celebrating over 60 years and still growing

WATCHUNG AVE. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PETALS FOR PROFIT FUNDRAISER

We grow the plants to help your organization grow its funds!

Shop at Parker Gardens between
SEPTEMBER 1st and DECEMBER 30th and
we will donate **10%** of all the proceeds directly to
Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church

Just in time for all your fall plantings.

Whether you're looking for annuals, perennials, trees or shrubs, water gardens, furniture and accessories, or landscaping service, Parker's 14 acres of greenhouses & garden center presents the area's **largest** selection of top quality plants and services with **expert advice** that is second to none!

Voted Top 100 Revolutionary Garden Center 6 years in a row.

Just mention that you are from Watchung Ave Presbyterian Church at the time of sale and we will log the sale into your organization's account. At the end of the fundraiser, 10% of the total proceeds will be forwarded to your organization.

Parker Gardens

1325 Terrill Road Scotch Plains, NJ

(908) 322-5552




www.parkergardens.com

Offer cannot be combined with other offers or sales.



October Church School and Youth Group Activities



	Church School Teacher	Church School Bible Lesson	Church School Theme of the Day	Special Activities	Youth Group Activity
Sunday October 2, 2011	Still Needed!	Matthew 21: 33-46	Learning Ways to Serve God	Communion Sunday	
Sunday October 9, 2011	Rachel Weissenburger Craft Sunday			Blessing of Pets After Worship, Pets Welcome in  Worship	Youth Group, Pizza and Movie Parent's Meeting (Youth) during movie All After Pet Blessing in Youth Lounge
Sunday October 16, 2011	Still Needed!	1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10	Thanking God for the Gift of our Congregation	Communion Sunday Children's Choir with Jeremy—After Church Teacher Training for Church School with Pastor Shannan in Library after Worship	Youth from Mission Trip (Summer 2011) helping lead worship
Sunday October 23, 2011	Joann and Kurt Hoppe	Matthew 22: 34-46	The Greatest Commandment and Hebrew Scripture	CROP Walk After Church  Bring a Friend to Church Sunday (all ages!) Children's Choir with Jeremy—After Church	Youth Group participating in CROP Walk 12 noon Info and forms at: http://wapc.net/news/article.aspx?id=21
Sunday October 30, 2011	Juan Gabriel Ocampo Valle	Matthew 23: 1-12	Jesus talks to religious leaders and we learn how to serve God	Wear your Halloween Costume to Church!  Children's Choir with Jeremy—After Church	

