



From the Pastor's Desk

How Do You Answer Them?

It's been a great summer for most, and we eagerly look forward to the programs, classes and activities that come with a new school and church year ahead of us. But for some the hazy lazy days of summer have been more a cause for concern than for celebration and relaxation. Over the past months I've heard such things as, "Why did God have me crash my car?" and "At 24 I found out that I have MS. I went to my final classes with an IV attached and it sure turned my world upside-down. I learned very quickly that I am not immortal." Presently many of us are seriously concerned about the niece of one of our members who has disappeared without a trace in a southern state. Why do these things happen to good people? If someone asked you where is God in all of these situations, what would you say to them?

I had a mom tell me the answer she received from her neighborhood bible study friends about why her daughter was inexplicably paralyzed from the waist down at age 13. She told me that their answer was that God has everything in control, and wanted her family to learn a 'lesson.' She struggled late at night for weeks trying to discern what the lesson was that God was trying to teach them, but it only left her angrier and angrier that God would do this to her daughter. She became very bitter about the situation because the implication was that if God did this to her daughter for *any* reason, then He must be cruel and sadistic, and not to be trusted.

In the book of Job, when the title character falls upon tragic circumstances he has friends who come and sit with him in sympathy. They begin well enough, just hanging out for 7 days without saying a word, acting as comforting presences to him in his grief and misery. But eventually all 3 try to give a similar answer as that mom above received. "What innocent person ever perished?" one tells him. You must have done something wrong that God is punishing you for, or there is a lesson you need to learn, or someone in your family did something wrong and brought this calamity upon you.

God, however, tells one of Job's friends that "My wrath is kindled against you and against your two friends; for you have not spoken of me what is right," (Job 42:7). Our answer to why bad things happen to good people is not that they deserve it, or need to learn a lesson, or that it is brought on by God at all. If that were true, we too would have to conclude that God is watching with that all-seeing eye for us to mess up so he can zap us a good one! That kind of God is suspect. That kind of God is arbitrary, spiteful and mean. That is not the loving God of the New Testament that I follow.

I believe that while God *could* be in charge of everything, he has chosen to let some of his control go so that there is free will. If we do not have the freedom to reject God, then we do not really have the freedom to turn to him and respond in love. I believe that God allows for random things to happen in this world, for folks to hurt each other as well as love each other. I'm sure it hurts God to see us being cruel and hurtful to each other. Imagine his heart-break when his son was tortured and put to death using an instrument of torture. Imagine his heartbreak that a teenaged girl has become paralyzed, or that a young man has contracted MS, or that an elderly woman has crashed her car into a tree.

But the Good News is that while these things didn't happen because God willed them, he does promise to go with us through such experiences. It's a relief to know that we aren't being punished, or that he wants to teach us some lesson. It's an even greater relief to know that he wants to be there for us, and will walk with us through such valleys of the shadow of death. What better companion could we have on this journey of life that often is rocky and difficult – sometimes seemingly impossible. The Lord is with us through it all, so let us approach this new program year with hope and faith that whatever happens in the months ahead, we face them with our Lord by our side. That's how I would answer such questions. I look forward to seeing you in church.

Your pastor,

OUR PRAYER CONCERN LIST:

Jeff Hatch

- Connie Burn
- Pam Etzold
- Paul Ratti
- Grandpa Jaeger
- Camille Bischoff
- Al & Jean Corbett
- Cathy
- Doug & Charlotte Slingerland
- Bart & Naomi Winship
- Fred Braun
- The men & women who serve and protect our country
- Florence Smack
- Family of James Gregory
- The John Fisher Family
- Sophie Anthony
- Mark Shakman
- Norman Schultz
- Michael Lutz
- Sara Day
- Graham Smith
- Mimi Phillips
- Ray Conners
- Mike Howey
- Eric
- Amber & Teagen DeBoth
- Cory's Family
- The Krugs
- Alfred Jaeger
- Gladys Perea
- Jeffrey Braun
- Shirley Ottie
- Bob Gerber
- Richard Forkner
- Jeffrey Vander Groef
- Cayla
- Dave

- Claire
- Camille Bischoff
- Bart & Naomi Winship
- Fran & Rob Young
- Suzie Dietrich
- Sara Feather
- David Ruthford
- Fred Braun
- Robyn
- Amber & Teagen De Both
- Jo Kopp
- Dot Westby
- Casey Warner
- Lacey Wood
- Rick Maines
- Sherry Marcheselli
- Tom Joiquin
- Winnie Lawson
- George Bonker
- Joan Karl & Family
- Julia Eisley
- Marcella Sierens
- Ron Hause
- Rick Maines
- Donna Little
- Edwin Gregory
- Joe Ulchinsky
- Sandra
- Frank HigImbotham
- Laura Robinson
- Joanne Daneke
- Winnie Lawson
- Heather Joiquin's Grandmother
- Be Hy Peigelbeck
- Robyn
- Our college students



I would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped out during VBS. You were all wonderful and this program could not have happened without you.

Also, thank you to everyone who brought in supplies to be used during VBS.

I am very grateful for all the help I was given.

Thank You,

Leza Pullis

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP:

Rally day, September 10th, is quickly approaching. We need Sunday School teachers to teach September 10th and 17th and October 8th, 15th, and 22nd. If you are interested, Please call Linda 973-875-5770 or Kim 973-875-2848 ASAP.



Sunday School schedule for our first rotation will be as follows:

- September 10th – Rally Day – Teacher Dedication
- September 17th Sunday School
- September 24th World Communion Rotation
- October 1st No Sunday School – No Cherub Choir – World Communion
- October 8th Sunday School
- October 15th Sunday School
- October 22nd Sunday School
- October 29th Covenant Players – No Sunday School

Sunday School Rally Day is September 10th, 2006 Our theme this year is "People who Make a Difference."

CHANCEL CHOIR BEGINS SOON!

If you enjoy singing (even if you don't know how to read music) and like to have fun then you should make plans to come to a Chancel Choir rehearsal. We have openings for every voice part and would love to have you join us. The Chancel Choir rehearses every Thursday evening from 7:30 – 9:00 starting Thursday, September 7th. Babysitting is provided. Questions? Please see or call Kay Hatch at 973-579-0079. I'll see you soon! ☺

The SUNDAY HANDBBELL CHOIR will begin rehearsing on Sunday, September 24th. This choir rehearses every week in the church basement (Lloyd Room) from 11:30 – 12:15. Since one of our former members has gone off to college, we will need another ringer. (Good luck Elizabeth – we'll miss you!) If you can read music, and are in 7th grade or older (that includes all of you adults, too) we'd love to have you join us. For more information about this choir, please speak to Kay Hatch.

HANDBELL HAPPENINGS

Handbell Questions and Answers:

Q: "Do handbells get dirty?" This question was asked back in June by a member of the church, who had heard a Handbell Choir member say "I have to go to a bell-cleaning party."



A: You know how you brush your teeth every day, but once or twice a year you need to have your teeth cleaned by a professional? That's because the professional has special tools and a special strong toothpaste that cleans your teeth "deeper" than you can do at the bathroom sink. You wouldn't want your teeth professionally cleaned every day though, because after a while they'd get worn down. (Not to mention they'd really hurt!)

Well, handbells are sort of like teeth. We clean them every week after we rehearse, using polishing cloths. But once a year, they need a "deeper" cleaning to get rid of tarnish that the regular cleaning doesn't remove. For this, we use a special polishing cream (it smells nasty), and special cloths for applying and removing the cream. We are always amazed at how the bells turn black as we apply the cream, and how dirty the cloths are after we remove the cream and the tarnish. The bells gleam beautifully when we're done.

We try to hold a bell-cleaning party at the end of each program. With all of us working together, it only takes about ten minutes to deep-clean all the bells. We also do some mechanical checks on the bells at the same time. Then we have ice cream to reward ourselves!

Recently....

- The Handbell Choir used one of our new bells, the tiny D7, for the first time on Music Sunday. It was used in accompanying the Choir Anthem, "O Worship the King."
- The Handbell Trio played "For the Beauty of the Earth" and "Amazing Grace" during the church service on July 30th.
- The Handbell Trio has also been practicing for the Carnegie Hall concert on December 4th.

Coming Up....

- The Handbell Choir will start rehearsing again in September and will need new members. If you're an adult or a young person in 7th grade or older, and you can read music, please consider joining us for the first rehearsal to try playing the handbells. No obligation--you're just there to see if you like it. Handbell rehearsals will start up again on Sunday, September 24th at 11:30 a.m. We will meet in the Lloyd room (church basement) and our rehearsals will be every Sunday from 11:30 - 12:15.

--Carol Vermilyea

TO ALL ELDERS & DEACONS OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:

Exciting news from the Long Range Planning Committee.



Mark your calendars we are planning an Elder and Deacon leadership and long range planning retreat for the 13th and 14th of October, 2006. Location: Linwood MacDonald YMCA, 1 Flatbrook Rd, Branchville (Off of Rt. 206 past Stokes)

Time: 5:30pm on Friday for a 6:00pm Dinner, spend the night, and finish up by 4:00pm on Saturday

All meals will be provided. Please pray, especially between now and the retreat, that God will bless and guide us as we plan for the future.

The primary purpose of the retreat is to find out what God’s long range plans are for our church, and to conduct some leadership training. We will look at the following questions:

- Why does our church exist?
- What is our mission statement, and is it accurate?
- What is God’s vision for the future of our church?
- What are God’s priorities for our church?
- What is our most important ministry? What is 2nd, and 3rd?
- How are we going to fulfill God’s plans for our church?

As Elders and Deacons, we have been called by God to lead our church. What an honor and blessing it is to serve God in this capacity. It is also a tremendous responsibility.

RSVP no later than 30 September. Contact me with any questions.

May God Bless You,
 Tom Fuhrmann
 Elder, Long Range Planning
 973-948-4720 home
 801-390-8692 cell
 E-Mail yvestf@earthlink.net

ANNUAL BAZAAR AND CRAFT

Keep in mind the date of Saturday, November 4th 2006 for our 34th Annual Bazaar and Craft Fair to be held at the Fellowship Hall from 9:30a.m. to 3:00p.m., sponsored by the Daisey Roe Chain. Plan to have your lunch at this event. A variety of homemade delicious food will be available at reasonable prices.



Any items in good condition that you would like to part with will be greatly appreciated for our White Elephant tables, such as jewelry, knickknack, dishes, paperback books, toys, scarves, purses, etc. No

furniture or large items, please. These can be left at the Fellowship Hall and be marked for the Daisey Roe Chain Bazaar.

Thanks for your help , and we hope to see everyone there!

Come on out to the bazaar for a day of fun. Get an early start on your Christmas shopping.

Daisey Roe Chain

DINNER/SOCIAL EVENT:

The first "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" event will be on Saturday, September 23rd. If you have not yet signed up, there is still time to join in on the fun. The main course for dinner will be a chicken-based dish provided by the host family and all others will provide a side dish and a small appetizer. Each host home will be visited by no more than 6 other guests. Laura will notify the guest prior to the event to let them know if they will be providing the salad/vegetable dish, potato/pasta dish or dessert. All guests will meet at the Fellowship Hall with their side dish (all ready) at 6PM to receive directions to the host home they will be attending. Please see Laura Smith to sign up or for more information.



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FRANKLIN

will be holding a Fish and Chip Dinner cooked by "Tastefully British."

Address: 11-13 McCann Street, Franklin
Date: Saturday September 23rd, 2006
Time: 5:00-6:30 pm, take-out will be at 4:30
Ticket Price: Adults \$11, Children 5-12 \$6



Tickets must be purchased by 9-20-06
Please Call 973-827-6444 for tickets

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF NEWTON PRESBYTERY



will be holding its annual Fall Gathering on Saturday, October 14, 2006. The gathering will be at the First Memorial Presbyterian Church in Dover, 51 Blackwell Street. Registration begins at 9:00 am. The program will be from 9:30 am – 2:00 pm. Lunch will be served and child care will be provided on request. The theme of the gathering is “Visions of Creation ... Celebration”. Women who attended the Church-wide gathering in Louisville this summer will be presenting information from some of the best and most interesting workshops attended. Workshops will include “Pray All Ways”, “Re-energize you PW”, “Tiny & Terrific” about small churches and “Just for Fun” ice breakers and fun activities

The gathering is intended to be encouraging and to help promote personal growth as well as providing information. It is open to all women, not just women involved in a local PW group. There will be nourishment, information and fun for everyone. Be sure to bring a friend with you. Cost of the day is \$5.00. RSVP by calling the Dover church by October 7th (973-366-0216 am preferred).

A TONGUE-IN-CHEEK CHAPTER FROM:

“THE PRESBYTERIAN HANDBOOK”

(written in the same manner as the “_____ for Dummies” books)

HOW TO SURVIVE ONE HOUR IN AN UNAIR-CONDITIONED CHURCH

Getting trapped in an overheated sanctuary is a common church-going experience. The key is to minimize your heat gain and electrolyte loss.

- 1) Plan Ahead: When possible, scout out the sanctuary ahead of time to locate optimal seating near fans or open windows. Consider where the sun will be during worship service and avoid sitting under direct sunlight. Bring a bottle of water for each person in your group.
- 2) Maintain Your Distance From Others: Human beings disperse and moisture as a means of cooling themselves. An average size person puts off about as much heat as a 75 watt light bulb. The front row will likely be empty and available.
- 3) Remain Still: Fidgeting will only make your heat index rise.
- 4) During Communion, if Wine & Grape juice Are Offered, Choose Grape juice: Alcohol is a dehydrator(diuretic), and dehydration is bad. The miniscule amount of alcohol in Communion wine is unlikely to cause dehydration, but err on the side of caution.
- 5) Dress For Survival: Wear only cool breathable fabrics.
- 6) Avoid Acolyte or Choir Robes When Possible: Formal robes are especially uncomfortable in the heat. If you must wear one, make sure to wear light weight clothes underneath.
- 7) Pray: Jesus survived on prayer in the desert for 40 days. Lifting and extending your arms in an open prayer position may help cool your body by dispersing heat. If you’ve been perspiring, though, avoid exposing others to your personal odor.



Be Aware

- Carry a personal fan – or use your bulletin as a substitute.
- Worship services scheduled for one hour sometimes will run long. Plan ahead.

CHILDREN, "A- LITTLE-HISTORY" ABOUT !

Labor Day

September 4, 2006

Labor Day is a national legal holiday that is over 100 years old. Over the years, it has evolved from a purely labor union celebration into a general "last fling of summer" festival.



It grew out of a celebration and parade in honor of the working class by the Knights of Labor in 1882 in New York. In 1884, the Knights held a large parade in New York City celebrating the working class. The parade was held on the first Monday in September. The Knights passed a resolution to hold all future parades on the same day, designated by them as Labor Day.

The Socialist Party held a similar celebration of the working class on May 1. This date eventually became known as May Day, and was celebrated by Socialists and Communists in commemoration of the working man. In the U.S., the first Monday in September was selected to reject any identification with Communism.

In the late 1880's, labor organizations began to lobby various state legislatures for recognition of Labor Day as an official state holiday. The first states to declare it a state holiday in, 1887, were Oregon, Colorado, New York, Massachusetts, and New Jersey. Then in 1894, Congress passed a law recognizing Labor Day as an official national holiday.

Today, Labor Day is observed not only in the U.S. but also in Canada, and in other industrialized nations. While it is a general holiday in the United States, its roots in the working class remain clearer in European countries.

It has come to be recognized in the U.S. not only as a celebration of the working class, but even more so as the unofficial end of the summer season. In

the northern half of the U.S. at least, the summer vacation season begins with Memorial Day and ends with Labor Day.

Many colleges and some secondary and elementary schools begin classes immediately after Labor Day.

State parks, swimming pools, and campgrounds are all quite busy on Labor Day, as vacationers take one last advantage of the waning hot season. September is the month that marks the beginning of autumn. And, because of that, the average daytime maximum temperatures take a plunge during the month in most of the U.S.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH:

Deep-Dish Apple Pie with Cheddar Cheese Crust

(I Love The Fall!)



Prep: 30 min.

Bake: 50 min.

Ingredients

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/2 cup finely shredded cheddar cheese (2 ounces)
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 tablespoon ice water
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 7 cups sliced, peeled cooking apples
- 1 teaspoon finely shredded lemon peel
- Vanilla ice cream or frozen yogurt (optional)

Directions

1. In a medium mixing bowl combine the 1 cup flour and granulated sugar. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Add cheddar cheese, egg yolk, and ice water. Mix just until combined. Form dough into a ball; flatten slightly. Wrap dough in clear plastic wrap and refrigerate for 30 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, in a large bowl stir together the brown sugar, 2 tablespoons flour, and cinnamon. Add apples and lemon peel, tossing to coat. Transfer to a 9-inch, deep-dish pie plate, a 10-inch pie plate, or a 1-1/2-quart casserole.
3. On a lightly floured surface roll chilled pastry into a circle 1 inch larger than the top of pie plate or casserole. Cut slits in pastry. Place pastry atop apple mixture. Seal and flute edges to rim of pie plate. Cover edges of pie with foil. Place on a baking sheet. Bake in a 375 degree F oven for 25 minutes. Remove foil and bake for 25 to 30 minutes more or until crust is golden and apple mixture is bubbly. Serve warm or cool. If desired, serve with ice cream or frozen yogurt. Makes 8 servings.

Make-Ahead Tip: Prepare pastry but do not roll it out. Wrap in plastic wrap or place in plastic bag. Seal and chill up to 24 hours. Allow pastry to come to room temperature before using.

Welcome New Members!

Back in October of 2005 we neglected to post and welcome our new members, The Henningsen's. I would like to take the opportunity to do that now.

Hello we are the Henningsen family; Chris, Leanne, Harley & Jake. We both work for the same Corp. in Wayne, N.J., Chris is a Manager/Chef for the corporate dining facility and I am the Logistics Coordinator in the Logistics Department. We grew up in Pequannock and Butler and moved to Bailey Green in 1989 after we exhausted our search for property in the area. We live in a wonderful development where our children are learning a sense of community. We are very happy to also have found a congregation where our children can feel apart of an even larger family and also learn and hear about God. We want to thank all of you for



allowing us the opportunity to become part of your family.

The Henningsen's



Happy Birthday - SEPTEMBER !

Birthday List		
FIRST_NAME:	LAST_NAME:	DOB:
LAUREN	BATH	9/1
ZACHARY	HANSEN	9/1
REGINA	SNYDER	9/1
STEVEN	LEYPOLDT	9/4
GARY	GELSTON	9/4
HEATHER	JOAQUIN	9/5
DEREK	BALDWIN	9/6
GRIFFIN	SANDBERG	9/8
CATHERINE	GOLDSWORTHY	9/8
JOHN	ZUBL	9/9
KATE	SIKORA	9/10
JAYCEE	SANDBERG	9/10
JOEY	HAVELIN	9/10
FRED	KILPATRICK	9/10
TERYN	HARDY	9/11
JEAN	DECKER	9/11

Birthday List		
FIRST_NAME:	LAST_NAME:	DOB:
CORINNE	PIERCE	9/12
JODIE	JOAQUIN	9/13
CRAIG	SANDBERG	9/13
PAT	LEENHEER	9/13
MADALYNE	TREGELLAS	9/14
MAUREEN	FIORELLINI	9/14
ANTHONY	FONSECA	9/14
HEATHER	LOOS	9/16/
STEVE	CIESLA	9/18
AMY	SWISTACK	9/20
NANCY	SWANSON	9/21
NANCY	PRICE	9/23
STEPHANIE	BLOCK	9/24
RACHEL	McAULIFFE	9/25
MELISSA	KOSSUP	9/27
PAUL	MELSOM	9/28

PARENTS & COLLEGE STUDENTS!!



School bells are ringing in the air as the youth of our church to head back to college. We feel that it is important to keep in touch with them while they are away at school through sending the Key and letting them know what is happening here at the First Presbyterian Church of Branchville. We are asking parents and/or students to notify us of new school addresses **as soon as possible**. In this way your Church family here at First Presbyterian Church of Branchville can be a part of your student's life as they return back to college or begin their journey on this new an exciting phase of their life.

