

January 2010



The Spire

The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, NJ
140 Mountain Avenue Westfield, NJ 07090
(908) 233-0301
www.westfieldpc.org



Invite...
Grow...
Serve...

January Highlights

- January 18, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Church office is closed
- January 22-24, Men's Retreat
- January 31, New Members Seminar

Christmas is over. So What? (i.e., what kind of person was Jesus, anyway?)

In a recent conversation it was suggested to me that Christians greatly emphasize the birth and death of Jesus (i.e. Christmas and Good Friday/Easter) despite how little these two events tell us about what *kind* of a person Jesus was. On the one hand, my response is that Christmas, Good Friday and Easter tell us volumes about Jesus' character and what kind of God we worship: a God who created us yet emptied himself and became human (Phil. 2:6, John 1:14), who loved us enough to lay down his life for us (I John 3:16), and thereby showed us what true love toward one another looks like (I John 3:17), who, through Easter/Jesus' resurrection, shows us that God does not want or allow death to be the end for human life (Luke 23:39-43, Romans 8:39), among other things.

On the other hand, the fact that God became human and dwelt among us (John 1:14) and that the events and shape of his life are told from four different accounts (the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke & John) means that Christmas and Easter are *not* the only things we can know about Jesus. Nor should they be. Christians profess that there is one God, creator and sustainer of us all, and that God became human in Jesus Christ. If we want to know who God is, what better place to go than Jesus? If we want to know who Jesus is, what better place to go than to the Gospels?

So, Christmas is over. The question before us now is, what kind of person was Jesus anyway? If you're interested in the answer to this question (and if you've gotten this far into this *church* newsletter I assume you are at least *a little* interested) open up the Bible and read! Read one of the Gospels from beginning to end (they're not long, I promise)! Open your mind, open your heart, open the Bible and read, for *God* promises to meet *you* there (Matt. 7:7-8, Rev. 3:20, 2 Tim. 4:16-17)!

-Rev. Mike M. Samson

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Fellowship Commission Hard at Work in the New Year!

J.O.Y LUNCH is back on a NEW date: January 17, 2010. Everyone 55 plus is invited to the January J.O.Y. Lunch!! The lunch begins at 10:30 with a social hour and discussion. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. On the menu: *Quiche, Mixed Salad, and Chocolate Pudding.* Come share your ideas on how you would like to plan the rest of the year and meet with old and new friends. Please RSVP to the church office by January 13.

We have some exciting things planned for 2010! On February 7, we will have a Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Ray Roberts' Ordination. On February 21, we will be hosting a luncheon for the Spiritual Growth Workshop. On March 7, join us for a baby shower for Rev. Mike and Kelly Sampson. (More details on the shower will follow.)

All events will be held in the Assembly Hall. We hope you will join us!

— Joy Hoffacker, Moderator

The Spire

SAME PURPOSE – DIFFERENT NAME

It's a new year and one of our PCW commissions is beginning 2010 with a new name! At its December 15th meeting, Session officially approved the change of name for the Evangelism Commission to the *Outreach and Welcome Commission*. Our reasons for this centered on being less threatening to those who see the word "evangelism" as a negative one and that Outreach and Welcome was a better representation of our mission and goals. Evangelism, however, remains an objective for all of us because evangelism is spreading the good news of Christ. Are we not all evangelists who are called to invite, serve and grow?

AND. . .

The Outreach and Welcome Commission announces the first New Members' Seminar of 2010 to be held on January 31st in the George Plenty Room from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. The seminar is a requirement for membership. We will begin with some fellowship time and a lunch will be served. There will be breaks throughout the afternoon to allow us to fellowship together and get to know each other. Please notify the church if you plan to attend. If you find at the last minute you are available...come! We would love to have you. However, if you will be utilizing the child care provided by PCW, we ask that you notify us in advance.

We look forward to welcoming some of our families into the "official" PCW family through officially affiliating with the church. Contact Dawn Adam (dadam@westfieldpc.org) or Gail Hein, co-moderator of Outreach and Welcome, for more information. (gailandalhein@verizon.net)

We invite you to serve and grow with us.

– Gail Hein, Moderator

FROM THE WORSHIP COMMISSION

Many, many thanks to all the volunteers who so graciously gave their time to usher at all our

Advent and Christmas Eve services.

Your participation was wonderfully appreciated during this busy time of year.

Men's Fellowship Group

The purpose of the Men's Group is: 1.) To love God, and be the best we can be as men, husbands, fathers, and friends. 2.) To build trusting relationships. 3.) To explore how to be a Christian man in a modern world.

The Men's Group meets on the first and third Saturday of the month, 7:30-9:00 a.m. in the Assembly Hall. We have great breakfasts and lively group discussions. Over hot coffee, eggs, cereal and bagels the 25-30 men of all ages discuss a wide range of topics both contemporary, newsworthy, philosophical and spiritual. Guest Speakers from outside and inside the church lead some of the topics.

Please come join us for fellowship, learning, laughter, growth, and of course, breakfast! The annual Men's Retreat will be January 22-24 at Harvey Cedars Conference Center, Long Beach Island. (See page 10 for more details.)

– Jeff Ehrhardt

Thanks to Presbyterian Women

Thanks to all the PW Circles for help with a HomeFirst family!

Towels, blankets, sheets, lamps, personal hygiene and cleaning supplies, toilet paper, paper towels, a kitchen table, mugs and glasses, silverware, a television, a microwave and some cooking pans and utensils – all things that most of us have enough of, and can replace if and when needed. What we would call our basic necessities. Nothing fancy, just basic.

In December, PW Circles donated all of this (and more). The generosity of many women will make it possible for a family living in the Interfaith Hospitality Network system (in which our church participates several weeks during each year) to have some basic items when they move into their HomeFirst apartment in the new year. There was hope and excitement that this Mother, Father, boy (12), girl (11), and baby boy would move from the shelter program to the security of an apartment before Christmas. The HomeFirst transitional apartment will be theirs once the current occupants can secure permanent housing. (Unfortunately, plans for a December 15 move fell through and the family will move in early in 2010.)

One of HomeFirst's goals is to provide safe, affordable housing for disadvantaged people. A unit is considered affordable if it costs no more than 30% of the renter's income. HomeFirst's transitional housing program provides housing stability to families selected via a screening process to move into the limited number of units for a 12- 24 month period. The family will be supported by a case manager and other social services so that they can develop life skills to prepare them to move on, and successfully live independently in the future.

For the 2009/2010 program year, Presbyterian Women chose HomeFirst (and the issues of homelessness, particularly right here in Union County) as the focus for the Circles' mission study. To learn more about HomeFirst and homelessness in our area, please visit the website at homefirstinc.org.

VISION FOR HOMEFIRST...

Homefirst is a leader in eradicating homelessness caused by poverty and racism, working with and striving to unite all levels of society to bring about the institutional changes needed to eliminate the societal factors that contribute to homelessness.

MISSION OF HOMEFIRST...

Homefirst is dedicated to improving the quality of life for the homeless. Valuing our strong partnership with the faith community, we promote personal development, independence and self-sufficiency, as well as community building for safe and stable neighborhoods through a broad continuum of housing and related social service programs.

Eine Klein Music Note

As we begin a new year, I'd like to take a look back. Our Music Ministry was VERY busy in December. I'd like to thank all of our choirs, soloists and instrumentalists for all their hard work! Their gifts being shared weekly in rehearsal and in Worship helped to joyfully usher in the birth of the King, Jesus Christ. Thank you all!

This is the time of year that many people make resolutions. Are you one of them? Perhaps you were inspired by the music in December? If these are all true for you, please speak with me. January is a great time to join in the Music Ministry. The quiet winter months provide a great opportunity to get out of the house and into a warm choir room. We always welcome new members into our choirs. January is an especially great time for children to join C.O.W.

If regular participation in a choir is too much time for you, please know that one of the most enjoyable parts of my work is PCW's robust congregational singing. Sing mightily, sing boldly and join the company of all saints as we praise God!


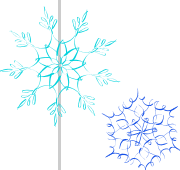
Happy New Year!

With love in Christ, Jason

The Spire

January 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Happy New Year!	2
3 8, 9:30, 11 Worship 9:00am Coffee Hour 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Questers	4 9:00am Monday Morning Craftsmen 7:00pm Knoxbells 8:00pm Chancel Bells	5 9:00am Searching for Work 1:00pm Senior Network 5:30pm Confirmation Leaders 5:30pm Zambia Mtg 6:00pm Confirmation	6 7:00am Bible Study 9:30am Program Staff 1:00pm Agape Prep 3:15pm Agape 5:00pm COW 7:00pm Covenant Band	7 7:00am MS Breakfast 9:30am PW Board 6:00pm 10th grade Small Group 7:00pm 11th grade Small Group 7:30pm Chancel Choir 8:00pm 12th grade Small Group	8 9:30am Bible Study w/ Pastor 12:00pm Lunch/Book	9 
10 8, 9:30, 11 Worship 9:00am Coffee Hour 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Questers/Triangle 11:00am Words on Word 4:30pm MS Advisors 5:00pm MS Fellowship 7:00pm HS Advisors 7:30pm HS Fellowship	11 9:00am Monday Morning Craftsmen 1:00pm Parkinsons 7:00pm Knoxbells 7:30pm Stephen Ministers 8:00pm Chancel Bells	12 9:00am Searching for Work 5:30pm Confirmation Leaders 6:00pm Confirmation Session 6:00pm Session 8:00pm Commission Meetings	13 7:00am Bible Study 9:30am Program Staff 1:00pm Agape Prep 3:15pm Agape 5:00pm COW 7:00pm Covenant Band	14 PW Circles 7:00am MS Breakfast 6:00pm 10th grade Small Group 7:00pm 11th grade Small Group 7:30pm Chancel Choir 8:00pm 12th grade Small Group	15 9:30am Bible Study w/ Pastor	16 7:30am Men's Breakfast
17 8, 9:30, 11 Worship 9:00am Coffee Hour 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Questers/Triangle 10:30am JOY Lunch 11:00am Words on Word 12:00pm Nettie Hafer Graveside	18 Church office closed Martin Luther King Jr. Day	19 9:00am Searching for Work 5:30pm Zambia Team 5:30pm Confirmation Leaders 6:00pm Confirmation 7:30pm Deacons	20 7:00am Bible Study 9:30am Program Staff 1:00pm Agape Prep 3:15pm Agape 5:00pm COW 7:00pm Covenant Band 7:30pm General Facilities	21 7:00am MS Breakfast 6:00pm 10th grade Small Group 7:00pm 11th grade Small Group 7:30pm Chancel Choir 8:00pm 12th grade Small Group	22 9:30am Bible Study w/ Pastor	23 11:00am Sellers/Guscott Wedding
HOMEFIRST WEEK JANUARY 17-24, 2010 CONTACT ALICE OUSTERMAN, 232-8158, OR WILMA BARKER, 233-8417 TO HELP						
24 8, 9:30, 11 Worship 9:00am Coffee Hour 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Questers/Triangle 11:00am Words on Word 4:30pm MS Advisors 5:00pm MS Fellowship 7:00pm HS Advisors 7:30pm HS Fellowship	25 9:00am Monday Morning Craftsmen 7:00pm Knoxbells 7:30pm Stephen Ministers 8:00pm Chancel Bells	26 9:00am Searching for Work 3:30pm Lunch Bunch 5:30pm Confirmation Leaders 6:00pm Confirmation	27 7:00am Bible Study 9:30am Program Staff 1:00pm Agape Prep 3:15pm Agape 3:30pm Lunch Bunch Delivery 5:00pm COW 7:00pm Covenant Band 7:30pm O & P Mtg	28 7:00am MS Breakfast 9:30am PW Sewing 6:00pm 10th grade Small Group 7:00pm 11th grade Small Group 7:30pm Chancel Choir 8:00pm 12th grade Small Group	29 9:30am Bible Study w/ Pastor	30 
31 8, 9:30, 11 Worship 9:00am Coffee Hour 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Questers/Triangle 11:00am Words on Word 1:00pm Newcomers Seminar 4:30pm MS Advisors 5:00pm MS Fellowship 7:00pm HS Advisors 7:30pm HS Fellowship						

Mission with Ambition

I have a great job. It is a blessing for me to share stories of good people doing incredible things around the world to make a positive difference in the lives of others, because so much of what we see on the news or read about in the paper is just the opposite. This month I'd like to share with you an article I wrote for the Agape Community Kitchen newsletter. Agape has touched so many hearts and lives, and it's so important to know not only what's happening around the world, but also in our own community and within the church.

AGAPE: A COMMUNITY MISSION

The vision for Agape has always been to expand by becoming not only a mission for our church, but a mission for our community; A mission where many churches and people from different backgrounds come together for one purpose, to serve God by serving those in need. Over the last few years we've come much closer to fulfilling that vision.

For several years, two meal teams from the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford have been on our meal rotation making lasagna and macaroni and cheese, both of which are always a big hit with our guests and volunteers. Betsy Koehler leads both teams, organizing their schedules and finding new volunteers to fill out their teams, when needed.

More recently, members of the Fanwood Presbyterian Church stepped up their involvement with Agape. In '08, Fanwood started a new cake team, organized and led by Liz Henderson. This fall, thanks to the hard work of Regina Whitmer, Fanwood assembled a new meal team. In November, this team got together in the kitchen of the Fanwood Church to try out a new recipe. We served Chili that week which was a huge hit with the guests. We look forward to the new Chili team joining our regular schedule in January. Youth and adult members of the Fanwood Presbyterian Church volunteer regularly on site in Elizabeth and have joined our team of Westfield Kitchen Cooks, preparing meals on Wednesday afternoons at PCW. Fanwood also started a new Lunch Bunch, engaging the children of their church by preparing bag lunches for our guests once a month.

Perhaps the most exciting addition to our family of volunteers is the youth involved with the Restore program led by Linwood Bagby and run out of the 2nd Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth. The Restore Ministry focuses on helping urban youth who are at risk of dropping out of school. This program gives these kids the opportunity to spend three nights a week at the church sharing a meal with their peers, playing in the gym and receiving help with their homework from adult volunteers. Many of the kids from Restore have become regular volunteers with Agape and have formed friendships with our youth and adults. They work alongside the PCW youth, serving the poor and homeless of Elizabeth and the surrounding community and participating in "Fruit", the part of the night when volunteers share how they witnessed God during Agape. On one particular occasion, a girl from the Restore program sang the hymn "Amazing Grace" as her fruit. Many of the adult and youth volunteers were touched by this personal and meaningful expression of her experience with Agape.

We frequently have on-site youth and adult volunteers from St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church in Westfield as well as from the Temple Emanu-El. We've hosted youth volunteers from the Westfield PAL football program, various Girl Scout troops, students from Scotch Plains and Clinton, even groups from churches in PA have come to visit and volunteer.

As our volunteer base grows and includes more members of the community, the vision of turning Agape into a mission of people from all walks of life, working together, learning from each other, and serving God by serving those in need becomes clearer and clearer. It's been said many times, "God loves Agape". In this New Year, let's remember the needs of those we serve, and thank God for bringing the gift of this mission into our lives.

Kristin Pirich, Mission Coordinator

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Youth

FELLOWSHIP, SMALL GROUPS & BREAKFAST CLUB RESUME: After a brief hiatus for Christmas and New Years all of your favorite youth programs are back! The fun begins all over again on Thursday, January 7th for Breakfast Club & Small Groups and on Sunday, January 10th for Fellowship! You'll be missed if you're not there!

AGAPE: Keep your Wednesdays open and come help us serve over 250+ of our friends in Elizabeth. We meet EVERY Wednesday at 3:15pm in the church parking lot. No experience is necessary. We can use adult and youth volunteers each week. You will be glad you came!

SUNDAY SCHOOL: All 6-12 grade youth in Sunday school, please take note: On January 3rd you will meet in your regular locations by 9:15 a.m. to enjoy breakfast and then all youth will be headed to the 9:30 a.m. service as a group. Grades 6-9 meet in the Jim Cole Room. Grades 10-12 meet in Lower Westminster Hall.

YOUTH PERMISSION SLIPS 2010: Please pick up or download a 2010 Permission Slip from the Church website or from the Parish House Mailroom. A permission slip needs to be completed for each youth, signed, and a copy of your insurance card attached. Once completed, please place in Linnette's mailbox in the Parish House Mailroom. The form will be used for all trips, events and programs from January 2010 - December 2010. Any questions, please contact Linnette at lmercado@westfieldpc.org or 908-233-0301 ext.22.

I want to give **ALL the PARENTS** who have volunteered and picked up breakfast for Sunday school and Breakfast Club throughout the 2009 year a **HUGE THANK YOU!** I would also like to thank those parents who are volunteering for 2010. Without you, none of this is possible! I thank you, as I am sure the youth do, as well. Here's to another great year!

- Linnette Mercado



**Sunday School
Special!**



New Year



New Time!

**Beginning January 10,
Triangle class
Sundays
at 10:45 a.m. !**

The Spire

Per capita is not a dirty word(s)

We seldom talk about 'per capita' within our congregation. When the annual budget is established late in the year, however, it becomes a major topic.

What is it? The yearly remittance paid to Presbytery consists of funds sent from the church to the Presbytery to cover their own mission and administrative costs and those of General Assembly (GA) and Synod.

How is it determined? The membership of a church at the end of a particular year is the basis of per capita requirements. For 2010 The Presbyterian Church in Westfield (PWC) will pay per capita based on our membership at the end of 2008.

How much money is required? Payments due during 2009 were based on membership at the end of 2007 and assessed at \$22.25 per member. There were over 1550 members of PWC at that time resulting in approximately \$35,000 sent to Presbytery. This money came from our general fund, is a regularly budgeted item, and is one of the major expenses of our church budget. For 2010 the amount has been increased substantially and will amount to \$30.00 per member or approximately \$45,000 from our general fund.

Why the large increase? For many years Presbytery has been reluctant to raise its portion of per capita to any substantial degree; GA and Synod have been equally reluctant. However, the time often comes for a necessary update. The chart below shows the differences between 2009 and 2010.

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
General Assembly	\$ 6.15	\$ 6.15
Synod	\$ 3.76	\$ 3.85
Presbytery	<u>\$12.34</u>	<u>\$ 20.00</u>
Total	\$ 22.25	\$ 30.00

So, you can see that GA's number did not increase this year and Synod's number increased slightly. There are two substantial reasons for the large percentage increase for Presbytery. 1) It has exercised small increases over the past several years which should have been much larger. By comparison Presbyteries in the northeast request their share of the per capita at percentages far below those of Presbyteries elsewhere in the nation. We even see that within the Synod of the North East, our Presbytery's per capita is among the lowest. 2) To keep per capita low our Presbytery had been allocating funds from the mission side of the budget to the administrative side by strict allocation of the time spent by the paid employees for mission projects. That is, money that really should have gone to the missions directly went to pay the staff for hours directly related to mission projects. The Presbytery budget for 2010 will do a better job in ensuring that all of the money on the mission side of the ledger goes to the missions directly.

Do any churches not pay? The remittance to Presbytery of per capita dollars amounted to approximately 87% of the amount requested as of the end of November. Some churches pay late in the year, some churches do time payments; some churches are so small and have so little that their remittances may be small or nonexistent but the participation is generally high.

Who? PCW, Presbytery and YOU. **What?** Mission. **Where?** Locally, nationally and world-wide. **When?** All year long. **Why?** Read Christ's words from Matthew 25: 34-46. **How?** Your Per capita dollars.

—David Rogers, Presbytery Trustee

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 Mr & Mrs Eugene Boyer
 Kelly Branin
 Mr Ralph Braun
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 Mr & Mrs Peter, Jr
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 Mr & Mrs Carl Brown
 Miss Christine Brown
 Mr & Mrs Allen Burton
 Mr & Mrs Glenn Buttermore
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 Mr & Mrs Elliot Dee
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 Mr John Dencker
 Mrs Barbara DePaul
 Mr & Mrs Joseph Devlin
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 Mr & Mrs Jeffrey Diehl

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 Mr & Mrs Ralph Enes
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 Mrs Elizabeth Howarth
 Mr & Mrs Russell Howell
 Mr & Mrs Gary Hunsinger
 Mr & Mrs Scott Hunsinger
 Mrs Aaria Hunton
 Mrs Donald Husch
 Mr & Mrs Jordan Hyman
 Mr & Mrs. Michael Ince

Mrs Doris Jackson
 Mr & Mrs Leslie Jacobsen
 Mr Ellwood Jacoby
 Mr & Mrs Mitchell Janklow
 Mr & Mrs Henry Johnsen
 Mrs Gladys Johnson
 Mr Gustav Johnson
 Mr Stephen & Leslie Johnson
 Mrs Vivian C. Johnson
 Mr & Mrs Donald Keenan
 Mr & Mrs John Kefalonitis
 Mrs Gary Kehler
 Mr & Mrs Richard Kender
 Mr & Mrs Gerard Kieczkowski
 Mr & Mrs Lawrence Kinsella
 Mr Paul Kleespies
 Mr & Mrs David Klemm
 Mrs Valerie Klimas
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 Mr & Mrs Edward Marhefka
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 Dr & Mrs David McIntyre
 Mrs Barbara McLaughlan
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 Mrs Charlotte Meling
 Mr & Mrs Raymond Mellen
 Mr & Mrs George Melloan
 Mr & Mrs Robert Mill
 Mr & Mrs David Miller
 Mr Douglas Carol
 Mr Robert Miller
 Mrs Sarah Miller
 Mr & Mrs Thomas Miller
 Ms Martha Mobley
 Mr J Charles Monzella
 Mrs Linda Morse
 Mrs Laura Stinchcomb
 Mr & Mrs Robert Muirhead
 Mr & Mrs Francis Mulzoff
 Mr & Mrs Steve Murphy
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 Mr Thomas Phelan
 Mrs Michelle Pierce
 Mr & Mrs Joseph Pink
 Mr & Mrs James Pinkin
 Mr Hans & Lisa Polak
 Emily Polak
 Dr Robert & Penny Potok
 Mr & Mrs John Priesing
 Mr & Mrs Thomas Purdy
 Mrs Kathryn Quinn
 Mrs Mariann Ramage
 Mr & Mrs William Rand, Sr
 Mr & Mrs Robert Reinhardt
 Mrs Doris Rice
 Ms Judith Rich
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 Mr & Mrs Richard Rippe
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 Mr & Mrs J Wayne Schroeder
 Miss Helen Schulz
 Mr R Jeffrey Schundler
 Mr & Mrs Russell Schundler
 Mr & Mrs Robert Schwartz
 Mr & Mrs Douglas Schwarz
 Mr & Mrs David Seaman
 Mrs Elsie Seastream
 Mr & Mrs Donald Seeley
 Mr & Mrs James Sellers
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 Mrs Lynn Siegel
 Mr & Mrs Scott Sinclair
 Mr & Mrs Alan Smith

Reid Smith
 Miss Nancy Smith
 Mr & Mrs Robert Smith
 Mr & Mrs Joseph Sobala
 Mr & Mrs Christopher Spurlock
 Mr & Mrs Harold Star, III
 Mr & Mrs Paul Stierhoff
 Mr & Mrs Carl Stocking
 Mr & Mrs David Stockwell
 Mr & Mrs James Stone
 Mr & Mrs Ronald Straight
 Mr & Mrs Keith Stroever
 Mr & Mrs Robert Sugrue
 Mr & Mrs Franklyn Sullebarger
 Mr & Mrs Robert Swartz
 Mr & Mrs Robert Sweet
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 Charles Timko
 Mr & Mrs William Tittle
 Ms Susan Tonking
 Mr & Mrs James Trimble
 Mr & Mrs John Trott
 Mrs Mary Van Wyk
 Mr & Mrs Cornelius Vanderbilt
 Mrs Donna Vasel
 Mr & Mrs Jockers Vincentsen
 Ms Ann Voorhees
 Barbara Wager
 Mr & Mrs Thomas Walker
 Mr Nick Wallwork
 Mrs Jane Walsweer
 Ms Nancy Werber
 Mr & Mrs Matthew Werder
 Mr & Mrs Thomas Wetlesen
 Mrs Lois Wiehl
 Mr & Mrs Thomas Wight
 Mr & Mrs Ernst Wildi
 Mr & Mrs Alexander Williams
 Mr & Mrs Donald Williams, Jr
 Mr & Mrs Weston Williams
 Mr Edward Wittke, Jr
 Miss Carolyn Wood
 Mrs Douglas Woodfield
 Kirsten Woodfield
 Mr & Mrs John Woods
 Mrs Deborah Wright
 Mr & Mrs Wayne Yarusi
 Mr & Mrs Gary Zanfagna
 Mr Robert & Anne Zdenek
 Mrs Kathleen Zippler
 Mrs. Sara L. Burke
 Mr. John L. Wieting
 Robert Paz & Bonnie Borton
 Kay Macrae
 Mrs. Carl McMackin

Thank you for your 2010 Pledge

**Pledges
 received as of
 12/30/09**

In response to God's love and generosity, we are also called to provide the financial resources needed to continue sharing Christ's message and to care for others in our community and worldwide. If you have already made a commitment to the church's 2010 Annual Pledge Campaign, you can be sure that it will be used for missions and ministries that have the ability to transform people's lives. THANK YOU! If you have not yet committed to the church for 2010, please consider doing so. Pledges may be sent or emailed confidentially to Tina Barulli, Church Controller, at tbarulli@westfieldpc.org in the church office.

The Spire

Treasurer's Report

<i>November 2009 Financial Results across all funds</i>			Difference
	<u>11 mos 2009</u>	<u>11 mos 2008</u>	<u>09 v 08</u>
Total Cash Receipts	\$2,066,775	\$1,047,423	\$1,019,352
Total Cash Expenditures	\$1,606,457	\$2,894,582	\$(1,288,125)

Wow, do the above numbers look really good compared to last year at first glance! But wait a minute, there is a story to tell: The most significant impact on 2009 church *revenues* was the dramatic rebound in the U.S. capital markets since last November. In fact, the swing in recorded church "income" simply was nearly \$2 million due to outside forces totally unrelated to giving. Of the total revenues shown above,

	<u>11 mos 2009</u>	<u>11 mos 2008</u>
Investment income PLUS Capital gains	\$764,620	\$(1,183,868)

And so the total cash inflows excluding the impact of endowment income and capital gains is:

	<u>11 mos 2009</u>	<u>11 mos 2008</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Adjusted revenues	\$1,302,154	\$2,153,591	\$(851,436)

Yes, actual gifts made by real people dropped more than \$850K in 2009. In 2008, there were \$511,000 in bequests received in 2008, so the actual drop in "regular" giving is not so severe.

As far as expenses, the real deal is that expenses for "normal" things are pretty much the same this year as compared to last. How so? Well in 2008, that difference of \$1.288 million shown above is due to \$960,000 payments on debt (taken on to complete Parish House renovation) plus funds spent on the Choir Room (\$50K), Cemetery Revitalization (\$60K) and the Front Terrace project (\$70K). Add in the difference in High School Mission Trip costs (\$90K more in 2008) and the difference is not much more than those from the Annual Operating Fund.

<u>REPORTED ANNUAL OPERATING FUND Results</u>	<u>ACTUAL for</u> <u>11 mos 2009</u>	<u>ACTUAL for</u> <u>11 mos 2008</u>	<u>Difference</u> <u>09 v 08</u>
Total Annual Operating Fund Receipts	\$1,107,613	\$1,185,194	\$(77,582)
Total Annual Operating Fund Expenses	\$1,263,512	\$1,291,878	\$(28,366)
YTD NET for the Annual Operating Fund	\$(155,899)	\$(106,683)	\$(49,216)

The church ended 2008 with an Annual Operating Fund loss of only \$27,000 so I expect that the 2009 loss will be lower than that reported for November (and thus lower than budgeted). This is due to the lower-than-projected utility and personnel expenses for 2009. Note however, that 2010 also projects a significant deficit for the Annual Operating Fund. At its December meeting, the Session approved the 2010 Annual Operating Fund budget as shown below:

	<u>2008 Actual</u>	<u>2009 Budget</u>	<u>2010 Budget</u>
Revenues	\$1,425,000	\$1,300,000	\$1,250,000
Expenses	<u>\$1,452,000</u>	<u>\$1,516,422</u>	<u>\$1,455,192</u>
Net loss	(\$27,000)	(\$216,422)	(\$205,192)

The church is positioned to accommodate growth, now with three worship services and 5 full-time program staff. As the Treasurer, I've suggested for over a year now that the Session may be forced into making some difficult decisions based on finances, but I no longer believe that. We now have a full-time CE Director with a mandate to grow programs. The PNC diligently works to find a new full-time Youth Minister. There have been raises approved for staff during this Great Recession. Session plans to provide housing assistance to Mike that will assure keeping an Associate Pastor for Congregational Care for the long term. And it will likely be asked to look at a similar plan when we find a Youth Minister. We're a church looking to grow.

It's good to have an Endowment! For now...

The Spire

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2010 NEW BATTERY RECYCLING RULES	ALKALINE BATTERIES Dispose of with regular trash
 RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES 	Recycle at retail locations
Home Depot * Verizon * Cingular * Target * Radio Shack * Sears * Office Max * Staples (Call 1-877-2-RECYCLE for more information)	
BUTTON CELLS	
Bring to Household Hazardous Waste Days Visit: http://www.ucnj.org/recycle/hhwd.html	
	For dates and locations 

The Presbyterian Church in Westfield
140 Mountain Avenue
Westfield, NJ 07090
908-233-0301
www.westfieldpc.org

Fourth Annual
Men's Retreat
January 22-24, 2010
Harvey Cedars Conference Center
Long Beach Island

Cost: \$250
Includes lodging, food and
guest speaker expense.
Carpooling will be arranged.

- Register NOW before limited spaces are filled! \$250 (payment in full) must accompany registration.
- Registration deadline **Sunday, December 27, 2009**.
- For more information or to register, call Dawn at the church office (908-233-0301 x47) or Jeff Ehrhardt (908-789-2088).



Don't miss this spiritually-enriching and fun-filled opportunity in a unique seaside setting on Long Beach Island!



Our Speaker and Retreat Leader will be **Dr. David True**. Dr. True is the Chair of the Philosophy and Religion Department and Assistant Professor of Religion at Wilson College in Pennsylvania.



this n that

IT'S GETTING COLD OUT THERE, AND OUR GUESTS AT AGAPE COULD USE YOUR HELP!



We are in need of the following items in the Agape Clothing Closet:

Adult T-shirts, New Adult Socks
New Adult Underwear
Adult Sweatpants & Adult Sweatshirts
Adult Jeans & Adult Pants
Sweaters &
Flannel Shirts
Blankets, Sleeping Bags
Boots & Sneakers,
Gloves, Scarves, Hats





Any of the above items can be dropped off in the back of the Church Van.



As much as we appreciate all your donations of clothing, we do not need dressy or business casual items, children's clothing or size smalls at this time.

Thank You for your Donations!

CHRIST BELL

THE BELL
I KNOW WHO I AM
I am God's child (John 1:12)
I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)
I am united with the Lord (1 Cor. 6:17)
I am bought with a price (1 Cor 6:19-20)
I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)
I am a personal witness of Christ. (Acts 1:8)
I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt 5:13-14)
I am a member of the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27)
I am free forever from condemnation (Rom. 8: 1-2)
I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant (Phil 3 :20)
I am free from any charge against me (Rom. 8:31 -34)
I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Cor 5:17-21)
I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)
I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6)
I cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom 8:35-39)
I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor 1:21-22)
I am assured all things work together for good (Rom. 8:28)
I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16)
I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3: 12)
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)
I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15: 1-5)
I am God's temple (1 Cor. 3: 16). I am complete in Christ (Col. 2: 10)
I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3).. I have been justified (Romans 5:1)
I am God's co-worker (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor 6:1). I am God's workmanship (Eph. 2:10)
I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected. (Phil. 1: 5)
I have been redeemed and forgiven (Col 1:14). I have been adopted as God's child (Eph 1:5)

I belong to God
Do you know
Who you are?

*The LORD bless you and keep you;
The LORD make His face shine upon you
And be gracious to you;
The LORD turn His face toward you
And give you peace...
Numbers 6:24-26*

The Spire

Happy Birthday



- JANUARY 1**
Shepherd, Richard
Bing, Honor
Yearley, Anne
Foltz, Peter
- JANUARY 2**
Burns, Ken
Hennessey, Kevin
Barban, Zachary
Lama, Victoria
- JANUARY 3**
Anderson, Jennifer
Duddy, Kate
Flaherty, Abby
- JANUARY 4**
Bovenkerk, Helen
Curtis, Don
Kefalonitis, John
Nary II, Charles
McCall, Jennifer
Emmons, Karen
Jordan, Christine
PetrSORIC, Andrew
Fraitcs, Charles
Walker, Corinne
Walker, Erick
Lloyd-Kennington, Nicholas
Lama, Cassandra
- JANUARY 5**
Sailer Jr, Herbert
Palma, Sue
Carlomano, Karen
Kropp, Ron
Valian, Michele
deBrueys, Beth
Venturino, Taylor
Heber, Audrey
- JANUARY 6**
Husch, Peggy
Doerr, Tim
Shepard, Peter
Kelly III, Michael
Pastro, Brooke
Autry, Candice
Leiz, Matt
Nemec, Brett
Timko, Charlie
- JANUARY 7**
Heffner, Don
Roberts, Katherine
Schwartz, Henry
- JANUARY 8**
Winter, Linda
Slifer, James
- JANUARY 9**
Luker, Joyce
Schwartz, Lisa
Zeitounian, Chloe
Zeitounian, Kyle
Timko, Linda
Miller, Evelyn
- JANUARY 10**
Hickman, Lucille
Vivian, Joan
Stockwell, Sharon
Scaperrotta, Brian
Hickman, Jordan
- JANUARY 11**
Gray, Jessie
Trimble, Jim
Cederroth, Chuck
Johnson, Stephen
Bender-Parsons, Meghan
Liggera, Courtney
Luker, Christian
- JANUARY 12**
Hedden Jr, Bill
- JANUARY 13**
John, Sam
Gruman, Lauren
Kephart, Matthew
Park, Stephen
- JANUARY 14**
Partelow, Alan
LaMond Jr., John
Rafferty, Kim
Gorman, Katie
Yeatts, Mason
Gibbs, Mason
- JANUARY 15**
Richey, Lois
Dvorak, Steve
Beglin Jr, Ed
Burgdorf, Betsey
Marino, James
Mann, Jay
Palmatier, Amanda
Danskin, Katie
- JANUARY 16**
Amaker, Mack
Rosin, Debbie
Murphy, Debbie
Doerr, Peggy
Born, Jacqui
Bigelow, Brian
- JANUARY 17**
Brand, Sherl
Miller, Tom
Efthymiou, Erika
Cook, Timothy
- JANUARY 18**
Mellen, Jeanne
Burke, Sara
- JANUARY 19**
Dunkley, Leslie
Freeman, Jimmy
Boyle, Jackson
Marat, Dylan
Valian, Jack
Miller, Jordan
Demers, Grace
Marmarou, Luke
- JANUARY 20**
Cook Jr, Bob
Wyckoff, Jessica
Panton, Matthew
Freeman, Sarah
Roth, Erin
Quinlan, Michael
- JANUARY 21**
Jordan, Patty
Kephart, Scott
Lane, John
Swingle, Sydney
- JANUARY 22**
Killough, Tom
Boyer, Eugene
Armstrong, Jerry
Black-Polak, Lisa
Hoff, Jessica
- JANUARY 23**
Rogers, David
deBrueys, Mary Beth
Meierdierck III, Paul
- JANUARY 24**
Duddy, Hugh
DeMartino, Leslie
Crenshaw, David
Stock, Leslie
Nary, Jennifer
Gerckens, Kurt
- JANUARY 25**
Brumbaugh, Jane
Jackson, Janet
Kristiansen, Dave
Shields, Tammy
Delloiacono, Dan
Waller, Victoria
Seaman, Kathleen
- JANUARY 26**
Ehrnman, George
Huff, David
Lowe, Cheryl
Sandstedt, Nicole
Madden, Sarah
Kole Jr, J B
- JANUARY 27**
Shaw, Pam
Fletcher, Kristen
Mackay, Colin
- JANUARY 28**
Schneider, Kay
- JANUARY 29**
Factor, Becky
Kupfer, Joan
Foltz II, William
- JANUARY 30**
Santoro, Wendy
Baldwin, Denise
McCauley, John
Crosby, Tracy
Yarusi, Jason
Lysek, Maddy
Priscoe, Quinn
- JANUARY 31**
McFarlan, Caroline
Faltermayer, Steven
Keller, Michael

The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, NJ
140 Mountain Avenue Westfield, NJ 07090
(908) 233-0301
Fax: (908) 317-9218
Visit us on the web: www.westfieldpc.org

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E-mail rroberts@westfieldpc.org	
Rev. Mike Samson, Assoc. Pastor	37
E-mail msamson@westfieldpc.org	
Mary Bielen, Director of C & F Ministries	38
E-mail mbielen@westfieldpc.org	
Jason Klein, Director of Music	46
E-mail jklein@westfieldpc.org	
Tina Barulli, Comptroller	23
E-mail tbarulli@westfieldpc.org	
Lou Ann Kaplonski, Church Administrator	26
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Betty Born, Church Secretary	24
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Dawn Adam, Executive Secretary	47
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Linnette Mercado, Youth Secretary	22
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Jim Kajosevic, Maintenance Supervisor	34
E-mail jkajosevic@westfieldpc.org	
Kristin Pirich, Mission Coordinator	973-601-3371
E-mail kpirich@westfieldpc.org	
T.O.P.S	908-654-5157
Nursery School	908-233-0766
Furniture Assist	
E-mail furnitureassist@westfieldpc.org	

**SUNDAY MORNINGS AT
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN WESTFIELD**

- Worship Service in the Chapel at 8:00 a.m.
- Worship Service in the Sanctuary at 9:30 a.m.
- Christian Education for 2yrs—5th grade at 9:30 a.m.
- Adult Education: 10:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
- Worship Service in the Chapel at 11:00 a.m.
- **Child care for infants thru 3yr olds is available in our cribbery located on the lower level of the Christian Ed. Building, 8:00a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**