



Crescent Connections

Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church

716 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, New Jersey 07060

Summer 2015

908-756-2468

crescentonline.org



From the Pastor's Desk...

*Grace and Peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
2 Corinthians 1:2*

The world turns, the seasons change and the Holy Spirit continues to move in powerful ways here in our midst at CAPC. As another ministry program year comes to a close and we dive into our summer respite, I cannot help but note that the ministry and life at our church has evolved and changed in significant ways. We, too, enter not only a new season in our world, but a new season of ministry and mission.

Just as we note the passing of the seasons of the earth by the changes we see around us, there are changes in our church life as well. We are listening to God more closely as a congregation. This year has seen the introduction of the online devotional, "Oasis" which has had two special editions (one for Advent and one for Lent) in which members and friends of this church have offered their reflections and prayers on Scripture. In addition, we even had an online Bible study wherein a number of us read through the Gospel of Mark together. Our Sunday School engaged in a season of learning about the Parables of Jesus, and even organized a Lenten journey for the smallest among us (and allowed even us adults to participate!). Our prayer labyrinth was opened on three different evenings and attendance soared. Did you know that the season of Lent engaged 200 more people than we had last year?

Missions has experienced change and growth as well. As our Missions Committee and our congregation have sought to discern where God is calling us to serve and what missions to support, we cannot miss God's hand at work in our Food Ministries program. This ministry reaches out beyond our doors not only into the community in which we live, but engages a number of people from other churches, businesses, and communities as well. The Keyes Foundation has led the way in giving and has even offered a benefit concert that engages world-renowned talent from Ireland in support of this ministry and seeks to raise funds for the renovation of our kitchen. In addition, we have been recipients of a Greystone Grant through the Elizabeth Presbytery to help in that endeavor as well. This is a significant venture and is one that hearkens to the history and traditions of CAPC that still resonates through our halls today.

And speaking of halls, our building improvements continue as our Sanctuary floors have been buffed and cleaned, our first floor hallway has been completely stripped of over 30 years of wax (most contractors had said it couldn't be done but our own Henry Ward proved them wrong single handedly!). Our cleanup day garnered the largest number of volunteers in years, you will note that overgrown shrubbery and bushes are now gone and even the large tree on the Watchung side will be removed (but more on that later). We are all enjoying the new walkways and the Soup Kitchen even had their inaugural launch of the brand new stoves that grace our kitchen.

Our halls have echoed with wonderful discussions regarding race relations, Bible studies, church meetings, concerts too many to number, community group gatherings that have sought to enrich the lives of people even

beyond our walls (Boy Scouts, Alcoholics Anonymous, Learning for Life), and the list could go on.

Our officers will be heading out to a CAPC Leadership Summit in July to spend time together and listen for and discern God's call on this congregation for the program year to come. In addition, look inside for more information regarding upcoming summer events at CAPC (incredible summer camp event led by Camp Johnsonburg, online Bible study, Leadership Retreat information, and a special memorial tree program to name just a few!).

God is doing a lot here at CAPC and we invite you to join us as we continue to learn, study, serve, and grow in Christ's love. God is doing a new thing here in our midst, you are invited to come and be a part!

In Christ,
Pastor Lynn



From Julie Downing, Editor in Chief

Happy Summer everyone! This is a consolidated issue, due to a very sad spring in my life which I'd really love to rewind. I know you all understand and I thank you with all my heart.

This issue will be jammed packed with what has been going on here at CAPC! Highlights on members, upgrades to the kitchen, the Keyes benefit concert for the soup kitchen, our amazing members who do things behind the scene and need to be in the front, hearing our applause!

Wherever we are, there are members who are doing without needing thanks, but we'd like to thank them anyway and show our appreciation. If you'd like to submit your notes of thanks for someone, please send it in. We'd love to share our appreciation and support for the labors of love so many offer in Christ's name. Also, even though our membership committee works hard to keep on top of all that is going on, we depend on newsie elves to keep us posted as well, so email us!

One of Sal Badalamenti's favorite heros was Winston Churchill, so for a few months, you'll see Churchill quotes. It's amazing how many familiar ones are from him.

**Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak;
courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.**

Winston Churchill



Want a Quick Update on Some CAPC Highlights?
Check out these updates...

- The tiles on the first floor have all been stripped and restored to their original state (thanks to Henry Ward!). This project saved our church nearly \$10K (Check out Henry's story in this issue!)
- The tree that sadly died on the Watchung Avenue side of the church has been removed. See the article inside for more information on what will take its place (and how you might get involved!).
- Our Finance Committee has been reporting stronger results for our budget and our building rentals continue to increase.
- Camp Johnsonburg is coming to CAPC in July and is a great outreach to our community's children and promises to be a great event!
- New Jersey Symphony Orchestra is holding a free concert to our community in June as a result of a grant. CAPC was selected as the 'best place in town' to hold the concert!
- Did you know we were in the Courier News in June? An article on the Keyes Benefit Concert highlighted our Food Ministries Missions here at CAPC!
- New stoves have been ordered and installed in the kitchen
- Sanctuary Floors have been cleaned and polished (see photo below)



Check out the rest of the newsletter for even more events and happenings here at church. The Crescent is shining bright in Christ's love!

Thanks Henry!!!

Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church in the News...

The following article appeared in the *Courier News* on June 8th and a successful concert was held on the 13th. Buses took CAPC parishioners to the concert. A wonderful night for a wonderful cause!

PLAINFIELD – Every Tuesday, volunteers gather in the morning at the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church's soup kitchen to begin preparations for lunch. By noon, lunch is ready, guests have arrived, and volunteers are busy ensuring no one leaves hungry.



One floor above, the office of the Tim Keyes Consort, a non-profit organization for charitable cultural programs observed the growing demand for the soup kitchen, said executive director Meg Poltorak and decided to help.

“We saw that it is an incredible resource in Plainfield and it is an underfunded resource,” Poltorak said. “It has always been the center of Plainfield and we’ve moved forward to help preserve that area.”

The consort will be celebrating its 20th year anniversary with a performance in Princeton on June 13 to benefit the Crescent Avenue Food Ministries. The performance called *Ubi Caritas est Copia* means “where there is charity, there

is abundance,” explained music director Tim Keyes. The consort has conducted several concerts with the Crescent Avenue Food Ministries in the past, including a New England Tapestry performance last November, Keyes said.

The soup kitchen began in November 2012, in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, when a local resident visited the church kitchen to borrow some pots. Valarie Fisher, who now manages the kitchen, said she was aware many people were left without electricity and decided to make some soup and distribute it to the residents.

“We put candles and candlelight (in the church) and little by little, people started coming in,” Fisher said. “There was a need.”

Need is one of the main motivations behind the soup kitchen running today, said the Rev. Lynn Santulli, pastor of Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church. On average, the kitchen serves around 150 people on Tuesdays, she said, with around 200 people coming at the end of the month. The full meals offered are healthy and organic, Santulli said, with bagged lunches distributed every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

“The service is a support to certainly the homeless and also as a service to those who are day jobbers,” Santulli said. “Also, we see some families with their savings account running out towards the end of the month; they’ll come by and have some lunch.”

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 21.9 percent of individuals in Plainfield are living below the poverty level, compared to the state average of 10.4 percent. With growing amount of individuals looking towards the soup kitchen for a meal, it is in need of renovations.

“As the need increased, our kitchen isn’t designed to handle that kind of volume, so our appliances are failing,” Santulli said. “This is where the benefit concert is coming in: we can’t afford as congregation support to the renovation of the kitchen by ourselves.”

The concert will feature the world premiere of “Bread of Life” by Keyes, a piece he describes as a companion to “Famine Remembrance” by Irish Composer Patrick Cassidy. Cassidy will be traveling in from Ireland to perform, Keyes said, as he actively supports soup kitchens in Ireland. Both pieces deal with the issue of hunger, Keyes said.

“Cassidy’s piece deals with the physical hunger, my piece deals more with the spiritual hunger,” Keyes said. The concert will take place 8 p.m. at the Richardson Auditorium. Poltorak said she hopes the concert will spread awareness about the issue.

“We’re really hoping to help people understand what hunger is,” Poltorak said.



Lots of smiling CAPC faces at the Richardson Auditorium for the soup kitchen benefit concert



Race Relations Forum

May 16, 2015

On Saturday May 16th, nearly 50 people from the greater Plainfield community gathered in our assembly room for a seminar on race relations. “WE ARE THE WORLD UNITY IN RACE RELATIONS FORUM” brought together a distinguished panel to discuss the status of race relations in today’s environment. The forum was a joint collaboration of the non-profit organizations Nubian Cultural Center and the New Covenant Christian Association, Inc. Organized by Stephanie DeGeneste,



Carlos Sanchez, panel moderator



Erika Jungblut, Esq and Rev. Edwin Leahy

the forum included interactive breakout sessions that addressed race relations at home, school, business and the community. With the brutal murder of nine African Americans last week in a church in South Carolina by a lone white gunman, it still proves that there still remains a need for dialog between races.

The panel Moderated was **Carlos Sanchez**, who immigrated to the U.S. from Columbia in 1977. With a background in business

administration, Carlos worked his way up Deputy City Administrator for Economic Development in Plainfield where he oversees the revitalization and redevelopment of Plainfield.

The panel members included **Detective Rodney Blount** of the Middlesex Prosecutors’s office, **Carolyn Burton R.N.**, experienced in healthy living and disease prevention, **Adrian Council**, co-founder and publisher of faith based Positive Community magazine for the African American Community, **Amaree Gardner**, student representative for the Plainfield Board of Education and Vice President of the French Honor Society, **Mateo Gilsilveti**, New Jersey Scholar in Ecology and Italian Honor Society President, **Erika Jungblut, Esq**, a Harvard graduate lawyer and principal at Jungblut Law, **Reverend Edwin Leahy**, Headmaster of St. Benedict’s Prep, **Alma Meza**, a real estate broker associate at Century 21 in Scotch Plains and **Marlie Hall**, an award winning Haitian-American Broadcast Journalist at CBS News.



Elder Pat Baker, left



Marlie Hall

Panel members discussed their early encounters with members of a different races and the obstacles and hurdles that they had to overcome while growing up. They each had time to reflect upon their personal experiences and how it impacted them and propelled them to a successful career.



Stephanie DeGeneste with Clark Everson (l) and Henry Rawls (r)
of Nubian Cultural Center



Plant A Tree to Remember...

They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." Jeremiah 17:8

"And all the trees of the field shall know that I the LORD have brought down the high tree, have exalted the low tree, have dried up the green tree, and have made the dry tree to flourish: I the LORD have spoken and have done it" Ezekiel 17:24

Trees have a long history in the Bible that stretches back to the Garden of Eden. They remind us of being rooted in God's love, of remaining immovable in our faith, and as planting deep roots in Christ and yielding fruit in our service to God. Trees remind us of God's creation, and power to transform and endure. We plant trees to remember many things, and we plant trees to remember loved ones who are no longer in our midst.

At Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church we are changing the landscape of the church grounds by planting a Memorial Tree Garden, which will be located on the Watchung Avenue side of the street. Seven trees will be purchased and family members have the opportunity to plant a tree in remembrance of a loved one.

Each memorial tree will have a plaque with the loved ones name on it and a short inscription with the date of the planting. A service will be held in September for the planting where we will gather and remember the loved one and participate in the planting of the tree. Each tree will cost \$500.

If you would like to find out more about the Memorial Tree Program please contact Rev. Santulli.

"To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die."

— Thomas Campbell

Would you like your child to have a summer experience that is:

- ◆ Fun-filled
- ◆ Well-supervised
- ◆ Spiritually based
- ◆ Economically priced



Comes to:

Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church

716 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060

ph. (908)756-2468

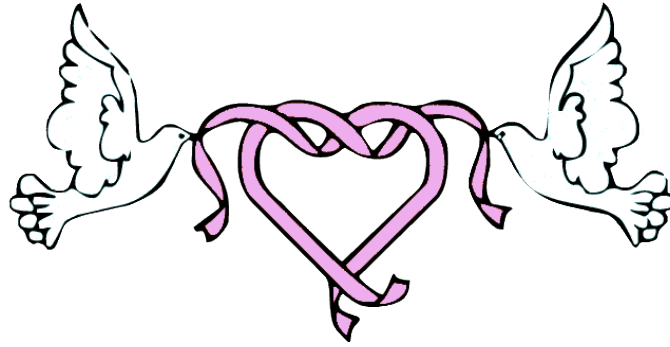
Website: www.crescentonline.org

- ◆ When: July 27th – July 31st
- ◆ Time: 9:00am – 3:00pm
- ◆ Age: Children who have completed K-5th Grade
- ◆ Cost: \$50.00 per camper- *Scholarships are available



Register or learn more about this exciting and unique program which **includes games, music, crafts and Bible study**, by going on-line.

Treat your child to a memorable and meaningful experience!



DRUDE AND GLEN

Well, we met long before CAPC, because we both grew up in Westfield and have known each other since Junior High! Though he is only a year and a half younger than I, he was always two years behind me in school. We really got to know each other one summer when we were lifeguards at the same swim club. We were both very active in the choirs and the special ensembles in high school, so a love of singing was something we always shared. Little did we know we would end up in the same church choir many years later! In fact Glen came to CAPC at my urging just to be in the choir.

After Charlie died in 2007, we began going to concerts and operas together just as friends and after a period of time, we realized we had so much in common and enjoyed being together a lot. So for the last five years we have been romantically involved and as you know, we have decided to marry and officially become a couple. Can't really put my finger on a first date unless it was the lunch at Appleby's one day when I told him Charlie had been gone three years and it was okay to hold my hand. He was being so respectful!

My heritage is Norwegian and I have relatives there whom I visited in 2003 when I retired. One cousin is 93 and I wanted to see her again and share that beautiful country with Glen, so we booked the trip last fall before Glen offered me a ring on Christmas Eve. When it came time to pick a wedding date, I had to consider our grandchildren's summer plans, so the only date happened to be June 27, which fell after the trip. Somewhat unorthodox to be sure but this way everyone can be there! We have no plans to travel afterwards. We will be spending the summer combining two households into one - he is moving into my house and getting his house ready to sell



CAPChurch Profile: *Drude Roessler*



In her own words:



Favorite Verse: Psalm 19:14 - May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord and my rock and my redeemer.

I was born in Toledo, Ohio. My mother's family was of English/Scottish heritage from Virginia and my father's family was of Norwegian extraction from Delaware.

The middle of three sisters, I grew up in Westfield, went to Franklin grade school, Roosevelt Junior High and Westfield High School. I loved music and sports, sang in my church choirs and went to wonderful Camp Blaisdell in New Hampshire for seven summers.

I went to Northwestern University School of Music and graduated with a Bachelor of Music Education degree and continued for a Master of Music degree in Performance Voice. I thoroughly enjoyed a full Big Ten college life complete with my sorority, football games, and being in our famous all-college WAA-MU Show with Ann-Margret!

I taught public school music in Arlington Heights, Illinois (4 years), then Pensacola, Florida (5 years) and finally in Westfield (31 years), all levels from K through 12. Directing student musicals (over 50 shows) was one of my very favorite jobs.

I was married for 10 years to my daughter's father and then I was married for 28 years to Charlie Roessler, who passed away in 2007. I have one daughter, Kirsten, who was raised in this church, who is married and has two daughters, Carlie, age 16, and Polly age 13. They live close by so I am joyously involved in their lives!

Singing is my first love, followed closely by playing golf and attending opera, theatre and concerts. I was hired to sing Alto in the Chancel Choir and sang my first service in January of 1973. I did not join as a member until 1983, but since I have become fully involved in all aspects of the church, serving multiple terms as an Elder. I especially enjoy the rich musical tradition of this church and do all I can to keep it alive and strong. I currently serve as Chairperson of Worship, Music and Arts.

I have to say my favorite technical device is my iPhone so I can text my granddaughters! My all time favorite film is Gone With the Wind which shows the indomitable spirit of a woman through many trials and tribulations.

I am blessed to have been here at Crescent Avenue through all the changes of ministers, organists and choir members, and experiencing all the results, some positive, some troubling, brought about by those changes. But this church has remained strong because of the very people I see every Sunday as I look out over the pews, people I hold very dear and hope to count as my friends. They have sustained me and helped make me a better person over these 40 years. God bless you all!



Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding, Who set its measurements? Since you know. Or who stretched the line on it? in what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone, boundaries on it And set a bolt and doors...

Job 38:4-11

Born in Westfield to parents of mixed Scottish, Irish and English parents, Glen attended Westfield Schools K-12 graduating in 1960. He sang in 3 choral groups, played reeds in the marching band, concert band and jazz band. He earned letters in track and cross country and earned the rank of Eagle Scout. During the summer, he worked as a lifeguard and swimming Instructor

Glen attended Colby College in Maine and loved collegiate hockey and fraternity life. He transferred to Columbia University where he earned his BA. He would go on to earn his Ph.D. in physics from New York University.

He worked as an experimental physicist at Bell Labs for 38 years. His research included Quantum Electrodynamics and Non-linear properties especially the optical of materials. In his last years, he was a trouble shooter for Bell System and then Lucent Technologies in reliability issues. That included the fundamental study that lead to modern broadband consumer telecommunications.

Glen has three children, a son, and two daughters who live in New England. He is also blessed with 5 grandchildren, ages 4 – 20.

Glen enjoys singing and music in general. Some of his favorites includes the Metropolitan Opera and his Carnegie Hall subscriptions. His other pastimes include hiking and walking in the woods as well as reading.

He began singing in the Crescent choir around 1997. He recently became a member of Crescent in December of 2013 . He particularly enjoys the music of the church, and meaningful, bible-based preaching and worship. He has served as Session member and a Clerk of Session for total of about 15 years at his previous church

Since he has worked with computers since the punch-card days, Glen has developed a strong, love/hate relationship for computers. His favorite authors include Kazantzakis, J. I. Packer, C. S. Lewis, Hemmingway and Robert Heinlein.

What About You? Any News from the Pews?

We'd like to thank Drude and Glen for sharing their stories with us! Many times we only know each other through Sunday services and we all have busy lives outside the Sanctuary. We would like to feature one or two members each issue, just a brief summary of what you do outside of church. We'd like to know more about you! Also, if you would like to have a birthday included, or know of some other piece of news to share with the CAPC family, please contact our roving report, Andre McIntyre (andremac68@aol.com). Thanks in advance!!



Dunchus, Gary	5/1	Foster, Michael	6/17
Kennedy, Nicholas	5/2	Mann, Gary	6/18
Diony, Sam	5/6	Stevens, Dominique	6/20
Pivniciny, Doug	5/10	Badalamenti, Catherine	6/27
Fleming, Patricia	5/12	Fisher, Rick	7/01
Cook, Sonnia	5/13	Kennedy, Kristopher	7/03
Fofie, Charlotte	5/13	Roessler, Drude	7/04
Buck, Mary Jo	5/14	Badalamenti, John	7/10
Mann, Katherine	5/14	Rosario-Trepper, Norma	7/24
Peterson, Janna	5/18	Foltz-Morrison, Dan	7/28
Dunchus, Maya	5/19	Foltz-Morrison, Leslie	8/01
Van Pelt-Pivnichny, Jaon	5/19	DeGeneste, Stephanie	8/07
Downing, Jeff	5/21	Thayer, Ronald	8/10
Buck, Sydney	5/28	Henry, Cameron	8/15
Herman, David	5/31	Fahrenholz, Gina	8/21
Haynes, Lia	6/02	Downing, Julie	8/26
Williams, Jordan	6/03	Neal, Winnie	8/28
Smith, Barbara	6/15		
Yoshimura, Karin	6/15		
Fahrenholz, Jacqueline	6/17		

Floored by God's Grace

By Henry Ward

Thirty-five years of wax lay embedded on the tile floor at the church and I understand that a number of contractors had looked at the floor and pronounced it dead. 'Nothing could be done' they had told the pastor, 'you might as well jackhammer the tile out and put in a whole new floor.' No one seemed willing to tackle the project of restoring a floor that seemed beyond hope. I knew it wasn't going to be easy, but I knew it could be done. A floor that even I had walked away from years ago now seemed to nag at me until I said that I would do it. At least I hoped I could because I knew that others were counting on me to come through.

It took me over 90 hours of back breaking, tiring work to go over the floor again...and again....and again, to remove the layers that had accumulated. It was a job that would have costs thousands of dollars if I were to bill a customer for the herculean task, but no bill was rendered because it was for my church.

I completed the job on Memorial Day, feeling as dead tired as I could ever possibly remember feeling. I looked at the floor and was pleased. I had saved a floor that was considered by 'experts' to be beyond repair. I had proven that I could accomplish something that others could not or would not and although no one would ever see how hard it was to accomplish, I knew that God knew what had been done.

Not long after I received a call from a colleague that said he had a deal for me. Unbeknownst to him I had lost nearly all of my business' equipment after Superstorm Sandy and I had not quite recovered financially from the aftermath of the storm. Business had been slow and it seemed like I hadn't caught a break in quite a long time.

The deal my colleague spoke of was the purchase of all of his equipment, his truck and carpet cleaning equipment as well as his mailing list of customers. My heart was in my throat as I pulled out my checkbook waiting to hear the cost of it all. I quickly calculated the value of such a purchase in my head and was estimating the worth to be well over \$12K. I didn't know how I was going to pay for it all, but I waited to hear his cost, pen poised, checkbook readied to receive the blow...which never came.

He told me the price was \$500. I could hardly believe my ears. Here I had lost all of my trucks and cleaning and drying equipment in the storm of Sandy and did not know how I was ever going to be able to replace all that had been lost and this man was telling me it would only cost \$500!

I thought back to the floor restoration project I had just completed at the church and realized that I had just been paid in full, by God! In seeking to be a blessing to someone else, I had been blessed. I guess you could say that I was truly 'floored' by God's grace and saw firsthand His hand at work in my life. Perhaps what had been restored was not just a tile floor in the church, but my faith and my hope that I, too, could be restored.

