

Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church 716 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, New Jersey 07060

September-October 2015 908-756-2468 cresentonline.org



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I am writing this letter to you the summer is not yet over and the view from my office window still holds the summer sunshine and greenery of the CAPC campus. September is right around the corner and with it the launch of yet another ministry season here at CAPC. Last year it was all about setting sail and learning how to be guided by the Holy Spirit to pursue pat Christ was calling us to follow. We accomplished much in His name. This year, we are going deeper and 'working' the soil of our hearts that His Word will be more fully implanted within us and help us to grow in understanding, wisdom, courage and faith.

How appropriate, therefore, that our September launch which begins on September 13 will include not only the welcoming back of our choir, the commissioning of our Sunday School ministry team, but also the planting of the CAPC Tree Garden (see more about the garden inside this newsletter).

There is much to share as we turn our eyes to the new season. Session had their annual leadership retreat in July and established goals and objectives for the year based on where they felt Christ was calling this community of faith. Much thought and discussion regarding worship here in these hallowed halls produced a document which outlines for visitors and others how we worship here at Crescent and how the focus of all we do points us towards Christ. But there is more.

It is one thing to have a theme, but quite another to determine how that theme will be carried through our ministries and missions. Oasis will begin again in September; a frequent reminder of what it means to be grounded in the Spirit. In addition, we will be doing Bible study online (so be sure to sign up!), going through The Story as a church. Check out Crescent Concerts lineup of great music and of course our Crescent Choir under Allen's leadership brings the best of church music to our weekly services.

I could go on, but rather encourage you to read through the newsletter to find out more. Christ is certainly at the Head of this church and amazing stories are unfolding in our midst. Crescent shines with the Light of Christ. Come and shine with us as well!

In Christ

Pastor Lynn

From Julie Downing, Editor in Chief

Hope everyone had a wonderful summer! Although it's still very warm out and folks are still on vacation, we're gearing up for an exciting fall at CAPC!



The membership committee needs your help to highlight members; please don't be shy! We're trying to get to know each others lives outside the walls of our church. We all have daily lives and that although we see each other weekly, the other six days are interesting as well! Please don't run; we're not trying to invade, just broaden the spectrum of our members.

To build may have to be the slow and laborious task of years. To destroy can be the thoughtless act of a single day." Winston Churchill

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND NURTURE BACKWARD GLANCE...FORWARD STRIDE

As the hot days of July gave way to even hotter days the beginning of August, members of the CEN department took some time on Saturday the 15th to cool off under a large shade tree in scenic Colonial Park in Franklin Township. Our off-site Leadership Retreat provided the perfect opportunity to delve into a full agenda that included a Getting to Know You Icebreaker Exercise, the Importance of Spiritual Leadership, highlights from CAPC's Child Protection Program, excerpts from Jim Collins' book



Good to Great, and the final item Backward Glance...Forward Stride, where we recounted many of our 2014-2015 accomplishments and cited some of the things we'd like to do moving forward during the 2015-2016 program year. We were privileged to have Pastor Lynn join us to present some of the information about spiritual leadership that the Elders covered during their retreat in July at Ocean Grove.



It's one thing to plan and organize a retreat and quite another thing to see how things fit together. Nevertheless, it was quite evident that the power of the Holy Spirit moved among us as we touched on agenda item after agenda item, at one point rearranging the order for better flow, and then believe it or not, giving up our free time to expand the duration of our conversation. Oh, the things we found out about each other from the most interesting fact segment of the icebreaker. Would you believe there is a beauty queen, state roller skating champion, and target shooter among our Sunday School teachers? Who knew? Of course Pastor's Lynn's component contained many spiritual nuggets; but to sum it up, spiritual leaders must be spiritually mature, and the way to maturity is through prayer, study, reflection, solitude, and service. I am sure we can all say, if we're honest with ourselves, we have some growing to do in any one or all the aforementioned areas.

Yes, it is important to pause and reflect, and the Backward Glance...Forward Stride component allowed us to appreciate God's grace and enabling presence in our midst as we looked back at our visit to the Woodlands nursing home, the Christmas Eve Family Worship Service, the culmination of almost a year's work to produce a child protection manual and accompanying training and background check system, and among other things, a major curriculum change which resulted in all Sunday School classes studying the same topic each week. Even though the Camp Johnsonburg on the Road Vacation Bible School project did not result in an on-site one week experience for campers as we'd hoped, we were still overjoyed that as a result of the efforts of our committee and the generosity of George Germinder, two children from Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, McRae and Wendy Nkellefack, had a chance to spend a week at Camp Johnsonburg.

So with momentum from last year's successes on our side, but also realizing there's probably more we can do to meet the needs of a greater number of families, we're currently preparing a survey to glean additional ideas. Our goal is reach out to virtually everyone currently listed in the church directory. Who knows where the next great idea dwells? It could be in the mind of someone whose children were part of the Sunday School department 20 years ago, or even in the thoughts of a person who has no children, but encountered a great suggestion in her or his travels. You get the drift; God is no respecter of persons when it comes to distributing creativity and grand ideas among His people.

We're really curious about what people at CAPC are thinking regarding Christian education and we hope when you receive your survey you'll take a few minutes to fill it out. If you don't get one in the mail, extra surveys will be available on the table under the hallway bulletin board. A backward glance and forward stride has CEN all revved up for 2015-2016. In the words of Walt Disney, "We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we're curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths."

2015 LEADERSHIP SUMMIT IN OCEAN GROVE

On July 18 the members of Session once again "retreated" to Ocean Grove for a Journey Together with Christ. After a sumptuous breakfast arranged by Jeff Downing, we worshipped with the chapel meditating on the story of the call of the fishermen. We learned just as the fishermen had to work together to bring in their catch once Jesus told them where to cast their nets, the Session needs to work together within itself and with the congregation in order to achieve God's purpose for us at CAPC.

After worship, we had two exercises which focused on listening and communicating with others. Elders paired off to interview each other using prepared questions as guidelines. We then reported what we had learned about our partners to the group. As a church family, we often don't know much about each other and one goal of Session is to facilitate more conversation and fellowship among the members during the coming year.



Our second exercise involved viewing a video from the book "Crucial Conversations." We discussed conversations we have avoided, conversations we had but wished had gone better, and ways to listen and communicate. The book advises all crucial conversations must be 100% honest and 100% respectful. Each session member was sent home with a copy of the book to study and with the commitment to engage in productive conversations with each other and the members of the congregation.

After a lunchtime break and time for a walk down to the beach, we examined the goals set at last year's retreat and discussed whether they needed to be changed or modified for the coming year. We agreed that we had made progress in discerning God's call for us, but that was a continuing goal. We still have a ways to go in improving communication, but have a ways to go. This newsletter and the "Coffee and Conversation" sessions are two ways we are addressing that goal. Some of the experiments with Christian Education were not successful next year, but this coming year will find the entire congregation from pre-K to senior members reading "The Story" over a 32 week period.



Last year we set a goal to be a Sailboat church following the direction that Christ puts in our sails. We continue to hold fast to the idea that we are on an ever-changing journey with our Lord and are committed to follow His lead as best we can through the coming year.

Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church A Report from Session on the Proposed Worship Guidelines

August 2015

Session has been hard at work on many fronts and, even though it is summer and it seems that things have gone into a Sabbath rest, there is still work unfolding (after all, God doesn't take the summer off, why should we?). One of the projects has been the discussion of worship practices here at CAPC and a refinement of our theology of worship.

PERHAPS OUR BOOK OF ORDER STATES IT BEST: In worship, the church is to remember both its liberty in Christ and the biblical command to do all things in an orderly way. While Christian worship need not follow prescribed forms, careless or disorderly worship is both an offense to God and a stumbling block to the people. Those responsible for worship are to be guided by the Holy Spirit speaking in Scripture, the historical experience of the Church universal, the Reformed tradition, The book of Confessions, the needs and particular circumstances of the worshiping community, as well as the provisions of the Form of Government and this directory (W-1.4001)

A set of guidelines was drafted and shared with the congregation both in weekly worship bulletins and our newsletter, and two Coffee and Conversations were offered over the summer to enlist people's feedback.

Following is a report on the questions we received, answers given and next steps forward on this project. If there are questions you have that have not been addressed in the following, please speak with Elder Drude Roessler who is the chair of Worship, Music & Arts (or any member of Session).

WHY NOW?

For the past couple of years the Session has been taking a serious look at many aspects of our congregational life: policies and procedures; finances; ministries and missions. Worship is at the heart of all we do here at CAPC and is an integral part of our life together. There were a number of people who had been raising issues about worship and Session wanted to deal with those questions in a Christ-like, compassionate manner. Would it have been easier to ignore those pleas from people in our community? Perhaps, but it would not be what Christ would call us to do as elders.

ISN'T THIS ALL REALLY ABOUT ADDRESSING THE BEHAVIOR OF ONE PERSON?

No. The Session did engage a pastor/counselor to discuss with the Session some behavior that had been occurring in our worship. When asked if we had a set of guidelines we had to report that we had no such document. That got the conversation started, but the Session wanted to take a broader approach and NOT make this about one person but about defining in general what it means to worship here. The guidelines seek to address several areas but was never seen as attempting to cover all aspects of our worship life.

DOESN'T THIS MAKE US LESS INVITING AS A CONGREGATION?

Actually, no. Guidelines help those not familiar with our worship practices to know how we worship. This allows visitors to forego some of the anxiety of not knowing particular practices, and allows them to focus on what is really important, the worship at hand. It helps people understand and thus feel more a part of our church.

ARE THEY GOING TO APPEAR IN THE BULLETIN EVERY WEEK?

No. We wanted to get the word out to the congregation as best we could and the weekly bulletin is something that most worshippers read. Plans are being made to shift the publication to either a posting in the hallway and narthex, or a laminated copy to rest in the pews (so visitors can easily access them if desired). We are also considering translating them to other languages to make it easier for guests as well.

DOES THIS MEAN WE ARE BECOMING RIGID AND INFLEXIBLE IN OUR WORSHIP?

No. It does mean that the focus of our worship (God) remains the center of what we do. This is one step in an effort to make everyone feel safe and be able to participate in and focus upon worship in its fullness. In addition, we want to emphasize that we welcome children in all their spontaneity and 'just being kids'. Allowing space for families to feel welcomed and safe is an important part of our outreach as well.

ARE WE BEING PUNISHED AS A CONGREGATION?

Absolutely not! Most everyone will read the guidelines and see that this is just the way we behave in worship. This isn't meant to chastise our church family but we live in changing times and many families and individuals do not grow up in churches anymore and don't know what is expected. This helps them.

DO OTHER CHURCHES HAVE GUIDELINES FOR WORSHIP?

Yes, they do. If you 'google' guidelines for worship you will find that other churches have guidelines (ours seems to be much more welcoming). These churches also recognize the need for guidelines to help worshippers feel a part of the community.

DOESN'T THIS CONFLICT WITH WHAT WE PRINT ON OUR BULLETIN COVER EACH WEEK, ABOUT INVITING ALL TO WORSHIP?

Absolutely not. All are invited to worship and encouraged to worship. What this does seek to ensure is that our worship is conducted decently and in order, and in honor of Christ. All peoples are welcomed, it does not mean, however, that anyone is allowed to do whatever they want in worship and thus turn attention to themselves and away from God. (See Book of Order citation above).

HOW DOES SESSION INTEND TO ENFORCE THESE GUIDELINES?

These are not rules. They are not an end in and of themselves, but if there is behavior that occurs that disrupts worship we can draw people's attention to them and remind them how important we consider worship to be. It will allow us to open a channel of communication through which we (hopefully) we may minister to that individual and assist them.

I DON'T FEEL SAFE IN WORSHIP, WILL THIS HELP?

We hope so. Although we can never make guarantees, these guidelines help us take an important step forward in ensuring worship reflects our love of Christ and each other and honors the One we are called to worship.

Do you have questions and/or concerns not addressed above? Please speak with one of our Session members or Pastor Lynn, we would love to hear from you.

Guidelines for Worship at Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church

For God is not a God of disorder but of peace--as in all the congregations of the Lord's people. 1 Corinthians 14:33

Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church welcomes all to join us in worship and grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. This is a community of faith with a rich and long tradition of worship that seeks to celebrate the traditions while being open to God's Spirit to lead us in new directions.

We seek to worship in a way that honors God (decently and in order) and respects the community's style of worship. Our worship services are designed to be reverent and respectful (but we like to celebrate and enjoy God's presence as well!). We like to think of ourselves as traditional, but not stuffy.

So that all can worship without disturbance, the Session has established the following principles:

- 1. The prelude is a time of quiet contemplation. Please enter the sanctuary and greet others quietly then take your seat. Should you need to carry on a conversation with someone, please do so in the church house, the narthex or wait until after the worship service ends.
- 2. Take care to silence all electronic devices you may have brought with you. Should you need to answer a phone call please go to the narthex and speak quietly so as not to disturb others. In no case should a phone be answered in the sanctuary once the prelude has begun.
- 3. Please refrain from taking flash photographs during the worship service. If the service is of particular significant to you or a loved one, such as a baptism, there will be an opportunity for photographs after the service.
- 4. Once the service has begun, remain seated in your pew unless invited to rise by the Pastor or Lector and do not leave your seat unless you are invited as part of the service.
- 5. You may leave quietly to respond to an emergency situation, such as a need to use the bathroom or to respond to an important phone call. If you are in that situation exit the sanctuary quietly using the side aisles if possible.
- 6. Neither the Session nor our worship leaders consider worship a performance. Consequently we ask you to refrain from applause or loud voicing of appreciation during worship as it detracts from the service and disturbs your fellow worshipers. We invite you to express your appreciation directly after the service has concluded where you can share what pieces might have moved you and celebrate the gifts God offers in others.
- 7. During periods of silent prayer or contemplation, especially during Communion, <u>silence</u> <u>should be maintained</u>.
- 8. At the conclusion of the service, you are encouraged to greet one another as you walk to coffee fellowship or exit the building. As you do so, remember that some of your fellow worshipers are still in prayer or listening to the postlude and we ask you to try to moderate your conversations accordingly.

This may seem like a lot of guidelines, but we share these with you to help guide you in your worship which we hold to be a sacred time. We hope you will, too.

Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church presents...

CAPC goes online and out of the box as we take the next 32 weeks to read the Bible...together!

THE STORY is the Bible presented like a novel. Each chapter unveils another key part of the narrative and is a great way to begin to understand God's Story in a new light. Easy. Understandable. Engaging.



Order your book either online through your favorite bookstore or contact the church office to reserve your copy (\$5).

THE STORY begins September 13

What are ways you can participate in this church-wide program?

- 1. Purchase the book and read a chapter each week on your own (check the worship bulletin for weekly 'Story' inserts). OR
- 2. Purchase a book and sign up for our online study (get emails from others that are participating in the event)--Pastor Lynn will be facilitating the group. OR
- 3. Purchase a book and come to our Sunday morning Adult Education program at 9 am.

What is the cost of the book?

The Story can be purchased from the church for only \$5

Do I have to be a church member to sign up?

No. Everyone and anyone is invited to participate. All you need is \$5 and a desire to dig into God's Word.

What if I have more questions?

You may email Pastor Lynn at pastor@crescentonline.org to find out more

UPCOMING EVENTS

MEMORIAL TREES TO BE DEDICATED JOIN IN THE CELEBRATION

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

Every spring in years to come the Watchung Avenue lawn will be ablaze with the colors of blossoms from our trees planted to remember or honor loved ones. Eleven trees will be planted this month to begin a garden which will be a living memorial to the lives and works of our members and friends, both past and present. Each tree with be accompanied by a stone marker.



On September 13 we will celebrate those who in whose honor the trees are planted as well as the beginning of another year of ministry here at Crescent Avenue.

- Sunday school classes, including our journey on "The Story," begin.
- The Chancel choir returns to our worship service.
- After worship and dedication of the trees, there will be a picnic where all who are gathered can enjoy the fellowship of a shared luncheon.

To reserve your place at the luncheon, please make sure to sign up:

- at church on the bulletin inserts or on the sheet in the Church House hallway
- on the website (go to the event on the events calendar page)
- or call the church office before September 9.

Mark your calendars and come to celebrate, remember and begin another year of ministry, mission and fellowship at Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church



SCOUTING SUNDAY

Sept 20th is Scout Sunday! That day we will recognize all current and past scouts. This year, Troop 716 won a trophy at the July 4th parade and our South Plainfield Troop 125 has a member from Plainfield that will become an Eagle Scout by the end of September.

IS PASTOR LYNN GOING TO THE DOGS??

Yes (along with cats and rabbits and all sorts of furry kins!). Join Pastor Lynn and a flood of furried friends on **October 4 from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm** for the *Blessing of the Animals*. Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church 'family' receive a special free gift.

Questions? Please call the church office at 908.756.2468



The Plainfield Symphony



Charles Prince, Music Director

October 3, 2015 at 7 pm Songs from the Earth Mahler: Das Lied von der Erde (The Song of the Earth) Soloists: Baritone: Steven Scheschareg Tenor: Adam Herskowitz Schubert: Symphony No. 8 in B Minor "Unfinished"

> December 12, 2015 at 7 pm Happy New Year from Vienna Strauss: Famous Waltzes, Polkas, Overtures Ravel: La Valse Soloist: YPCNJ Medalist, Selection TBA

February 20, 2016 at 3 pm *"A Musical Duel!"* Free Family Concert Phil Harmonic and his Fabulous Orchestra Soloist: YPCNJ Medalist, Selection TBA

April 2, 2016 at 7 pm Welcome back, Maestro Serebrier Serebrier: Symphony No.1, Tango in Blue, Violin Concerto, and other works Soloist: Elmira Darvarova

May 7, 2016 at 7 pm *Rule Britannia*! Elgar: Pomp & Circumstance March Enigma Variations Introduction and Allegro for Strings Op. 47 Featuring the Madison Quartet

*Program selections are subject to change

Season Tickets now on Sale - Save up to 30% off individual ticket prices! Visit our website at www.plainfieldsymphony.org

> Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church 716 Watchung Avenue Plainfield, NJ 07060 908+561+5140 Follow us on Facebook

Funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, the Department of State, a partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, through a grant administered by the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs

Our 34th Season! Crescent Concerts

at the historic Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, 716 Watchung Avenue in Plainfield, New Jersey



2015-2016 Season

Sunday, October 11, 2015 at 3:00 pm

Solid Brass — A Sonic Spectacular! This fantastic group of local virtuosos will make our venue ring!

Saturday, November 14, 2015 at 7:00 pm

All Dvorak Crescent Choral Society with organist Brenda Day, F. Allen Artz, III, conductor Dvorak Mass in D (Op. 86) and Te Deum (Op. 103)

Sunday, December 13, 2015 at 5:00 pm

Yuletide by Candlelight — There Is No Rose of Such Virtue The Crescent Singers' annual musical gift to the community, free to the public.

Sunday, February 21, 2016 at 3:00 pm

Showcase for Exceptional Young Artists Chosen by competitive audition, these local musicians, ages 18 and under, will amaze you.

Sunday, March 13, 2016 at 3:00 pm

The Thrill of the Chase Our annual Festival of Organists

Saturday, April 9, 2016 at 7:00 pm

All Schubert

Crescent Choral Society with professional orchestra and soloists, F. Allen Artz, III, conductor Schubert Stabat Mater (D. 383), Intende Voci (D. 963), and Magnificat (D. 486)

Sunday, May 22, 2016 3:00 pm

Love Is a Many-Splendored Thing The Crescent Singers sing about love both sacred and secular, F. Allen Artz, III, conductor

- General Admission \$20, Seniors \$15, Students \$5 -



Ample free, secure parking in the Church lot off First Place.

Funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, TARE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

What About You? Any News from the Pews?

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!!



Wendy	Reid	09/03			
Jack	Shuster	09/03	Shereka	Fagan	10/02
Robert	Martin	09/04	Elaine	Willard	10/02
Andre	Mcintyre	09/07	Morgan	Williams	10/06
James	Pivnichny	09/08	Jacque	Archer-Kennedy	10/10
Danyelle	Williams	09/09	Norma	Fagan	10/12
Kristin	Yoshimura	09/11	Bella	Lissinna	10/12
Nick	Stevens	09/16	Joanne	Rigney	10/13
Bryant	Aaron	09/18	Brian	Downing	10/14
Ryan	Williams	09/19	Allan	Yoshimura	10/21
Samuel	Manu	09/25	Joan	Williams	10/22
Elizabeth	Ruff	09/26	Bernice	Swain	10/23
Henry	Ward	09/28	Geraldine	Harvey	10/28
Laura	Villanueva	09/29			
Barb	Martin	09/30			

Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church

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Class of 2017

Jeffrey Downing Leslie Fagan Joan Van Pelt-Pivnichny **Emily Upton**

Clerk of Session: **Buildings & Grounds:** Finance & Stewardship: Membership & Evangelism: Mission & Outreach: Nominating: Nurture & Education:

Class of 2015

Rosslyn Ealum

Janice Haer

Wendy Reid

Drude Crane

Class of 2015

Brandon Baker

Geraldine Harvey

Henry Manu

Deidra McIntyre

Dominique Stevens

Lynn Santulli F. Allen Artz, III

Ronald Maltby

Ruth Mikalonis

Gary Mann

Julie Downing

Stephanie DeGeneste

Personnel & Administration: Worship, Music & Arts:

Moderator & Scheduling

Chancel Maintenance

Vice Moderator

Communion

Session Liaison

Cards

Emily Upton Joan Pivnichny, Nick Stevens Kathy Mann Andre McIntyre, Pat Fleming Roz Ealum, Leslie Fagan Andre McIntyre Janice Haer

Laura Mann

Norma Fagan

Emily Upton

Dominique Stevens

BJ Snyder, Thylene Torres

Laura Mann, Joy Velez,

Katherine West-Aaron

Jeff Downing, Joan Pivnichny, Nick Stevens Drude Crane, Jeff Downing

DEACONS

Class of 2016

Sam Diony Norma Fagan Laura Mann Jov Velez Katherine West-Aaron

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Class of 2017

Jackie Archer-Kennedy Betsy Herman **Noelle Perrine BJ Snvder Thylene Torres**

Sam Diony Laura Mann Betsy Herman, BJ Snyder

Thylene Torres, Katherine West-Aaron (Julie Downing)

Chrystal MacArthur, Deidra McIntyre Gerry Harvey, Liz McNish, Robin Osborne, Dominique Stevens

Janet Ramsey, Ella Sawyer, Henry Ward

Winnie Neal, BJ Snyder, Thylene Torres Robin Osborne, Jack Shuster, Jeanmarie Buck

Julie Downing, Gerry Harvey, Noelle Perrine

Gary Mann, Wendy Reid, Nicholas Stevens, Joy Velez

Pat Baker, Jeanmarie Buck, Stephanie DeGeneste, Betsy Herman,

2015 Leadership

ELDERS Class of 2016

Pat Fleming Kathy Mann Andre McIntyre Nicholas Stevens



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CRESCENT CONNECTIONS



