



# Crescent Connections

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

September 2016  
crescentonline.org  
908-756-2468



## September 2016 Pastoral Letter ...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

*Isaiah 40:28-31 (NIV)*

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.

He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;

but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Grace and peace from our Lord Jesus Christ to all of His saints at CAPC and beyond! As I write this letter to you announcing our plans for the upcoming program year and bringing you up to date on all that is occurring here at CAPC, I am reminded that there no longer seems to be a slow season here at Crescent. This summer has proved that fact as we have introduced a new 9 am summer worship service that focused on the Beatitudes, significant renovation projects continued while other ministries took the time for planning and program development so we would be ready to launch in just a couple of weeks. The building has certainly been busy with special programs from different organizations (yes, even in the midst of record-breaking heat!), and our mission to feed the hungry never missed a beat all summer.

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It is no surprise; therefore, that there is a full line up of programming for this fall which we hope you will take advantage of as we grow as a community of faith. Opportunities to serve, to learn, to grow, to worship, to fellowship and to truly experience a disciplined life. As you read through these pages, I hope you will reflect on where and how God is calling you to be a part of this amazing community. Do you feel a tug of your heart to serve the hungry? Do you want to use your talents to help renovate this amazing edifice and continue its journey to complete restoration? Do you want to dig into your faith and join the book club to deepen your understanding and listen to others reflect on their findings? Do you want to be a part of the continued tradition of amazing music that still swells to fill the farthest reaches of this building and make hearts soar? The list goes on and on!

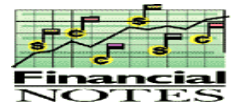
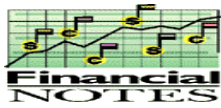
Here at CAPC we have much to celebrate, much more to do, and interesting and talented people with which to do it all. We worship an amazing God that continues to move in our midst and call us to do incredible things in His name. We are a church on the move, reflecting the rich diversity of God's creation, offering the very best we have, building on the traditions in order to reach for the stars and shine Christ's light to a hurting and dark world. We hope you will want to join us on the journey and participate in any way you can or feel called to do.

Now is the time to be involved. Now is the time to step forward in faith and rise up as children of God, charged with a purpose and a wonderful calling to share the gospel to the ends of the earth, and hear it once again for yourself as well. God is doing a new thing, and it will be a wonder to behold!

In Christ,

*Pastor Lynn*





### **Kathy Mann**

The good news continues on the financial front. The generosity of time, talents and treasures is clearly evident from all that has gone on at CAPC this year. We have achieved favorable results with our actual financial performance compared to budget. Expenses are being tightly monitored and revenues are good. No money has been taken from the Endowment Fund this year.

Because of the funds set aside for building maintenance we have moved forward with the replacement of the exterior stage door, repairs of the chapel finial and interior plaster in both the kindergarten room and the office where water had caused significant damage. These repairs were necessary to ensure further water damage did not occur.

The Germinder family (Germinder Landscaping) continues to donate the landscaping services to help keep our beautiful grounds looking so nice. Continued thanks go out to them.

Take the summer off? That would be a NO to Henry Ward who has been so generous in donating his time and talents with everything floor related. The rugs have been whisked away for cleaning and the floors will be cleaned before their return. The back stairs going up will be cleaned this summer but the biggest challenge was the Chapel floor. Once we learned that St. Stephen's would not continue in the Chapel, it was time to go to work and Henry jumped right in. Even though the floor almost beat his professional equipment, he prevailed and the Chapel has a whole new atmosphere of clean.

There is a whole team of "angels" who have taken up the challenge of refurbishing the Chapel and another generous monetary gift will allow us to move forward with the reupholstering of the chairs. Leslie Fagan has been scrubbing the original baptismal font, Emily Upton is planning on cleaning the woodwork and Joan Pivnichny has taken the curtains down to be dry cleaned and rehung.

The kitchen renovation project is moving ahead. Pat Fleming took on the task of grant writer and submitted a request to the Plainfield Foundation to assist us with this project. She continues to answer questions that they are coming back with so we are hopeful that this funding will be granted. Thank you Pat for your perseverance and hard work to get this done! Once we determine what the final project costs are, we will press forward in our efforts to raise funds for this project that is so vital to meeting our church goals. And just think of the beautiful kitchen that our "Merry Band of Christians" will get to work in as they make our Soup Kitchen a reality each week!

All of these things happen because we make them happen (or rather God makes them happen through us!) Please continue to support CAPC with your gifts of time, talents and treasures. We are doing such important work and it is wonderful to partner with people who share a passion for seeing CAPC move into the future. Let's never get complacent or grow weary or believe that someone else will do it. Together we can do anything!

## ***Building & Grounds Highlights***

### **\*\* KITCHEN PROJECT \*\***

The final design for the Kitchen construction project has been completed by the CAPC team. The next step is meeting with the Architect to finalize floor plans. We are hoping to start working on the kitchen before the end of 2016.

CAPC Kitchen Committee--- Valarie Fisher, Pat Fleming, Kathy Mann, Janet Ramsey, Wendy Reid, Lynn Santulli & Nicholas Stevens

### **\*\* STAGE DOOR \*\***



A new stage door was installed in July by Tom Rowe at a cost of \$1900.



### **\*\* CHAPEL \*\***



This spring, St. Stephens made the difficult, but necessary decision to close its doors. We were sad to see them go, but we set about the task of cleaning out the space (see the article by Meg Keyes for more information). Henry Ward power-washed the floor. Emily Upton and Leslie Fagan cleaned, and Joan Pivnichny organized the cleaning of the curtains. The space is fresh and clean and readied for use.

What a lovely venue for a small wedding, a church retreat or a gathering that warrants a beautiful space. Work on the piano (tuning) and organ repair are needed as well.

**Nick Stevens**

## ***Building & Grounds Highlights***

The church of St. Stephens, which has occupied the small chapel in the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church complex, recently has become extinct. The artifacts, vestments, altar linens and sacred vessels that belonged to the community were left behind for Father Anthony Ferraro, their pastor, to dispose of. Pastor Lynn alerted me to this challenge for Father Anthony and would I know anyone or any religious community that would be interested in these objects.

Having reviewed the space and the objects available with Father Anthony I was able to put out inquiries to various religious communities and churches to see what would fit their needs. Father Anthony's concern was that all these items were purchased or donated to their community. The objects were not his to SELL but rather they would be his to GIVE AWAY for the continued Glory of God!

Recipients of the object and contents from St. Stephens Anglican Church are:

- \* Sisters of Mercy ( Mid –Atlantic division)
- \* Mount St. Mary's- Watchung
- \* St Joseph Catholic Church- North Plainfield
- \* St. Charles Borromeo- Skillman
- \* St Thomas the Apostle- Old Bridge
- \* Nativity of Our Lord- Monroe Township
- \* St Joseph Church- Washington



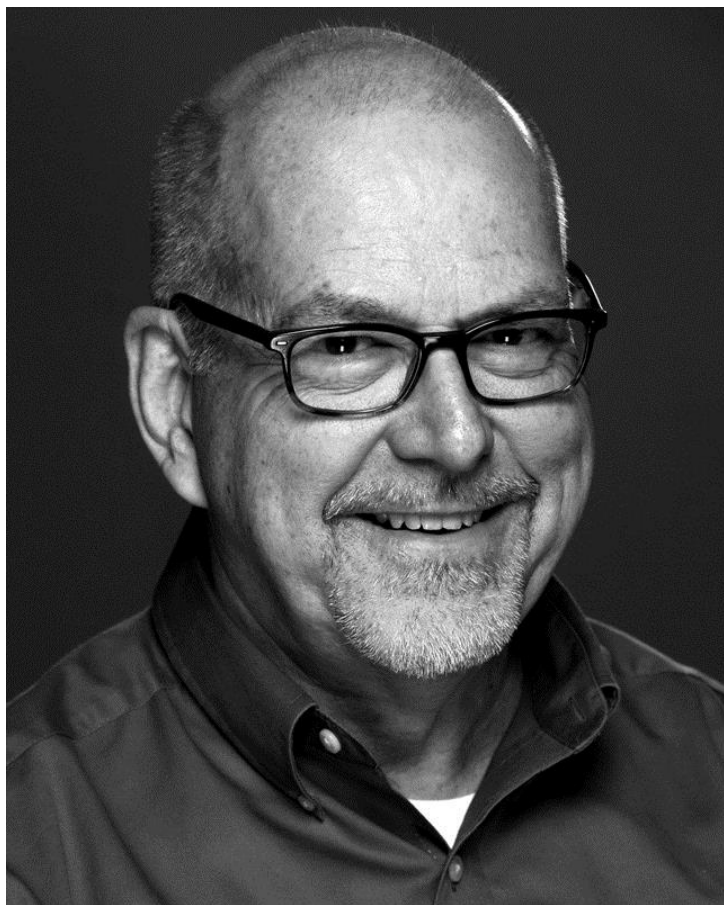
As of today, July 27<sup>th</sup> 2016, most of the contents not belonging to Crescent have been removed and delivered to their new homes. It was suggested that remaining missiles, sacramentary or prayer books be delivered to Plainfield Library Archive division. Father Anthony will be attending to this. The remaining objects will be in storage for several months with continued efforts to find the correct church or chapel for their placement.

Thank you for the opportunity to assist with the relocation of some truly lovely objects that are either no longer made or too expensive to purchase for most houses of worship today.

Submitted by: **Meg Poltorak**  
Liturgical Designer



**WELCOME, CLIFF PARRISH**



Clifford Parrish assumes the role of Director of Music and Organist for CAPC as well as Artistic Director of Crescent Concerts September 1. When asked how we were able to woo him out of retirement Cliff told us “I was drawn to Crescent Avenue because of its rich tradition of great music, with a well-trained choir. The beautiful pipe organ is also a big plus, and I love the building. After looking at the website, I was glad to see the many outreach programs.” He continued, “I love that the building is used for so much music already, and would be looking for new ways and other groups to come and perform or join us to perform. Besides the wonderful Sanctuary with its great acoustics, there are a number of other spaces that would be great for all different kinds of musical programs.”

Cliff began his work as a church musician at age 13, playing the organ, and gradually assuming choir leadership. In an over fifty year career, he has served Baptist, Methodist, United Church of Christ, Episcopal and Presbyterian congregations, most recently as Interim Music Director for the Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township and assistant organist at Calvary Episcopal Church in Summit. His vision for worship at CAPC is to continue the wonderful work that has gone on, and to bring some new music to the church. Cliff notes “I am a very eclectic musician, with a love for traditional Western European music, but also music that is intrinsically American, including Southern Harmony type hymns and Spirituals.”

For Crescent Concerts, he sees room to add some repertoire, and, perhaps expand partnerships with schools or other choruses to extend the reach of the group and build the audience. Cliff brings with him a long history of church and oratorio experience, and a strong passion for enabling choirs to lift the music off of the page.

## ***Personnel & Administration***

As a music educator, he has taught at all levels, including at Bernards High School and Villa Walsh Academy as well as Fairleigh Dickinson and Rutgers-Newark Universities. Also active in high school, college and community theater, he has received the NJ Association of Community Theater awards for direction and for music direction twice. Shows at Villa Walsh Academy won several Rising Star nominations and awards during his tenure there. As founding artistic director, he conducted Pro Nobis Chamber Singers for 25 years, leading all styles of choral music from Medieval through commissions. The group was the resident chorus for Lyrica Chamber Music in Chatham for a number of seasons, and were also guest artists of the NJ Symphony at Waterloo.

Cliff holds a degree in Music Education from Jacksonville University in his native Florida, and a Master of Music degree in Conducting from Westminster Choir College. He resides in Bernardsville.

Cliff's first Sunday leading the music at worship will be September 4. After the service he'll be joining the congregation for a "Coffee and Conversation" in the Guild Room. Make certain that you are there to meet and warmly welcome Cliff to our church family.



## ***Membership & Evangelism***



**Jonathan Stevens** graduated from Union County Teams Charter High School in June 2016 with a 3.45 GPA. He was also a member of the National Honors Society and a member of Student Council. Jonathan played the point guard position for the Varsity Plainfield High School basketball team beginning in grade 9 and was selected as a co-captain of the team during his senior year.

Jonathan was inducted into the Plainfield NAACP in the 8th grade. He was recommended for induction by his math teacher because of this excellent work in the classroom. In the 11th grade Crystal McArthur of the Metuchen NAACP gave him the opportunity to interview successful African Americans from areas of business and other walks of life. This experience was significant because he learned a lot about the civil rights movements of the 1960's and different career paths. In addition, this experience sparked his interest to major in business and communication in college.

Jonathan has been accepted to five colleges. His hopes are to attend his first choice which is a small Christian college in NYC - The King's College in the fall on 2016 where he will major in business. Jonathan's second choice would be Kean University in Union, NJ where he would also major in business.

Jonathan Stevens and his parents have been members of Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church since 2003. CAPC and members has been instrumental in helping Jonathan learn to play the piano, become a volunteer to feeding the homeless, visiting the elderly, improving his oratory skills by speaking in front of the congregation and making God a foundation in his life.



### **Catherine Badalamenti**

Since moving to South Carolina four years ago, Catherine has finally become acclimated to the "y'alls", "ma'ams" and the slow southern living. She recently graduated from Furman University with a Bachelor of Science in Health Science. While at Furman she loved being in the sorority Alpha Delta Pi and was in club swimming. She also volunteered at the Ronald McDonald house and worked two summers as a counselor for Furman Summer Scholars. Since graduating she has been enjoying time with family and friends, hoping to road trip to some national parks in the near future.





## ***Membership & Evangelism***



### **Gabriella Trepper PT, DPT**

Doctor of Physical Therapy

Dr. Trepper graduated from Misericordia University with a Bachelor Degree in English and a Doctorate in Physical Therapy. She was a SPT (student physical therapist) at Kessler before officially joining the Kessler team as staff therapist in March 2016.

Dr. Trepper was a member of the international English honor society Sigma Tau Delta and the physical therapy club during her time at Misericordia University. She co-authored a research paper entitled "The Influence of Yoga on Chronic Low Back Pain: a Review of Literature" that was presented at the 2016 Physical Therapy Combined

Sections Meeting in Anaheim, CA. She has an interest in sports therapy and hopes to one day work with professional athletes.

Dr. Trepper is a former softball player and an avid Yankees fan. She also enjoys going to concerts and spending time down the shore. Gabriella Trepper is the daughter of long time Crescent member Deacon Norma Trepper.



**MISERICORDIA  
UNIVERSITY**

### **Brian Downing**

Brian graduated from Dickinson College with a degree in Economics in May. He worked as an EMT throughout college in a nearby township, also working as a dispatcher for the Dickinson Police Dept.

This Fall he is entering the Johns Hopkins Accelerated Masters of Nursing Program; a 4 year degree in a discipline other than nursing is required for admission. The program is 20 months long and completion of his MSN will be in May 2018. He currently works as an EMT with the Township of Neptune and continues to volunteer on the rescue squads of Ocean Grove, Scotch Plains and Fanwood.





## ***Membership & Evangelism***

### **Allen Artz farewell luncheon**

June 12<sup>th</sup> was the Sunday we had a farewell luncheon for Allen Artz, who is retiring from Crescent Ave as our music director. The luncheon was well attended and the choir took the opportunity to sing with Allan and George. BJ Snyder presented Allan with a replica of one of our stained glass windows featuring an organist. Allan and George will be retiring to Pennsylvania at the end of August. We wish them well!



## ***Membership & Evangelism***

### **News About Town**

On Monday afternoon, P.O. Casey Crawford responded to a call of an unresponsive female in Ocean Grove. Upon arrival, CPR was in progress by **Brian and Jeffery Downing** of the OG First Aid Squad, OG Lifeguard Patrick Moses and Karen Adams of the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association.



Shortly after, Neptune Township EMSPSO's William Rosen, Jennifer Liddick and Matthew Coleman arrived and administered several shocks from an AED. Thanks to the lifesaving efforts by the determined first responders, the victim, Mrs. Christine Johns, regained a pulse upon arrival at the hospital.

While Mrs. Johns was recovering, contact was made with her family who indicated that they would be driving through the night from their home in Virginia to visit her in the hospital. P.O. Crawford kept in contact with Mr. Johns during their trip up, during which Mr. Johns requested to meet all of the first responders involved with the call to thank them personally. The Johns family met some of Neptune's finest first responders at JSUMC, alongside the quickly recovering Mrs. Johns.

We would like to thank the Johns family for inviting us to be a part of their family for the day. We are proud to serve this great, diverse community and all those who live, work, and visit the township of Neptune.

### ***Highlights of August Session Meeting***

- July results remain strong with offerings up. Expenses for maintenance drew down on our resources a bit, but each project draws us closer to completing the renovation of the church house.
- A significant grant was applied for and we hope you will keep in your prayers our hope that it 'comes through.' This grant will provided much-needed assistance in the renovation of the kitchen. More to follow.
- Now it is even easier to give! Session has approved the implementation of a 'Donate Now' button on our website which will facilitate online giving. Anyone interested in contributing to the various ministries and missions of CAPC can do so easily and direct their donations as they would like.
- CEN has done a stellar job of preparing for the fall and has developed a confirmation program which promises to be a model for other churches to use, selected the curriculum for the congregation-wide program, 'Believe' and more. Sunday School teachers will be commissioned on September 18.
- September 11 Rev. Cheryl Galan, Transitional Leader of the Elizabeth Presbytery, will be preaching.



## **HATS FOR THE HOLIDAYS**



Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could give each guest at our Soup Kitchen Christmas party a winter hat hand crafted for them? Inspired by the knitting column in the Courier News, Joan Pivnichny asked Mission Chair Pat Fleming this question last January. Pat readily agreed and the Holiday Hats project was born.

With a goal of amassing at least 150 hand-knit or crocheted hats by mid-December, Joan picked up her needles and cast on. She brought her knitting on a visit to her cousin

in Maryland in February. Lynne Edel agreed that it looked like fun (each at takes less than 10 hours to complete) and was a great project to take on the road since it's small and easily fits on your lap. Joan's been using the pattern supplied by the Courier but Lynne branched out and found others – equally easy – to knit or crochet. To date the cousins have a pile of 40 hats ready for Christmas. A few others have signed on and picked up needles, but as fall nears more help is needed if we are going to reach the goal.

If you are crafty, or know someone who is, Joan can supply you with hat patterns and even a skein of yarn. Look for the poster in the hallway which will chart our progress to the 150 hats we need to have by December. Let's celebrate Christmas knowing that each of our Soup Kitchen Guests has a warm hat to wear this winter.



## **SOUP KITCHEN**



A Grant Application has been filed with the Plainfield Foundation seeking the costs of sinks and appliances required for compliance with health codes. Because the soup kitchen is being used for service of food to the public, i.e. our guests, we are required to comply with health codes that did not apply when the kitchen was being used for in-house functions. We are required to have separate sinks for hand washing, washing of produce and pots and pans. Refrigerated items such as cheese, meats, and produce are required to be stored separately and our current refrigerator is old and does not allow us to comply with this requirement.



## Mission & Outreach

The Application was filed online on August 1, 2016 and asks for \$20,000, the costs of a three section refrigerator, the required sinks and related faucets and hardware, an icemaker and a commercial dishwasher, as well as labor to install the items. Some additional information was requested following the initial filing and that was submitted on August 8<sup>th</sup>. The Board of the Plainfield Foundation meets on September 1 and will review our Application at that time. Prayers are requested from all for a favorable response to our Application.



## LOVING CARE HOMES

Loving Care Homes (LCH) is a supervised, independent living program for young ladies 18-21 years old who have aged out of foster care. It is located on Park Avenue in Plainfield. The Mission Committee had received a brochure and “wish list” from LCH and invitation to visit so when someone donated about 12 bottles of hair conditioner, shampoo was purchased and a visit was scheduled. Pat Fleming and BJ Snyder took the donated items after church one Sunday, along with a CAPC Bulletin from that day’s service, and were greeted by the house mother and given a tour of the LCH. It is a lovely, recently renovated single family home where the girls have computers for doing homework (one had recently graduated from Plainfield High School), job searches, etc. The program is designed to ease the transition from foster care to independent living. During the time the girls are there the residents are provided with counseling on budgeting/saving, opening a bank account, work ethics and responsibility, etc. so that when they age out of LCH they are prepared to live on their own.



A follow up visit was made by Pat Fleming to deliver some pillows that had been donated to CAPC along with a can opener donated by BJ, which was an item they mentioned they desperately needed during our first visit. Pat was able to meet with the Director during this second visit and given additional brochures and information about LCH. The Mission Committee plans to pursue a more formal relationship with LCH as it is a worthwhile and local mission project.



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

**OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE**

## Gulf Flooding 2016



Coast Guardsmen rescue stranded residents from high water during severe flooding around Baton Rouge, LA on Aug. 14, 2016. — Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Brandon Giles

### Situation

Starting August 11, 2016, regions in Louisiana and Mississippi experienced 10-20 inches of rain. FEMA reports that there were 6 fatalities, over 8,000 people in shelters and over 10,000 residential and commercial structures affected.

### PDA Response

PDA has reached out to the Presbytery of South Louisiana and the Presbytery of Mississippi to offer assistance. Three National Response Team members will deploy to the Presbytery of South Louisiana on August 20th. An initial grant and a church damage grant has been sent to the Presbytery of South Louisiana.

Partnered with PDA, the group Washington Emergency Recovery Ongoing Cadre (W.E.R.O.C.) focuses on the needs of residents within Washington Parish. The weekend floods have nearly exhausted the organization's resources. The group has spent the past three months helping get people back into their homes from March flooding.

"Now we're back to square one. We spent all of the funding we had to take care of the needs from the last flood including replacement of furniture and appliances," said Joe Kelley, CEO of W.E.R.O.C. "We're trying to find funds to get these folks back to their homes again."

Kelley says the biggest problem will be the emotional and spiritual counseling needed for those who are now going through this a second time in as many months.

# West Virginia Floods

## Situation

On Thursday, June 23rd heavy rainfall began to accumulate in West Virginia. By the following morning, 44 out of 55 counties in the state were declared a State of Emergency. More than 100 homes and 18 people have died in the storm, according to a report from FEMA on June 24th. More rain is anticipated.



First responders in Kanawha County after flooding in West Virginia

— West Virginia Department of Transportation

## PDA Response

PDA reached out to the Presbytery of West Virginia Friday morning, June 24th. By that afternoon, PDA issued an immediate deployment of two National Response Teams. These teams, consisting of 3 NRT members each for a total of 6, will be deployed in West Virginia around June 25th-July 3rd. The NRT teams will provide a ministry of presence to the presbytery and congregations, and assist with assessments.

**You can join in the response and encourage those in need by standing in the "GAP"-Give.**

**Act. Pray..**

### Give

Financial support for relief efforts can be designated to DR000191 to help address the needs of those impacted by the flooding. Gifts can be made [online](#), by phone at 800-872-3283 weekdays between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. (EST), or by check; mail to:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

P.O. Box 643700 Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

### Act

- Volunteer to help with cleanup and rebuilding; contact the PDA National Call Center at 866-732-6121 or email [pda.callcenter@pcusa.org](mailto:pda.callcenter@pcusa.org).
- Learn how your congregation can help families who have lost everything in the devastation. Stay informed and [like](#) us on Facebook, [download resources](#), and share updates with your congregation.

### Pray

Pray for families impacted by flooding through loss of property and livelihood; for first responders and all others who put themselves in harm's way to care for those impacted; that communities will work together and build stronger relationships and connections; for God's sustaining grace through it all. For more information, visit [www.presbyterianmission.org/pda](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/pda).

Presbyterian Mission Agency, an agency of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) 100  
Witherspoon Street  
Louisville, KY 40202  
800-728-7228 / 502-569-5000



## **THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2016**

**Stephanie DeGeneste**

How many days a year do you lead? As a parent it's 365 days, and every four years 366 days. As a business leader your count may be closer to 240 days and as church leader, other than paid staff, perhaps half that amount of days. At the end of any given day, whether you're a parent, pastor, educator, or marketplace leader, a great deal of time is spent leading people from here to there, not the easiest task. For more than 20 years the Willow Creek Association, based in Illinois, has offered a two-day, high impact conference designed to serve leaders world-wide who are committed to pursuing their God-inspired grander visions.

Independent research shows that 83% of leaders who attended the Global Leadership Summit in consecutive years' experience improved teamwork, increased job satisfaction and productivity. It should be easy to see why Pastor Lynn, Pat Baker, Janice Haer and Stephanie DeGeneste were so eager to attend this year's Summit on August 11th and 12th at First Baptist Church of Metuchen, joining leaders from 125 countries and more than 675 cities.



The two day Summit is a resource to be leveraged for community transformation as attendees are exposed to presenters deemed to be world class leaders in their fields. Among the 13 person 2016 faculty were: Bill Hybels, senior pastor of the 40,000 member Willow Creek Community Church, Bishop T.D. Jakes named "America's Best Preacher" by TIME Magazine, Melinda Gates the Co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and a #1 New York Times bestselling author, coach and speaker John C. Maxwell. Over the course of the two days, attendees were challenged and motivated by way of 8 different sessions that featured either a presentation or one-on-one interview presenting the many facets of what leadership entails. For example, keynote speaker Bill Hybels defined a leader not as one that leads by being out front, but rather alongside others. From this it is understood that leadership is relational whether it be with family, friends, in the workplace, or the church (both on a local or worldwide scale). Bill emphasized it is most important for leaders to have passion. The other speakers outlined many different sets of skills and strategies to help leaders get people from here to there. The ideas around specific skills, strategies and spiritual practices not only enhanced our personal relationship with God, but provided a better understanding of how what we learned can be applied to our lives and the life of our church.

The 2016 Global Leadership Summit highlighted leaders in worldwide communities who were positively impacting the lives of people, whether they are earthquake victims in Nepal or refugees in Iraq. Summit attendees are encouraged to cause a ripple effect



## Christian Education & Nurture

of hope and transformation globally, by inspiring, investing and training other church leaders to help children and families. Not only are you highly encouraged to speak to Pastor Lynn, who by the way was attending her 5th Summit, Janice, Pat or Stephanie if you think you'd like to attend the transformational and inspirational Global Leadership Summit, but we all encourage you to reserve August 10-11, 2017, the dates of next year's conference. No matter how many days a year you lead, a mere investment of two days at the Global Leadership Summit will yield incalculable dividends in your life and have a profound ripple effect in the lives of countless other people.



Join CAPC as together we embark on a new series, 'Believe.' *Believe* is a spiritual growth experience that helps Christians of all ages think, act, and be more like Jesus.

- † 10 Key Beliefs of the Christian Faith
- † 10 Key Practices of a Jesus-follower
- † 10 Key Virtues of a Person Who is Becoming More Like Jesus



Adult Education and Sunday School classes begin Sunday September 25! Contact Pastor Lynn to find out more.



### **johnsonburg** Camp and Retreat Center

On Sunday July 31<sup>st</sup>, three of CAPC's youth entered Camp Johnsonburg in the foothills of northwest New Jersey for a week long period of fellowship and fun.

Xavier, Wendy and McCrae were anxious to begin the week's activities after the song filled opening ceremony that welcomed the kids and their parents.



## **GREAT THINGS ON THE HORIZON**

**Stephanie DeGeneste**

*"To accomplish great things, you must not only act, but also dream;  
not only plan, but also believe."*

~Anatole France

The quote by French philosopher Anatole France resonates with CEN as committee members are praying, making plans, doing research, and obtaining needed resources to ensure that great things mark our 2016-2017 program year.

### **CONFIRMATION**



Excitement is building as finishing touches are being incorporated into an enhanced Confirmation program, which has as its mission to help confirmands become lifelong learners of the Word and lovers of God. Preparation for Confirmation will include an 8 week study of the PCUSA Catechism, as well as time spent studying Church history, including Crescent's unique and rich history, exploring the Church's Constitution, and participating in service projects that are both CAPC related and community oriented. There are a number of factors built into the program that will allow confirmands to delve into personal areas of interest, to tap into their unique talents and abilities, and to enhance their relationships with members of our faith community. The official kick off of the Confirmation program is a dinner for the confirmands, their parents and mentors on September 15th in the Guild Room.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Mark September 18th on your calendar as the date Sunday School classes for all ages will launch into the study of this year's 30-week curriculum, *Believe*. Randy Frazee, General Editor for *Believe*, and his team of writers are the same authors who developed *The Story*. The goal of the *Believe* curriculum is to help participants live the story of the Bible to become more like Jesus. *Believe* is designed to be a whole-church discipleship experience as the lessons are geared to help Christians answer three significant questions:

- What do I believe?
- What should I do?
- Who am I becoming?



## Christian Education & Nurture

### FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT



Hopefully your calendar is still close at hand so you can mark October 1st, 5-8 pm, as the date and time of CEN's next Family Movie Night. With the resounding success of *War Room*, CEN is eager to offer another viewing experience for our church members and friends that affords everyone a chance to have fellowship in a safe space as we watch a thought provoking movie and take some time to discuss how that movie spoke to our hearts.

There are many other plans in place that CEN is sure God will help us bring to fruition. We believe the dreams we have for great things to occur will be manifest during 2016-2017 because with God all things are possible.



### Nominating Committee



I know that many of you, (maybe most) are already "elected out". Nevertheless, in Crescent Avenue, your choice in church leadership is vital. It's time to start thinking about who to elect as officers of our church for next year. If you know of someone that you believe possesses the gifts of faith and leadership (including yourself) and might be called to be an Elder or Deacon in the coming year, please make it a point to speak to me. All input will be more than welcome.

We may not be able to pull off a full-fledged convention, but the Nominating Committee might be able to manage some cider and cookies, as we consider your suggestions!

Elder, **Glen Crane**,  
Chair of the Nominating Committee

## ***Worship, Music & Arts***

Janna Peterson

We have many exciting opportunities to worship and praise God, grow our faith, and join together in fellowship this upcoming program year! So, get out your calendars, and hold onto your hats... here are some of the details for upcoming months:

- Sept. 4 - Cliff Parrish, our new Music Director, marks his first Sunday at CAPC. A special coffee hour with Coffee/Conversation follows, where we can gather to welcome Cliff!
- Sept. 11 - Cheryl Galan is preaching, and special music is being planned to memorialize 9/11.
- Sept. 18 - Kick Off Sunday.  
The Chancel Choir returns, Sunday School teachers will be commissioned.  
A luncheon in the Assembly Hall will follow service.
- Sept. 25 - Crescent Concerts presents **Solid Brass**

### **October is Stewardship month.**

- Oct. 2 - World Communion Sunday
- Oct. 9 - Blessing of the Animals during the 10:30 AM Worship service  
- Crescent Concerts presents **Mallets & Hammers**
- Oct. 23 - Homecoming Sunday with bagpiper Mike Ahnell.  
Wear plaid and celebrate the Scottish roots of our Presbyterian heritage.  
A luncheon will follow in the Assembly Hall.
- Oct. 30 - Commitment Sunday

### **November**

We have much to be thankful for. On November 6 we will celebrate "Operation Gratitude". This year we will again publish our own Advent Devotional. Publish date is Nov. 20 (**articles must be in the office by November 1**). Whether you write a devotional, or simply commit to daily reading of your fellow congregants' devotions, this is an amazing way to better connect with one another as we reflect on the birth of our Savior.

### **December**

December will bring a Live Nativity and Petting Zoo to our front lawn. Our annual Yuletide Concert is on Dec. 11. Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year, and a special Worship service is being planned.



***Together We Are One - Leadership Summit  
Willowwood, Chester, NJ  
Saturday, July 16, 2016***



## **Highlights of the Leadership Summit**



The summer leadership retreat is a time for officers to step back from church life and take a broader view of what we are charged to do, enjoy some fellowship time, and provide context for setting goals and objectives for the upcoming program year. This year we experienced a few firsts—first time the deacons were invited to the retreat, first time a staff member other than the pastor was invited to attend, and first time we were at Willowwood. All of the ‘firsts’ were well received, even if it was during a heat wave and the venue got heated by the afternoon.

The team spent a good part of the day assessing the health of the church as it currently stands and setting goals, opening and closing the day with worship.

The teams even produced a commercial for CAPC which was loaded onto Facebook for people to enjoy (and be invited to be a part of this great community!). There was even a rap song written which has been included in this newsletter!



Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church has undergone a significant amount of change and transition in the past five years. Not looking for quick fixes, but rather building infrastructures that will ensure sustainability for the future, it was determined that goals may take more than a year to achieve, but the work continues. Progress has been made on several fronts, but communication lags and sometimes lacks the clarity needed to ensure that people have the right information (which is actually good news). This communication gap especially occurs in communities such as ours that embody the diversity of God's kingdom through all of our members, people coming from different nations, different backgrounds, different ethnicities and cultures, but desiring to come together as the body of Christ in a unique way.

We continue to adjust our church culture to more closely align with Christ's call. As one person quipped, ‘God first, we follow.’ Hearing phrases such as ‘we are at a crossroads’

***Together We Are One - Leadership Summit  
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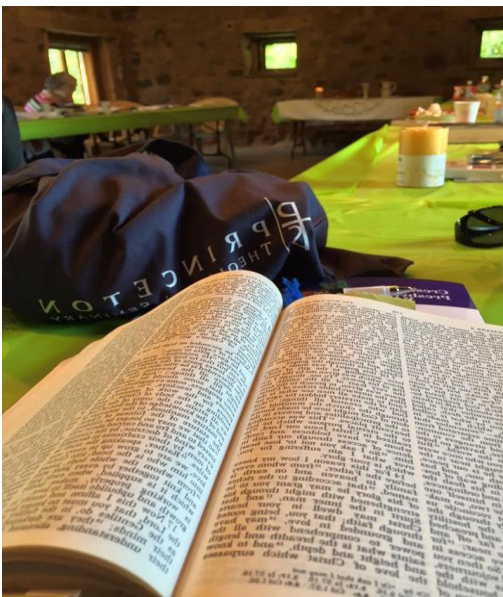


seems to capture our struggle to envision a future for CAPC that honors the traditions we love but frees us to embrace the call Christ has for our future. But again, progress is being made (please see Pastor Lynn's letter on some thoughts as to what is to come).

Fellowship amongst our church family is welcomed and the desire of the officers was that it would deepen and we would ensure opportunities to do even more this upcoming year. In addition, the desire was to develop better lines of communications and work on our communication skills with each other. Those are longer-term objectives that will take conscious work on all our parts. There were some shorter-term objectives we hope to be met this upcoming year:

- Add ten new members and involve them in ministry right away
- Complete the kitchen (concluding with a joyful celebration)
- Continue to improve Congregational Care (better communications, explore new programs)
- Revisioning assimilate/integrate and educate our youth

CAPC is on a great trajectory as we continue to work to follow Christ's call. We will build upon the good work Christ has done in our midst in the past (building renovations will continue, food ministry and missions will be expanded, and changes in staffing will bring new energy and vision to our music program). We know our success is guaranteed if what we seek is to follow Christ where He leads us to love.



### **Retreaters' Rap**

Crescent Ave. is the place to be  
If you are looking for diversity.  
We show God's love in many ways,  
Not only just on Sundays.  
Our Church Family in the Narthex Hall,  
Ready to welcome one and all.  
Why don't you come and be a part?  
Pastor Lynn's message will touch your heart.  
After service come for coffee or tea  
And meet God's helpers personally.  
After you have had your snack,  
With all this fellowship, please come back!



## *Thoughts from the Mountains...*



As I write this I have just returned from a few days up in the Adirondack Mountains, Lake Placid to be specific, complete with scenic tours, mountain lake vistas, a visit to John Brown's grave, and some time just reading. This last was my favorite part. This trip was meant specifically to be a retreat, a time away not just to vacation and relax (although we all need to do a little of that!), but to read some material I had been wanting to explore and reflect on where we are as a church in this season of CAPC's ministry and mission.

What mountain are we called to climb and in what rivers will we find refreshment for our souls? Armed with the materials from our recent officer's retreat and echoes of the Global Leadership Summit still ringing in my ears, many things came into focus like they had not before. Important things for this church, for each of us and for this community.

The Church, capital 'C,' is struggling mightily. Attendance numbers are declining and many churches are making the difficult decision to close. Articles flash across my screen about the dire need to impress upon millennials that they truly do need God otherwise the Church (and they) will be in trouble. But it isn't only the millennials that aren't understanding why God is important (and might even be asking whose God, anyway?), it is much of our world. And yet, even in the midst of this reality, we still gather and worship, our doors remain wide open, and we continue to see God at work in our ministries and missions. Perhaps it is time for the Church to rethink its self understanding and role in God's Kingdom building. Perhaps it is time to shake out the skirts of her teaching and discover that the Holy Spirit is calling us to community and to church in a fresh way. The old wasn't bad, it just isn't meant for this time and for the time to come.

One of the issues that has been the topic of our goal setting during our officer's retreat has been one of adding to our numbers. church growth is seen as critical, and yet for all of the things we are doing, no significant growth has occurred. This has perplexed me some and I began looking for answers, but didn't find any that I thought truly captured why that is, until now. Over the past several months I have been reading about developing and growing multi-ethnic churches. The basic advice from church growth experts has been, 'don't even try it.' Statistics have shown that church growth occurs in churches that are monochromatic far faster than in churches that are racially and ethnically diverse. In addition, as we are an open and affirming congregation and you have called a woman pastor, you can just imagine where we might fall in the statistics. But that dynamic is changing in churches. There has been an increase in the number of churches that are choosing to be multi-ethnic and have demonstrated that growth is not only possible, but just may be the first sprigs of hope for future church.





## *Thoughts from the Mountains...*



I encountered a quote that said, 'If the kingdom of heaven is not segregated, why on earth is the church?' Or, as TD Jakes said in a talk at the GLS, why do we act like a tribe when we worship a God that is global? Perhaps this is part of difficulty churches are facing today. We in America are built upon the idea of freedom for all people's and that nations will come together here, on this soil, more reflective of God's love of all peoples than perhaps anywhere else on earth. How can we, who live in a diverse community, not reflect that Kingdom truth? God calls us to love and serve Him as a people united by faith, not by skin color or balance sheet. And as we come together as such a community we will be incredibly blessed because God will be here, in our midst, moving to draw us together as His people.

One of the books I read this past week was the history of this church. Innovation and forward thinking has been part of this church's DNA from the very beginning. Perhaps that has been one of its greatest treasures. CAPC is not bound by what has been but is enriched by the past to be prepared to meet the future head on. Dr. Moment referred to this church as the beacon of light and hope, and our message of hope, love, inclusion and faith is a light that shines through everything that we do or will seek to do here in this wonderful edifice. We can do nothing else, the seeds of courage were planted early on and continue to bear fruit.

We will grow as a community of faith as we clarify and build on this vision of Christ's call upon this church to be a sanctuary for all peoples who are united by their love of Christ and dedication to serve, and their willingness to see Christ in each other. We will grow as we break down walls that divide us because we do not understand each other's culture enough to communicate really effectively. We will get better at that as we intentionally learn that God's love is not bound by a particular culture, no one person has all the answers, and that we can all learn more about each other and discover God's depth of love for His people in the diversity of His creation.

This season, as we once again turn towards the fall and another program year here at CAPC, I do so with an open heart and assurance that God is calling THIS church in THIS time to an amazing journey of discovery and once again setting the bar higher for understanding what church, Christ's church truly is in this world. We are not afraid, but take courage from the great cloud of witnesses that have gone before us that whisper in our hearts, 'It can be done if it is God's will. And just wait to see what He can do!'

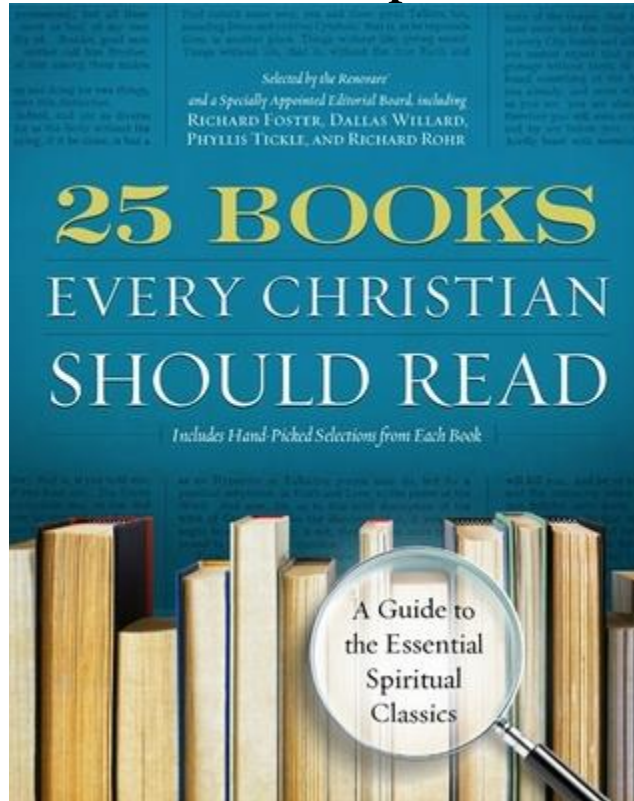
It's time. Our time to shine. Our time to invest ourselves in a work that is truly valuable and has deep meaning. Our time to live as Christ's church as brothers and sisters in Christ, bound by our love of Christ and for each other. I hope to see you on campus this year.

In His service,

*Pastor Lynn*



**Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church  
CAPC Book Club presents...**



From the creators of *Devotional Classics* and *Spiritual Classics* comes *25 Books Every Christian Should Read*, the definitive guide to the most spiritually influential and important books for Christians to read. Renovaré, a community of Christians promoting personal and spiritual renewal, put together a prestigious editorial board including Richard Foster, Dallas Willard, Phyllis Tickle, and Richard Rohr, resulting in this wonderful resource for exploring the richness of the Christian tradition

**There are two ways to participate.**

1. Online study. Read the books and the excerpt from the 'Guide' and go online to share comments and read what others have to say about the book.
2. Monthly meeting. Book Club meets the last Monday of the month (September through May) unless otherwise arranged. Then we share our thoughts over a meal in the Guild Room. Everyone is invited and you can join just for the books you wish to read (just let Pastor Lynn know you are planning on coming).

Contact Pastor Lynn at [pastor@crescentonline.org](mailto:pastor@crescentonline.org) or call 908.756.2468

Our 35<sup>th</sup> Season!

# Crescent Concerts

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



## 2016-2017 Season

**Sunday, September 25, 2016, 3:00 pm**

*Solid Brass — Sound the Trumpet, Strike the Drum!*

Solid Brass, long-time Crescent Concerts favorites.

**Sunday, October 9, 2016, 3:00 pm**

*Mallets and Hammers*

Greg Giannascoli, Marimba Artist and Ronald Stabinsky, Pianist

**Saturday, November 12, 2016, 7:00 pm**

*I Was Glad!*

The Crescent Choral Society presents grand and glorious music from the British Isles.

**Sunday, December 11, 2016, 5:00 pm**

*Yuletide by Candlelight*

The Crescent Singers present their annual gift of holiday music to the community.

**Sunday, February 26, 2017, 3:00 pm**

*Showcase for Exceptional Young Artists*

Talented local musicians, ages 18 and under, chosen by competitive audition, will amaze you.

**Sunday, March 19, 2017, 3:00 pm**

*Connections!*

Our annual Festival of Organists

**Saturday, April 22, 2017, 7:00 pm**

*Like Father, Like Son*

C.P.E. Bach: *Magnificat*; J.S. Bach: *Easter Oratorio*

The Crescent Choral Society with orchestra and soloists

**Sunday, May 21, 2017, 3:00 pm**

*The Poet Sings*

The Crescent Singers present favorite poems set to exquisite music.



— 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, Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment of the Arts, through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.



# The Plainfield Symphony

Charles Prince, Musical Director

97 years  
of excellence!

THE 2016-2017 SEASON



**OCTOBER 8, 2016** at 7pm  
*"Shostakovich's Testament: The 10th Symphony"*  
Mozart's Symphony No. 36 "Linz."

**NOVEMBER 19, 2016** at 7pm

*"Sondheim Tonight!"*

Soloists: Alexandra Silber, Ron Raines,  
Kerstin Anderson, Adam Levy

*On the Town Rhapsody*

Soloist: Evelyn Estava, violin



**JANUARY 28, 2017** at 3pm

*"Around the World with The PSO"*

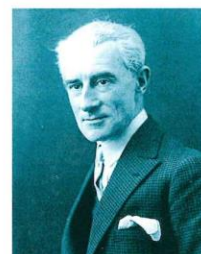
Piano soloist: YPCNJ Medalist, Selection TBA

Clarinet Soloist: Janice Coppola

**APRIL 29, 2017** at 7pm

*"Impressions of Ravel"*

YPCNJ Gold Medal Winner, Helen Shen



**MARCH 11, 2017** at 7pm

*"Orchestral Families:*

*Each Happy in Its Own Way"*

**Season Tickets Now on Sale**

Visit our website at [www.plainfieldsymphony.org](http://www.plainfieldsymphony.org)



Funding has been made possible 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.

Crescent Avenue  
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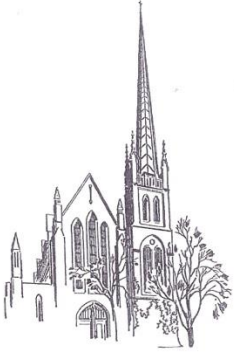
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**Save up to 30% OFF Individual Prices  
By Purchasing Season Tickets!**



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CRESCENT CONNECTIONS 2016

September

