

# CRESCENT CONNECTIONS

Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church

Summer 2018

Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church

716 Watchung Avenue,  
Plainfield, New Jersey 07060

June 2018

crescentonline.org

908-756-2468



**Pastoral Letter**

**Summer 2018 Edition**

*From the Desk of Pastor Lynn*

If there is one constant in our life it is the reality of change. Our seasons have unfolded from a challenging winter to a beautiful spring and the summer warmth has reminded us of God's promises of renewal and re-creation. It is perhaps an even more poignant reminder as our dear sister in Christ, Valarie Fisher, has been called home. Valarie has long been a vital part of this congregation and the Soup Kitchen program would never have started without her (or run as well as it did!). She will be deeply missed, but her legacy will not be forgotten as we are picking up the gauntlet of care and compassion and will demonstrate our dedication to those in need as Valarie so richly demonstrated.

As we move into summer we have celebrated the gifts of our choir as they go on break and the Sunday School program as they shift gears. But we would be mistaken to believe that our work subsides because it is the summer! So many of our missions and ministries continue straight on through the summer. In addition, we have special offerings that find their way onto our summer calendar that we don't want to miss--Sundae at the Movies, Sabbath Summer Reflections (An Invitation to Silence and Solitude), Leadership Retreat and special Coffee & Conversation programming. Who's slowing down? Not us!

The kitchen renovation project is finishing up and promises to be spectacular! Soon we will reopen our doors and plan on a gala event to recognize our contractors, thank our contributors, revel in our new space. We hope you will attend. Other improvements continue, some of which can be readily seen and some that cannot be seen so easily: a new roof installed, masonry walls repaired, remaining chapel chairs recovered, Guild Room curtains cleaned, repaired, rehung, the Memorial Garden received a new face lift. Nominating has been hard at work crafting a process that is exciting and Membership & Evangelism has taken off in amazing ways as well.

But we also want to catch you up on what has been happening since our last edition. The Missions and Ministries of this church have been filled with the movement of God's Spirit--from guest preachers to Coffee & Conversation talks, a wonderful soul-keeping retreat, movie nights, outreach to the community, changes in music programming...the list goes on. It is amazing all of the things that are happening here on campus.

We are a community alive and brimming with God's Spirit. The Gospel is proclaimed not only through preaching of the Word on Sundays, but lived out through our missions, ringing in our music, informing our ministries and building our community.

As you read through these pages, we hope God's Spirit will touch your heart and call to you to come and follow Him. In this world of challenge, doubt and fear, we are a community alive with hope, Christ's Light and courage to make this world a better place. We'll leave the light on for you to join us!

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Lynn*

*In Loving Memory*

On Sunday, June 10, 2018 we gathered as a community of faith to honor and remember Valarie Fisher who passed on June 6. Valarie was the heart and soul of the CAPC Soup Kitchen and the food ministries here at Crescent Avenue. Her tireless efforts to feed the hungry and reach out in Christ's love to some of the humblest of God's children stands as a testimony to her faith and her dedication to Christ and service in His name. She leaves behind a large hole in the heart of our church, but even as we grieve we are reminded that we do not grieve as those who have no faith but as those whose hearts are also forged in the faith of Christ that promises a reunion yet to come. Valarie's works have followed her into her eternal rest, and they leave a legacy here in our midst as well. We will be honoring Valarie as our kitchen renovation comes to completion and reopen this incredible ministry once again.



Following is a copy of her obituary shared at her memorial service, which is but a glimpse of the tremendous love she held for her family, her friends, her church, the people she served but most of all her Savior who has guided her home. We hope you will join us in keeping the Fisher family in your prayers.

Valarie Ricciuti Fisher, 70, passed away on Wednesday, June 6, 2018 at Center for Hope Hospice in Scotch Plains. Born in Plainfield, the daughter of Thomas and Viola Ricciuti, she was a lifelong resident of Scotch Plains. Val was a 1965 graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

She was always active in the community and working on various projects. She was the former director of the Scotch Plains Recreation Commission and President of Coles School PTA. She also worked in the family businesses at the Arrow Lounge, Club Malibu and Associated Plastics while raising 3 kids and sending them through college at Georgetown University (Rick), Seton Hall University (Jamie) and Rider University (Tom).

Valarie was a longtime active member of Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church in Plainfield. In 2012, in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, Valarie started the church soup kitchen after running Grace's Soup Kitchen in Plainfield for many years. Valarie's passion to help those in need quickly spread to other volunteers, and the CAPC soup kitchen grew to feed 200 people each Tuesday. She dedicated her life to caring for and helping others. Whether caring for family and friends or volunteering to help those less fortunate at the soup kitchen, she was always there with a kind word and a smile.

Val is survived by her beloved husband of 52 years, Richard "Rick" Fisher, Jr.; her three sons, Ricky (Donna Bond), Jamie and Tommy (Erika). She is also survived by her cherished grandchildren, Zack and Francesca; and her brother, Frank Ricciuti. She was predeceased by her brother, Tom Ricciuti and her sister, Michelle Immordino.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Valarie's memory to the Crescent Ave. Presbyterian Church Soup Kitchen, c/o Crescent Ave. Presbyterian Church, 716 Watchung Ave., Plainfield, NJ 07060.

*In Loving Memory*

**Valarie**

**When I think of being kind,  
Only one name comes to mind - Valarie.  
Her concern and compassion for those in need,  
Made her decide to reach out and feed  
All who came through Crescent's doors,  
Not just with food, but with much, much more.**

**All who came knew she was sincere,  
And guests and volunteers all held her dear.**

**With gentle persuasion she made us work,  
And because of this we never shirked.**

**But worked side by side with smiles -  
Which wasn't hard,  
With our sweet Valarie in charge.**

**If someone was late and we had closed,  
It didn't faze Valarie, Oh no!**

**Go find some cheese, some PB&J,  
We can't let anyone hungry go away!**

**Pots of soup, clothing drives,  
Grooming products, sakes alive!**

**There was nothing Val wouldn't do  
To take care of all, from the many to the few.**

**She worked through pain, although we didn't know  
How much she was suffering and how little time she had to go.**

**Now God has taken our earthly Angel away  
To be with his others, but there won't be one day**

**When we don't miss her here -  
Our sweet Valarie, so sweet, so kind, so dear.**

*Pat Fleming  
June 10, 2018*



## Around the CAPC Campus

### Building & Grounds

#### Update on Kitchen Renovation.

The kitchen renovation is 50% complete.

Demolition has been completed

The plumbing and electrical behind the scene work (Drains, Pipes and Electrical Wiring) has been completed. The existing electrical and plumbing in crawl space and inside kitchen area were replaced with new plumbing pipes and electrical wiring.

Ceiling tiles were removed in March, it was revealed that we have a leaking roof and peeling lead paint on the ceiling. The small roof over the kitchen vestibule was replaced, other parts of roof was patched and the lead paint was remediated.

Renovation and painting has begun. The new utility room has been built and old dishwashing area has been patched and primed.

1<sup>st</sup> phase of Inspections for electrical (5/11) and plumbing (4/30) has passed

The week of May 28th the kitchen will be painted and then the new floor and ceiling tiles will be installed. The appliance and electrical outlets installation will begin around the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of June.

The estimated completion of Kitchen is expected between the end of June and 2<sup>nd</sup> week of July.

#### Additional projects completed

- Hot water heater in basement had a leak, replace with new hot water heater
- Barbara Wensburg and Janna Peterson spent many hours cleaning and redesigning the memorial garden and they have done a great job. More work to do.
- Wendy Reid purchased fabric for *Upholstery* of additional chapel chairs.
- Curtains in Guild room was sent out for cleaning
- Tom Rowe rehung Guild room curtains and repaired hardware.
- 1<sup>st</sup> floor ladies room toilet will have to be replaced soon because of a leak.
- Multiple roof repairs to stop leaks on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor old kindergarten room, Guild room and back stairs near assembly room. (Some repairs are patches)

Campus renovations, improvements and repairs reflect the pride we have in this amazing facility and our continued work to ensure it remains a viable, vibrant part of our community. Thank you to everyone who works so hard to make it happen!

***Nick Stevens***, committee chairperson

## Around the CAPC Campus

### *CEN – On the Move Come Join Us*



The Christian Education and Nurture committee is always on the move—planning, organizing, teaching, creating, administering, and debriefing a myriad of events during the course of a program year. From February to May it seems as though we've been on the move at breakneck speed, but with God's help the following projects rolled out and blessed not only the youth of our church, but our adult members as well: Black History presentations, Ruby Bridges Family Movie Night, Jesus' Holy Week program, and the annual Mother's Day Plant Sale. Whatever we do we try to keep our Sunday School vision in mind: to promote biblical literacy, nurture Christian fellowship and encourage lifetime service to Christ and the world. We know that without vision people perish and lately we've been overjoyed to see the manifestation of our prayers and hard work whether it relates to a multi-generational audience viewing and discussing Ruby Bridges' inspiring story, having our Sunday School students enact some of the events that Jesus experienced from Palm Sunday to Good Friday, or seeing our youth taking an active role in our faith community as they serve others making bag lunches, participating as Acolytes in the Tenebrae service, or conducting a flower sale to help fund camp scholarships.

CEN would love to have new workers on the bus as we depart for the future destinations that God intends for us. Whatever your age, talents and abilities, or hobbies, the Lord can use you. We generally meet once a month during the week at the church with the date and time set around the availability of committee members. There are instances we use phone conferencing in lieu of a face-to-face meeting, and also those times we'll meet more than once in a given month as dictated by the projects we're working on. Don't worry that your busy schedule may not allow you to be present for every meeting, we provide notes and other methods of follow-up to ensure everyone is on board. CEN has been on the move...Join us as we keep moving forward. For further information contact Stephanie DeGeneste, [smdeg7@juno.com](mailto:smdeg7@juno.com) or 732.545.9422.

*Stephanie DeGeneste*

## Around the CAPC Campus

*Join CEN in Congratulating Our Graduates!*

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduate

*Xavier J. McIntyre*

Xavier graduates 8th Grade June 22 from South Plainfield Middle School. He will attend South Plainfield High School. He is active in the Boy Scouts, plays 1st Violin in the school orchestra, and is a midfielder for U16 Roma, in South Plainfield's travel soccer league. At CAPC, he serves as an acolyte and is an active Sunday School student.



### High School Graduates:

*Alexander Fitzgerald*

Alex eagerly looks forward to his graduation from Sayreville War Memorial High school on June 22nd. Following graduation from high school, Alex will study business management and music engineering at Union County College. He enjoys listening to music, playing musical instruments as well as cooking. At CAPC, Alex is an active participant in the Chancel Choir and regularly plays piano at the Sunday School experiential learning on Palm Sunday.



*Samuel Manu*

A June 2nd graduate from Bishop George Ahr High School in Edison, Sam will pursue his undergraduate studies at New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) in the fall where he will undergo a rigorous course in mechanical engineering. His favorite activities include football as well as track and field. Sam is involved in many church and community service programs, such as Sunday School, soup kitchen, ushering, food banks, and volunteering with the local police department.



## Around the CAPC Campus

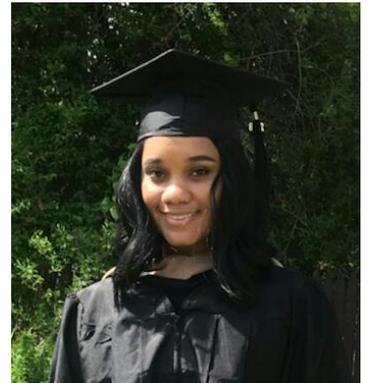
*Join CEN in Congratulating Our Graduates!*



### Post-Secondary Graduates

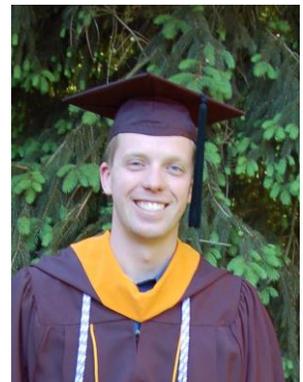
#### *Brianna Baker*

Brianna completed her BSc degree in Criminal Justice at Berkeley College graduating May 12th. At current, she works at the Municipal Court in Plainfield and nearly has obtained the Court Administrator certification. Brianna is a past Sunday school and Youth Handbell Choir member and served as a Deacon. She was also a participant of the award-winning HERITAGE show choir. In her spare time, Brianna likes to listen to music, dance and travel.



#### *Brian Downing*

Brian graduated from Johns Hopkins University's Accelerated Masters degree program in Nursing on May 22nd. His undergraduate degree was in Economics from Dickinson College in 2016. His near term goal is a nurse residency program, resulting in placement as an ER or trauma nurse.



## Around the CAPC Campus

### New Faces You Will See Around Campus

This upcoming academic year we will have the honor to serve as a site for Princeton Theological Seminary student, Darcella Sessomes. Darcella is currently a middler (which means she is in the second year of her three year Master of Divinity program) and is coming to complete her requirements for a field education assignment. This is an opportunity for students to get real life experience on how to be a pastor and gain experience in serving a church in this role. Please see Darcella's biography below and be sure to stay on the lookout for her over the summer and our formal welcome as we get closer to her start date (which will be in September). Welcome, Darcella!



**Darcella A. Patterson Sessomes, DSW, LCSW**  
*M.Div (candidate)*

*Assistant Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Corrections  
Division of Programs and Community Services*

*Lecturer and Adjunct Professor for:  
Rutgers University  
University of Pennsylvania  
Montclair State University*

Darcella Anita Patterson Sessomes is a well-known leader in correctional social work education, policy and professional practice. On September 7, 2004, she assumed the position of Assistant Director for the Office of Transitional Services (OTS) with the New Jersey Department of Corrections. On May 5, 2007 she was promoted to the position of Director. After having served almost 10 years in state government, on April 19, 2014 she was promoted to the esteemed rank of Assistant Commissioner.

The New Jersey Department of Corrections (NJDOC), headquartered in Trenton, is one of the largest law enforcement agencies in the State of NJ, with over 7000 civilian and uniform employees. NJDOC is comprised of three divisions: Operations, Administration, and Programs & Community Service. Assistant Commissioner Sessomes manages the Division of Program & Community Services which is responsible for the following prison system services: social work, education, religious services, victim services, volunteer services, residential community reentry programs (RCRP), intensive supervision program (ISP), and county services.

## Around the CAPC Campus

Her career in social work spans over 20 years. During the past two decades Darcella has worked in various areas of social work policy and practice which includes, but are not limited to: domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, addictions, homelessness, juveniles and incarceration. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) with the State of New Jersey and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

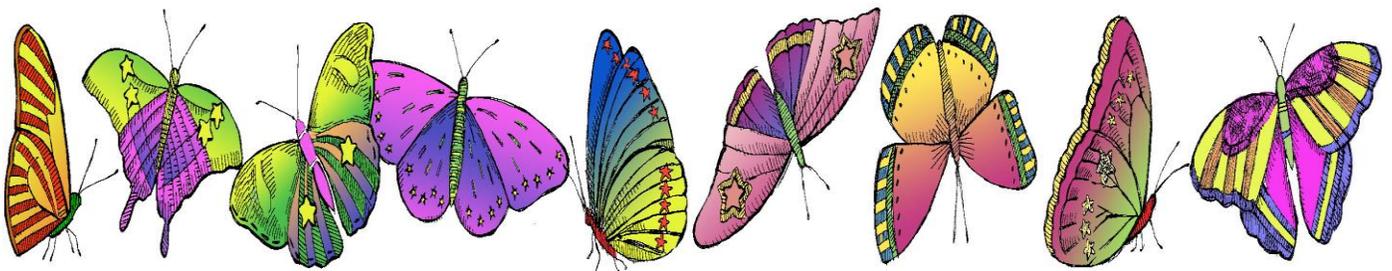
As an educator, Dr. Sessomes is certified as a student in field instruction (SIFI) supervisor, and is responsible for the oversight of the field placement experience for many social work students in the tri-state who are interested in a career in forensic social work with a specific concentration on reentry and corrections. Dr. Sessomes also serves a part-time lecturer for Rutgers University, School of Social Work, where she teaches coursework on Diversity and Oppression. Additionally, she serves as a part-time lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania where she teaches courses on American Racism and Understanding Social Change: Issues of Race and Gender and at Montclair State University.

As a scholar, Dr. Sessomes received both a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and a Masters of Social Work from Rutgers University, New Brunswick campus. She received her Doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Policy and Practice. Currently she is pursuing a Master of Divinity at Princeton Theology Seminary. Dr. Sessomes credits all of her success to her faith, loving family, and strong mentors.

Her favorite scripture:

*"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord,  
plans to prosper you and not to harm you,  
plans to give you hope and a future".*

Jeremiah 29:11,  
New International Version.



## Around the CAPC Campus

### Membership & Evangelism

Members of this energetic and visionary committee are Pastor Lynn Santulli, BJ Snyder, Janna Peterson, Julie Downing, Deidra McIntyre, Andre McIntyre, Laura Villanueva and Edwin Opoku. Please join us!

The Membership and Evangelism Committee (fondly “M & E”) has been busy spreading all the amazing CAPC news and exploring new ways to grow in faith, fellowship...and fun. Look for this newsletter, Crescent Connections, quarterly as we work to keep members and friends near and far abreast of all the exciting CAPC happenings.

Visitor Welcome Gifts given to visitors have been well received. We love having visitors. Please to share our warmth and God’s love with newcomers. And invite friends and family to worship services and events.

The New Member class, “Seeking a Fuller Understanding” will start in September and will provide an opportunity to deepen one’s understanding of church life and faith life and to better get to know this warm community of faith. This class is open to anyone interested in becoming a Crescent member as well as current members and friends wishing to learn more about what it means to be a Crescentonian. Please contact Pastor Lynn or BJ Snyder if you are interested.

Our first “Grown Up Game Night” was held the end of April. Our cozy group had a blast sharing games, fellowship and, of course, food! Don’t miss our second event to be held Friday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at the home of BJ and Scott Snyder. **RSVP by July 6<sup>th</sup> and get directions by contacting BJ Snyder (dillyanwen@aol.com) or Julie Downing (juliedowning@icloud.com).**

In an effort to boost Crescent’s Facebook presence, the committee is asking everyone to please visit the church Facebook page (Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church-Plainfield) daily, or as often as possible, and to like and share posts. This is an easy and very effective way to share all the wonderful things happening here at CAPC. Take a look! And LIKE and SHARE!

A big project which Missions and Evangelism is about to begin working on is updating the CAPC directory. There will be a directory copy in the Guild Room Sundays during coffee and fellowship. We ask that you please check your information and update it if necessary. Or, if you know you have changes, contact BJ Snyder (email above) to update.

*BJ Snyder,  
Chair, Membership and Evangelism*

**Around the CACP Campus**

\*\*\*\*\* JUNE \*\*\*\*\*

Lia Haynes	06/02
Jordan Williams	06/03
Alan Higgs	06/04
Barbara Smith	06/15
Karin Yoshimura	06/15
Jacqueline Fahrenholz	06/17
Michael Foster	06/17
Gary Mann	06/18
Dominique Stevens	06/20
Catherine Badalamenti	06/27

\*\*\*\*\* JULY \*\*\*\*\*

Rick Fisher Jr.	07/01
Kristopher Kennedy	07/03
Drude Crane	07/04
John Badalamenti	07/10
Norma Rosario-Trepper	07/24
Daniel Foltz-Morrison	07/28

\*\*\*\*\* AUGUST \*\*\*\*\*

Leslie Foltz-Morrison	08/01
Stephanie DeGeneste	08/07

Ronald Thayer	08/10
Cameron Henry	08/15
Gina Fahrenholz	08/21
Julie Downing	08/26
Winifred Neal	08/28

\*\*\*\*\* SEPTEMBER \*\*\*\*\*

Wendy Reid	09/03
Jack Shuster	09/03
Robert Martin	09/04
Andre McIntyre	09/07
James Pivnichny	09/08
Danyelle(Archer) Williams	09/09
Kristin Yoshimura	09/11
Nick Stevens	09/16
Bryant Aaron	09/18
Ryan Williams	09/19
Samuel Manu	09/25
Henry Ward	09/28
Laura Villanueva	09/29
Barb Martin	09/30



*June  
to  
September*

NOTE: If your birthday falls in this time period, and is not on the list; that is because it is not listed in the directory database. Please make sure that you update your information with someone on the Membership & Evangelism Committee (see page 8).

## Around the CAPC Campus

### What's New with Mission & Outreach...

**Request and Solicitation of New Members** – A sign up form for new members ran in the Bulletin in April and existing members were asked to reach out to others to join. The opportunity to join us is still open, so anyone interested in joining the Committee or learning more about it should contact Pat Fleming. We welcome suggestions from the Congregation on new projects or activities that will increase our presence in and outreach to the community.

**Blanket Sunday Collection** – This project of Church World Services (CWS) collects and distributes blankets and kits to families around the world, providing comfort and care to people fleeing their homes or affected by natural disasters. This has been an annual project and CAPC has always provided generous support for it. Notices were placed in the Bulletins and on the Bulletin Board and special envelopes were placed in the pews by the Committee members. This year Blanket Sunday was held on Mother's Day, May 13<sup>th</sup>, so the amount collected is not final but will be reported later.

**Grooming Products Giveaway** - In March, grooming products, such as soap, shampoo, razors, and other items were collected and/or purchased with donated money and distributed to community members, many of whom were our former soup kitchen guests.

**Giving the Gift of Sight** – A collection receptacle has been placed in the Library for the collection of used eyeglasses for RestoringVision.org. This organization supplies the collected glasses to volunteers who carry them on mission trips and distribute them to people needing them. To date they have supplied glasses to 10 million people and their goal is to supply 20 million people by 2020. If your prescription has changed or you just no longer like or need your glasses, please consider donating them for use by this organization.

**Potential Collaborative Food Ministry** - We have been contacted by First Unitarian Church about exploring the use of CAPC storage space for their food pantry supplies and freezer because of their impending move. They would also be interested in exploring a possible food ministry partnership. A meeting is planned between the appropriate representatives of CAPC (Pastor Lynn, Nick Stevens, Building and Grounds Committee, and Pat Fleming, Mission and Outreach) and representatives from First Unitarian Church to explore this further.

**Ongoing Projects** – Collection of non-perishable foods for StarFish is ongoing and the Congregation is asked to please continue placing their donations in the collection box in the Church office. Small items that can be used for Bingo prizes by residents of local nursing and long term care facilities continue to be needed and there is a receptacle in the Church office for them.

*Pat Fleming & BJ Snyder*

## Around the CAPC Campus

### Finance

Inquiring minds want to know how is Crescent doing?

Will we make it in the short term and in the long term? Well I believe that the answer is YES.

Our regular operating budget is always a challenge but with careful spending and the generous spirit of current and former members we have been able to avoid drawing down our Endowment Fund so far this year. It is wonderful to witness how generous people are when they realize how Crescent has affected their lives and can potentially influence many lives in the future.

We hope to implement a planned giving program later this year so that this generation can begin to make plans to include Crescent in their wills to demonstrate their continued support.

Our kitchen renovation project is progressing nicely and as expected in an old building there were a couple of surprises when we opened up walls, ceiling and floors. We find that cost overruns have caused us to be about \$50,000 behind in our funding. We have begun another funding campaign and already several former members and friends of the Church have come forward. We have applied for several grants as well. Please consider a gift or another gift to fund this worthwhile project. It will allow us to reopen our Soup Kitchen ministry that has served thousands of meals since its inception following Super Storm Sandy.

After we finish the kitchen we can move on to the Stonework project. That project will take all of us working together to make the building safe and secure for generations to come.

If you are reading this and haven't checked us out in a while, please consider coming back. We are determined to remain a beacon in the center of Plainfield for all to see. You will be surprised at all we have done and how welcoming we are. We are not going anywhere, so let the Spirit move you to come back and find what you may have been missing.

*Kathy Mann*

## Around the CAPC Campus

### Deacon Dealings



The Deacons continue to provide congregational care and outreach. With the kitchen renovations underway, the Deacons haven't missed a beat hosting weekly Coffee hours to foster an environment of friendship and fellowship for our members and visitors!!

### Morning Prayer

*Good morning, God, and thank you for this day, so bright and  
freshly new,  
And so I come to ask you God if you'll renew me too.  
Forgive the many errors that I made yesterday, and help me  
God today to walk closer in Thy way.  
For Lord I am well aware that I can't make it on my own,  
So take my hand and lead me Lord so I won't walk alone.*



Anonymous  
(submitted by Pat Fleming)



## A VIRTUOUS WOMAN WHO CAN FIND?

by Stephanie DeGeneste

Anyone who wants to find out the hallmarks of a godly woman need only turn to Proverbs 31:10-31 and Solomon delineates all the aspects of this special woman's character. Should someone in the Plainfield area want to find a true Proverbs 31 woman s/he need only take a trip over to Bethel Presbyterian Church to meet Marilyn Upperman. For the last few years CAPC's Christian Education and Nurture committee has had the privilege of distributing "goodie bags" and other crafts lovingly and skillfully prepared (samples pictured below) by Mrs. Upperman. Our children love Mrs. Upperman's handiwork, and our committee members love the fact she willingly gives of her time and talent to help us bless the children. At a recent committee meeting we discussed how it might be nice to feature Mrs. Upperman in an upcoming Crescent Connections article.



Marilyn Upperman has been a member of Bethel Presbyterian Church, located at 300 East 5th at Roosevelt for 59 years. She has served as an Elder and a Deacon, as well as being actively involved in Vacation Bible School during her younger years. Mrs. Upperman has been blessed with far more than threescore and ten years. In fact, she describes herself as 90+ years old. She currently resides in Plainfield with her son, Michael, and though she's wheelchair bound, Mrs. Upperman still does many things for herself.

She takes great pride in being a long-time member of Church Women United, a group in which its members range in age from about 65 – 100 years old. The group is dedicated to doing community service and providing money to helping local organizations. For many years Mrs. Upperman was also a member of the Black Women's History Group, which focused on the African American culture and experience. This was a very enriching group for its members.

Marilyn married Mr. Arthur Upperman, in 1960. At that time it was decided that the family should worship together and as a result they all began to attend Bethel. Mr. Upperman was raised as a Presbyterian and the entire family was baptized at Bethel. The family became a vital part of the Bethel congregation. Both Marilyn and Arthur's previous marriages ended with the death of their spouses. Together they raised 6 sons, 5 of which were born during their previous marriages. Mrs. Upperman prefers not to use the term

"step" to describe any of her sons. Their names are Arthur Jr. (Arty died of a heart attack), Ronald (Ron), Antonio (Tony), Lawrence (Larry was killed in a car accident), Michael, and Jeffrey (Jeff). All of the sons attended college and have made contributions in the fields of education, business, medicine, law and culinary arts.



Very little of the previously mentioned information was known to me when I excitedly made my way to BPC on Sunday, May 6th for what was for me a long-awaited interview. I was thrilled to have the opportunity to get to know Mrs. Upperman a bit better since I had been admiring her from afar long before I became a member of CAPC's CEN committee. My son, Quinn, was an apprentice musician at BPC during his high school years, and though we were members of another Plainfield church at the time, I was in attendance quite frequently at Bethel services, so I could readily see that Mrs. Upperman was a virtuous woman. As you read the answers to my interview questions, I think you'll also share my point of view.

**SD: *Tell us about your background.***

**MU:** My family relocated from New York City in the 1920's and I was born in Plainfield in 1926. Initially we attended Mount Olive Baptist Church. I was very active in the Sunday School program and the Junior Choir there. First Lady, Mrs. Jones of Mount Olive, always had us doing many activities, usually including some sort of crafts, which I always liked to do. I was a member of the first Girl Scout Troop # 30 and we met at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. There were many Girl Scout projects, often using items found in nature. During those days all groups encouraged crafts and we had fun with paper and crayons and other things. Now crafts are easier with craft kits.

I graduated from Plainfield High School in 1944. My desire was to go to Muhlenburg's nursing school, but at the time I was not enrolled because they said they had no accommodations for colored girls. Though I was crushed by Muhlenburg's actions I still took many nursing courses, always getting good marks, and eventually going on to gain my LPN license in NYC. I was one of the first African-American nurses in Plainfield.

It was while I worked the 11 pm – 7 am shift at Gouverneur's Hospital in NYC that I first noticed homelessness, seeing many people living on the streets eating out of trash cans. That sparked my interest to start a soup kitchen at BPC while Dr. Leonard Bethel was the pastor. I was used to cooking in big pots for a large family, so I was happy to do the cooking. I also went to thrift shops and picked up gifts for our guests.

**\*\*Although Mater Marilyn as she was called by her sons, and would never share this, our sources reported that she worked the night shift in hospitals, **walked home from work** and always made sure that her sons had lunches and dinners prepared daily.**

**SD: What role did Christian Education, in particular Sunday School play in your life?**

*In addition to what's already been mentioned by Mrs. Upperman, she said:*

**MU:** At Bethel I really enjoyed teaching Sunday School. I worked with Sunday School classes and Vacation Bible School, which was very active for many years. Eventually we started an evening VBS, and as part of that program served supper to the children.

**SD: If you could ask Jesus one question, what would it be?**

*After a long pause:*

**MU:** I believe the question would be, Dear Lord, are you really pleased with what I've done these 90+ years, or should I have done some other things?

**SD: What advice would you give to our young readers (those younger than 21 years of age)?**

*After another long, thoughtful pause:*

**MU:** Always remember that as you grow older you might have challenges, so do something you'd like to do as you go along.

**SD: What advice would you like to give to our adult readers?**

**MU:** For those that are seasoned, have a smile on your face and say, I did the best I could, when I could. Also, don't dwell on challenges or misfortunes, and it's good to have friends of all different ages.

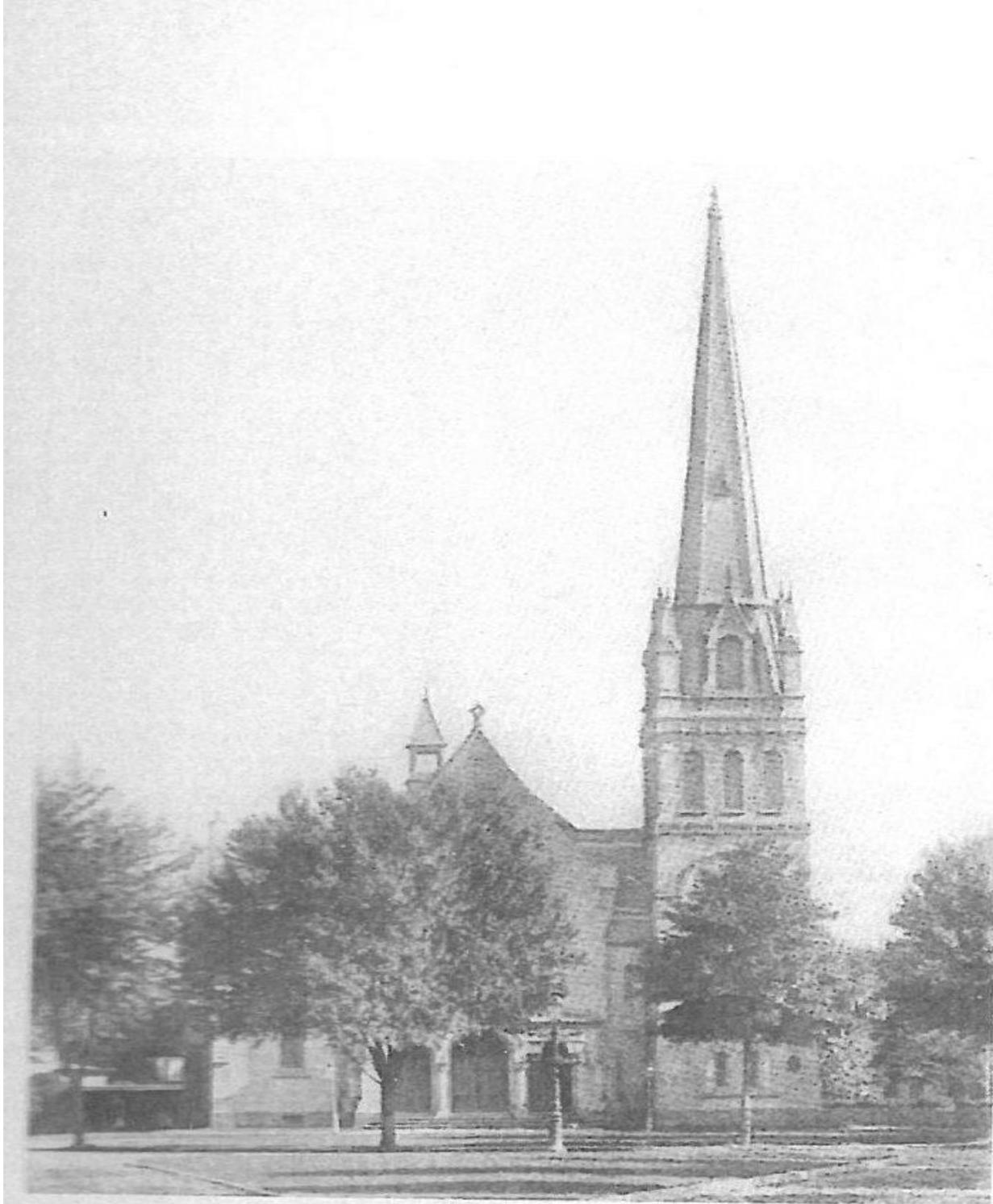
**SD: Is there anything else you'd like to share with us for the benefit of Crescent Connections readers?**

**MU:** My thought is I never know what task I'll be asked to do.

It struck me as amazing that Mrs. Upperman's focus remains others oriented; and even after so many years, she still has a heart that is eager to serve. The final verse in Proverbs 31 states, "Give her the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates." How appropriate this verse is to describe Mrs. Marilyn Upperman, someone who is so willing to work with her hands. A virtuous woman's worth is far above rubies, and now not only do the Upperman sons and grandchildren, Bethel Presbyterian Church congregation, neighbors and friends of Marilyn Upperman cherish the treasure of this godly woman, we at CAPC know her a tad better and we can admire her as well.

**CAPC -- A History**

Information from *A World-Wide Church* by Jean Carter Cochran (1944)



THE FIRST CHURCH ON CRESCENT AVENUE

## CAPC -- A History

Information from *A World-Wide Church* by Jean Carter Cochran (1944)

### CHRONOLOGY

- |          |      |    |   |
|----------|------|----|---|
| Mar. 21, | 1844 | -- | Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church organized as the Second Presbyterian Church of Plainfield.                                    |
|          | 1845 | -- | Church erected on Main (now Front) Street.  |
|          | 1862 | -- | Manse built on Front Street.  |
|          | 1872 | -- | Moved to present site on Crescent Avenue.   |
|          | 1883 | -- | The Church was incorporated.  |
| Nov. 23, | 1883 | -- | Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church name adopted.   |
|          | 1884 | -- | Bethel Mission started at the corner of Fifth Street and Roosevelt Avenue.  |
|          | 1887 | -- | Bethel Mission rebuilt as Bethel Chapel.  |
|          | 1890 | -- | Bethel Chapel called its first minister.  |
|          | 1888 | -- | Hope Mission Chapel organized in West End of town..   |
|          | 1888 | -- | Fire started by lightning destroyed Chapel and Sunday School rooms of the Crescent Avenue Church.                                 |
|          | 1893 | -- | Warren Chapel, established 1864, transferred to control of Crescent Avenue Church.  |
|          | 1908 | -- | Church renovated under the guidance of Arthur Ware, architect.  |
|          | 1916 | -- | Warren Church was rebuilt and organized as Watchung Presbyterian Church.  |
|          | 1919 | -- | The Cook residence on the corner of Crescent Avenue and First place was bought and remodeled for the use as a Parish House.       |
|          | 1930 | -- | A new building was erected for Hope Chapel at Grant Avenue, and the Chapel was organized as the Grant Avenue Presbyterian Church. |
| Oct. 2,  | 1911 | -- | Dedication of new Church House.   |
| Nov. 17, | 1931 | -- | Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church destroyed by fire.  |
| Feb. 25, | 1934 | -- | First service of worship held in new church.  |
| Oct. 7,  | 1934 | -- | Church dedicated.   |
| Feb. 18, | 1940 | -- | Indebtedness on Church buildings paid in full.  |
| May 8,   | 1943 | -- | Bethel Church organized as independent church.  |
| Mar. 21, | 1944 | -- | Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church holds its One Hundredth Anniversary.  |

**CAPC -- A History**

Information from *A World-Wide Church* by Jean Carter Cochran (1944)

## Our Father's House

This is our Father's house—  
whose slender spire points beyond the stars  
to God's high throne.  
Within its ivied walls the joyous notes  
of children's anthems gladden the spring air;  
or swelling chords of some triumphant march  
peal to the rafters their victorious praise.  
Here, where the sunlight falls through jewelled glass,  
and rainbow patterns wreath the chancel steps,  
we dedicate our little ones to Him  
who held babes in his arms long years ago;  
and here we make our vows to follow One  
who trod the lily fields of Galilee.  
Here, too, we plight our troth, and here we bring  
our consecrated dead to honor them  
with simple rites; each soaring arch a sign  
that the up-striving soul wins endless life.

This is our Father's house—  
a house of peace, of penitence, of prayer,  
but more than all it is a house of prayer;  
a hallowed place where love and God are found.  
Take off thy shoes, for this is holy ground.

J. C. C.

**CAPC -- A History**

Information from *A World-Wide Church* by Jean Carter Cochran (1944)

## Chapter I

## "THE PAST IS BUT A PRELUDE"

*Make us especially grateful for our past and give us a Christian commitment for the next hundred years.*

MARGARET APPLGARTH

"A GLORIOUS CHURCH!" St. Paul's exclamation rises to one's lips as one looks at the Crescent Avenue Church from the intersection of three busy streets. For the church gives a soul to the pulsating life of the town as it stands with its slender spire lifting one's thoughts from the clamor of the traffic to the silent steadfastness of the sky.

In its upspringing tranquility one feels that it is not an insensate thing of stone and mortar but that a spirit breathes within which arises from the character and dreams of those who planned it, not only with thoughts for the present, but for a future of progressive usefulness; practical dreamers who were resolved to make their work becomes a growing, living church.

**CAPC -- A History**

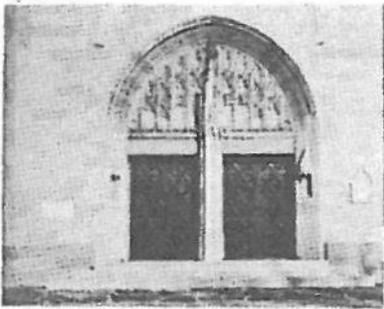
Information from *Sermons in Stone, Stories in Glass* by Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church (1966)

THE SANCTUARY

I

THE NARTHEX

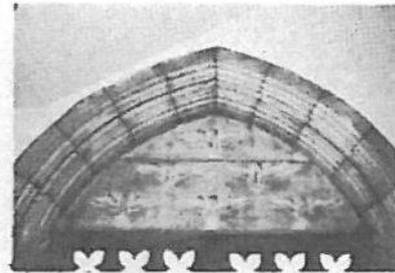
(entry hall)



Entering the narthex through the main door of the church, note that the architecture is Gothic with certain Romanesque elements, characteristic of the change from Romanesque to Gothic lines in the twelfth century.

THE SIX SPIRITS RESTING ON CHRIST  
(over the left or Watchung Avenue entrance.)

"And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord". Isaiah 11:2.



THE HEN WITH HER BROOD  
(over the right or Crescent Avenue entrance).

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest those sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!" Luke 13:34.

## CAPC -- A History

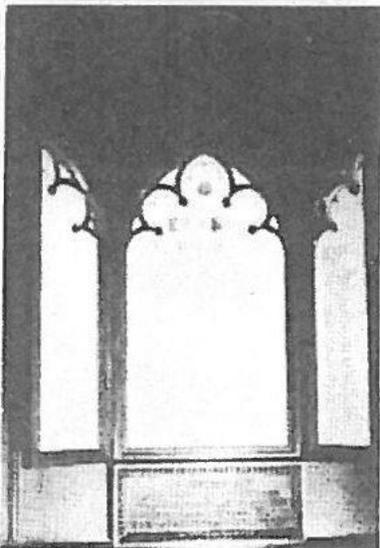
Information from *Sermons in Stone, Stories in Glass* by Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church (1966)

### ARCHANGEL MICHAEL, BAS-RELIEF

(wall to right of main nave entrance).

Unauthenticated date, 1431. Archangels, one of nine orders of angels, were the messengers and defenders of Heaven. Rev. 12:7.

Over the bas-relief is a carved canopy which is a replica of two which hung over the altars in the Antwerp Cathedral in the early 1800's.



### WORLD WAR II HONOR ROLL

(left of center nave entrance).

This carved triptych bears the names of all communicants of this Church who served in the armed forces during the war years, 1941-1945.

## CAPC -- A History

### Stephen Hegeman Voorhees

August 3, 1864 – February 11, 1940

Stephen was born in Griggstown NJ, where he lived on a large farm. He hated farming and eventually left the farm to make his way in New York City. He got a job with the City Farmers Trust Company as a messenger and worked diligently to climb the corporate ladder. He lived in a rented boarding house room which served meals and eventually put himself through college, attending Columbia University where he majored in Business Administration, and graduated Cum Laude.

He was raised in a very religious home and was a member of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York where he met Helen Walton Gray whom after courtship, he married. They lived together in a small apartment off Fifth Avenue and eventually bought a house in Plainfield, NJ at 943 Madison Ave., a three story house with a lovely rose garden. Together they had two children Ruth Suydam Voorhees and Helen Voorhees. He loved the church and attended the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church in Plainfield, NJ regularly.

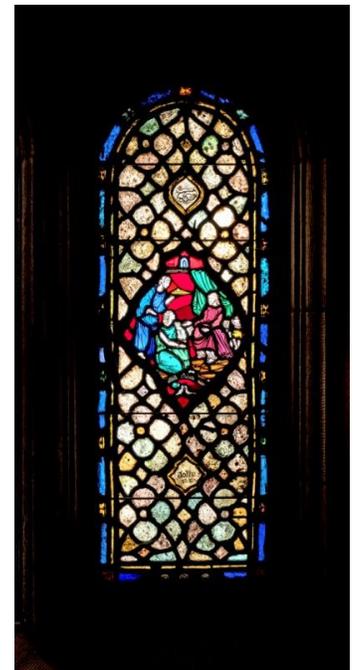
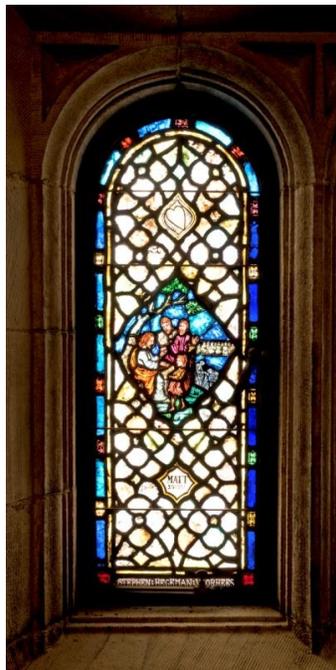
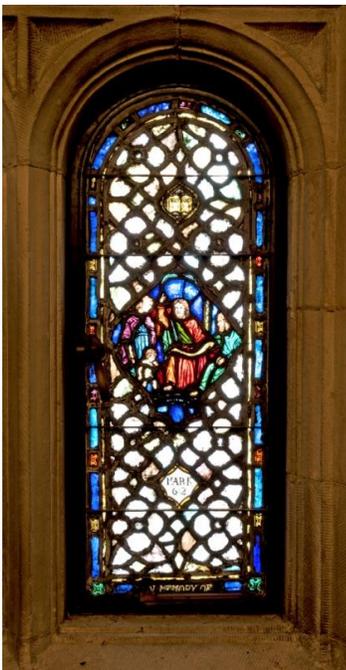
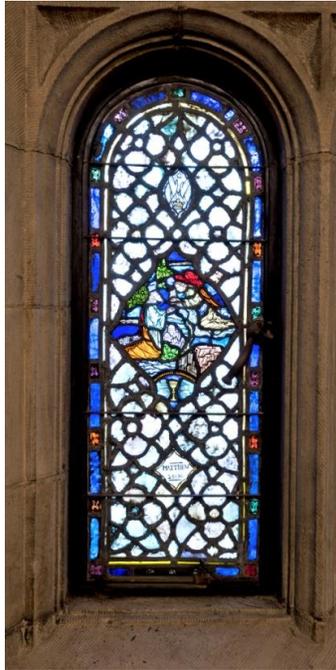
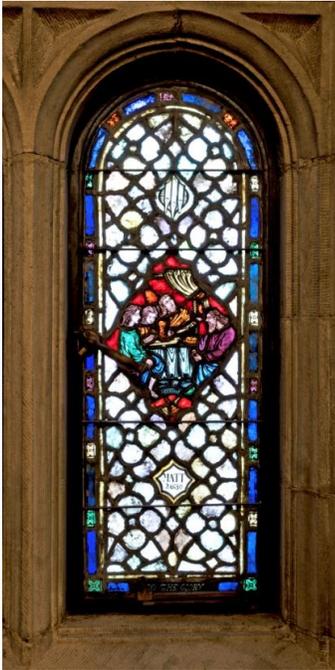
Stephen rose through the ranks to eventually hold the position of President of National City Bank in New York, and sat on the board of the Hayden Planetarium and President of the Board of Health in Plainfield. He was also a member of the St. Nicholas Society in New York. He died of a sudden heart attack in Dunedin, FL while singing the Doxology at the Presbyterian Church service on February 11, 1940. Funeral services were held at his beloved Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church in Plainfield on Wednesday February 14<sup>th</sup> and he was buried at the Hillside Cemetery. The stained glass windows in the chapel of the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church were donated by his wife Helen Gray Voorhees in his memory.

**Helen Gray Voorhees** was born in New York but moved to Plainfield and resided at 815 Park Avenue the remainder of her life. Helen passed away on December 22, 1966 at the age of 93. Her funeral services were held in the chapel at the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church on Saturday December 24<sup>th</sup> and she was buried next to her husband in the Hillside Cemetery. Helen was the founder of the Sesame Club, one of Plainfield's oldest literary clubs, which was organized on November 10, 1904. The name comes from John Ruskin's "Sesame and Lilies" - the first book read by the club. Three local ladies, Mrs. Stephen H. Voorhees, Mrs. Louis H. Ross, and Mrs. William M. Sandford, are credited with founding the club, which began with twenty-five members. Each year, the club focused on a reading topic, such as a particular author, place or time period, and members prepared programs on it and would review a book or read a paper. Past subjects included: Ralph Waldo Emerson, Rome, and a Winter in Florence. Sometimes members would bring special guests, with topical knowledge or experience, to speak at club meetings. (Plainfield Public Library)

**CAPC -- A History**

Chapel - A Legacy of Love Left in Glass

The six stained glass windows that grace one side of Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church's Chapel were a memorial gift made by Helen Gray Voorhees in memory of her beloved husband, Stephen Hegeman Voorhees. You can read the memorialization on the bottom of each beautiful window. Here are the windows below.



A good journey begins with knowing where we are and  
being willing to go somewhere else.

Richard Rohr



Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church  
Presents  
Invitation to Solitude and Silence  
A Summer Apart



Sundays, June 24 – August 26  
9:30 am – Chapel

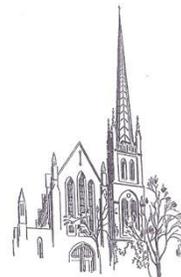
Using Ruth Haley Barton's book,  
*"Invitation to Solitude and Silence:  
Experiencing God's Transforming Presence"*

we will journey together to quiet the noise of the world  
that we might hear God's whisper more clearly.

A welcome respite for the soul.

## Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church

716 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060  
 phone: 908-756-2468 fax: 908-756-3158  
[www.crescentonline.org](http://www.crescentonline.org)



## 2018 Leadership

### ELDERS

#### Class of 2018

Pat Baker  
 Glen Crane  
 Janice Haer  
 Janna Peterson

#### Class of 2019

Pat Fleming  
 Laura Mann  
 Nicholas Stevens  
 Henry Ward

#### Class of 2020

Leslie Fagan  
 Kathy Mann  
 BJ Snyder  
 Joan Van Pelt-Pivnichny

**Clerk of Session:** Emily Upton  
**Buildings & Grounds:** Nick Stevens; Henry Ward  
**Finance & Stewardship:** Kathy Mann,  
**Membership & Evangelism:** BJ Snyder, Janna Peterson  
**Mission & Outreach:** Pat Fleming; Leslie Fagan  
**Nominating:** Janice Haer; Laura Mann  
**Christian Education & Nurture:** Janice Haer; Pat Baker  
 Stephanie DeGeneste  
**Personnel & Administration:** Joan Pivnichny; Pat Baker,  
**Worship, Music & Arts:** Joan Pivnichny;

Janet Ramsey, Ella Sawyer  
 Joan Pivnichny; Nick Stevens, BJ Snyder, Gary Mann, Julie Downing  
 Julie Downing, Janice Haer, Gerry Harvey, Andre McIntyre, Deidra  
 McIntyre, Edwin Opoku, Laura Villanueva,  
 Sam Diony, Noelle Perrine, BJ Snyder, Thylene Torres  
 Drude Crane, Dominique Stevens  
 Jacque Archer-Kennedy, Betsy Herman, Chrystal McArthur, Deidra  
 McIntyre, Liz McNish, Sally Nkellefack.  
 Glen Crane, Nick Stevens  
 Drude Crane, Jeff Downing, Henry Manu, Jacque Archer-Kennedy

### DEACONS

#### Class of 2018

Julie Downing (Co-Moderator)  
 Henry Manu  
 Deidra McIntyre (Secretary)  
 Dominique Stevens (Co-Moderator)

#### Class of 2019

Samuel Diony  
 Justine Fofie  
 Sally Nkellefack  
 Katherine West-Aaron

#### Class of 2020

Jacque Archer-Kennedy  
 Edwin Opoku  
 Noelle Perrine  
 Thylene Torres

**Flowers:** Thylene Torres, Jacque Archer-Kennedy, Dominique Stevens  
**Card ministry:** Katherine West-Aaron, Thylene Torres, Edwin Opoku  
**Communion:** Katherine West-Aaron  
**Shutterfly Link:** Jacque Archer-Kennedy, Deidra McIntyre

### STAFF

Rev. Lynn Santulli	Pastor	lsantulli67@gmail.com
Dr. Deborah S. King	Interim Director of Music	crescent@deborahsking.com
Ronald Maltby	Sexton	
Stephanie DeGeneste	Children's Ministry Director	smdeg7@juno.com
Ruth Mikalonis	Church Administrator	admin@crescentonline.org

### VOLUNTEER STAFF

Gary Mann	Bookkeeper	gj.mann@verizon.net
Joan Pivnichny	Treasurer	jdvanpelt@gmail.com

## Moses

God had a plan for Moses. The plan was for Moses to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt, where they were slaves. Moses had many reasons why he couldn't serve God. But he was obedient. (Exodus 7—14)

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| MOSES         | GNATS          |
| AARON         | FLIES          |
| STAFF         | LIVESTOCK DIES |
| SNAKE         | BOILS          |
| BLOODY RIVER  | HAIL           |
| FROGS         | LOCUSTS        |
| LET PEOPLE GO | DARKNESS       |
| GOD           | TEN            |
| PHARAOH       | SONS DIE       |

Find the listed words hidden in the puzzle. Words can be forwards, backwards, up, down and diagonal.

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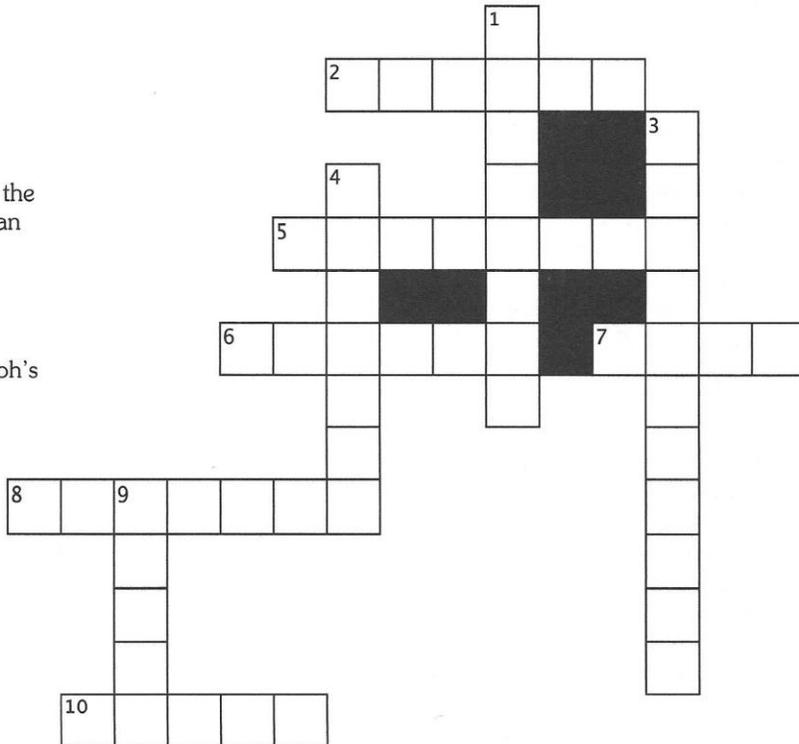
T Z S P E I D S N O S X I H X
E M T H W Q T G O X Z B X R F
N G S A Y Y G M Y Y L E Y R L
J P U R M O D G O O C Z K P I
C J C A D O A W O A P D C N E
H T O O Y R S D U U S U O T S
D A L H J Y Y E O V B R B E S
A R I B V R K Y S O A K K Q T
R Q P L I F L Q I A T A M H A
K X Z V E C R L R K N R F Y F
N C E U O M S O B S O W E X F
E R L S X B O M G Q Y X F H T
S S E I D K C O T S E V I L R
S O G E L P O E P T E L C W S
T V S O S T A N G V J F U A V
    
```

### Across

2. Land to which Moses fled. (Exodus 2:15)
5. Observance commemorating the death of the firstborn in Egypt. (Exodus 12)
6. God parted this body of water so the Israelites could escape the Egyptian army. (Exodus 14)
7. River where Pharaoh's daughter found baby Moses in his basket. (Exodus 2)
8. God sent these because of Pharaoh's stubbornness. (Exodus 7—10)
10. Moses' rod turned into this. (Exodus 7)

### Down

1. Moses' wife. (Exodus 2)
3. God spoke to Moses from this. (Exodus 3)
4. God told Moses to take these off because he was standing on holy ground. (Exodus 3)
9. God appointed Moses' brother \_\_\_\_\_ to speak for him. (Exodus 4)



Answers on Page 40

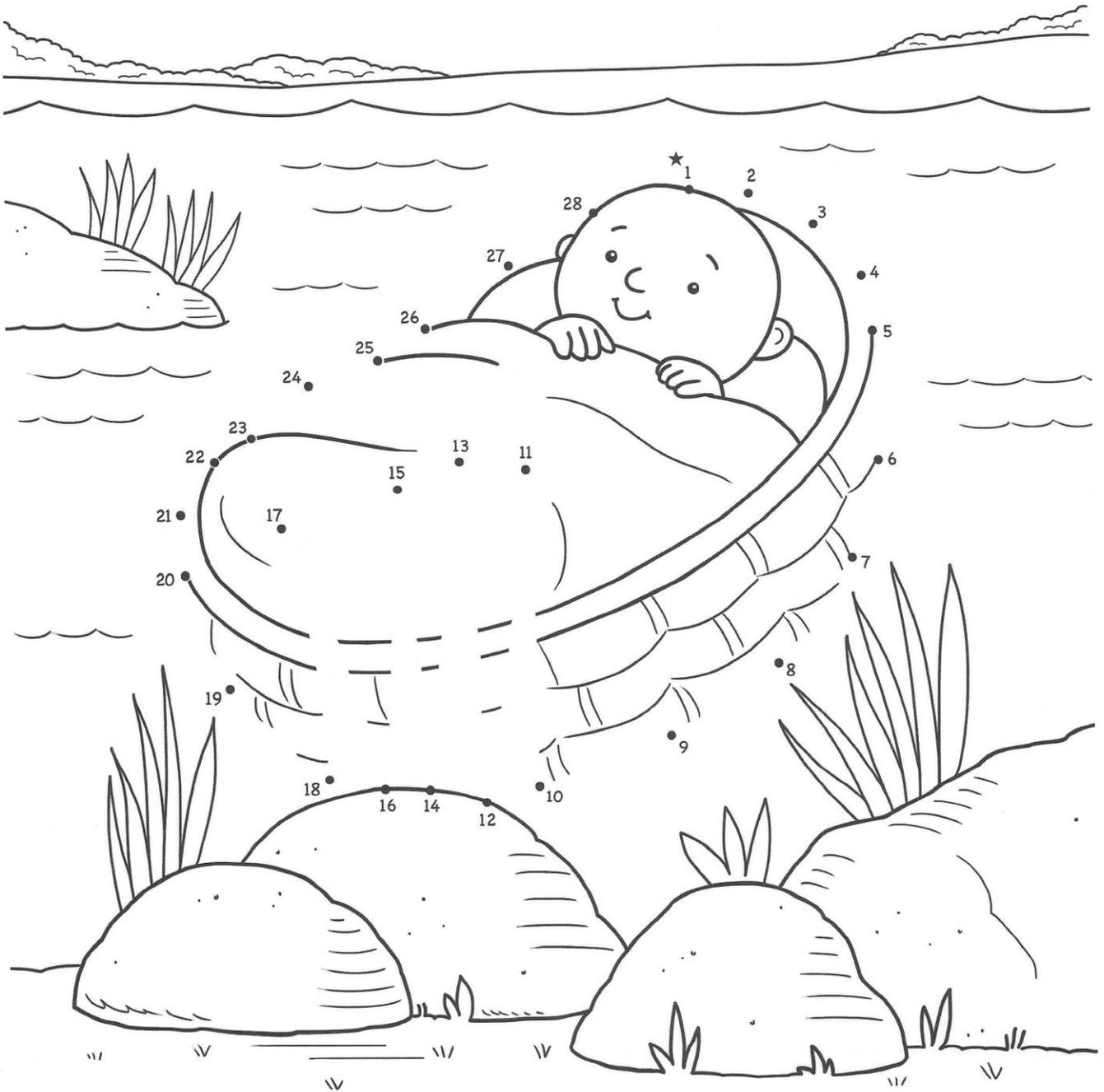
# CRESCENT CONNECTIONS

Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church

Summer 2018

Moses' mother put him in a basket in the river  
to hide him from a bad king.  
(Exodus 2:1-10)

Connect the dots to see the picture.





Are you ready to learn the thrilling game  
of Mexican Train Dominoes?

Would you like a fun and relaxing night out  
at the end of the work week?

How about a chance to win a beautiful prize basket?

If so, please join the Membership and Evangelism Committee  
for our second



**GROWN UP GAME NIGHT**

**Friday, July 13<sup>th</sup> 7-10 PM**

**At the home of BJ Snyder**



Games and snacks will be provided,  
but feel free to bring a favorite game or two to share!  
(Twister only for the very brave.....and flexible!)

RSVP by July 6<sup>th</sup>

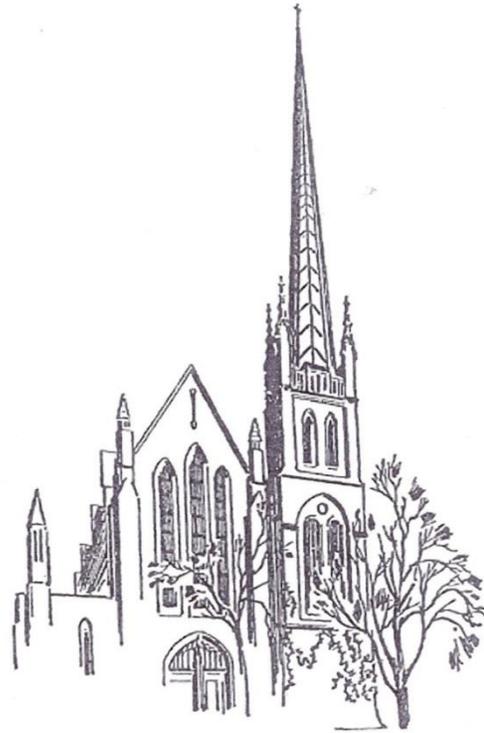
and get directions by contacting BJ Snyder ([dillyanwen@aol.com](mailto:dillyanwen@aol.com))  
or Julie Downing ([juliedowning@icloud.com](mailto:juliedowning@icloud.com)).

## NEW MEMBER CLASS

- \* Are you interested in learning what it means to be a Crescent Avenue Presbyterian?
- \* Would you like to know the history of this remarkable building (and some secrets)?
- \* Find out more about CAPC missions and ministries?

### ***“SEEKING A FULLER UNDERSTANDING”***

is an opportunity to deepen your understanding of church life and faith life and to get to better know this warm community of faith.



We will embark on this exciting adventure in September! Details to follow.

Please see Pastor Lynn or BJ Snyder if you are interested or would like more information.



# Crescent Ave Presbyterian Church

716 Watchung Ave  
Plainfield, NJ 07060

## CRESCENT CONNECTIONS SUMMER 2018

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