

Our Life Together

The Presbyterian Church in Norwood
Rev. Fran L. Thiessen, Pastor

Fall 2009

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Dear Friends,

During my weeks studying this summer, I participated in some prayerful, meaningful worship services resulting in my musings about the word *worship*. How varied the meaning when worship is a noun as to when it is a verb. The question for us to consider is "Do we come to 'worship' (a noun) or do we come 'to worship' (a verb)?"

If the worship we speak about is a noun, then we come to worship much like we go to theater. Easily we slip into a role indistinguishable from that of a theater critic. We come to "worship" making notes about what we liked and what we didn't like. Sometimes in that role we lose sight of God.

On the other hand if we truly come to worship (an active verb), we come to pay great honor, to respect, to glorify, we come to do something. Did you know the word "worthy" has the same root as "worship"? So the verb worship means to proclaim or to express our feelings in prayer as word and in prayer as song of God's worth!! How wonderful that as God's people we do this with all we are, with our hearts, our emotions, our thoughts, our laughter, our heartaches - as a people fully alive.

We are a joyful people. There's laughter over lemonade, enthusiasm at breakfast, a yearning to listen to each other's stories, and sparks of contagious exuberance. Together let us bring to God that laughter, enthusiasm, yearning, and exuberance. Let us dare to open our hearts to all that as we come not to "worship" but "to worship." Singing with abandon in voices reaching to our ceiling's beams, on pitch or not, let us model for our children worship that they will want to be a part of.

"Let us shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth burst into jubilant song with music. Let us shout for joy before the Lord" (from Psalm 98).

Blessings,

Your Pastor, Fran



WORSHIP & MUSIC

Carol Watson-Mucciolo, Chair

We wish to welcome everyone back from what we hope was a wonderful summer full of fun and adventure. We now look forward to a hope-filled new church year.

Along with our weekly Sunday services, we will be leading a number of special services this year. On September 11, we will join the community in leading a special Interfaith Service for Remembrance and Peace at the Norwood Fire Department. This service has

become a tradition and we look forward to seeing all our family there.

We will also be celebrating special services on several Sundays this fall. World Communion Sunday will be celebrated on October 4, followed by a service for the Communion of Saints the 1st Sunday in November. A service commemorating the 500th Anniversary of Calvin's birth and a special Blessing and Gratitude for Creation service will follow this fall. We look forward to sharing these meaningful services with all members of our community.

In our church, music is a very important and spiritual part of our service. David Hansen, our Minister of Music, has brought not only a wonderful voice to our choir, but an uplifting spirit. New this year is the addition of an electric keyboard. We are excited about this new avenue of musical creativity focused always on making "a joyful noise unto the Lord."

Our choirs are a very important part of our celebration. The Adult Choir, Children's Choir, and our handbell choirs for adults and children are always welcoming to new members.

Please come and join in the musical celebration that is part of this church's cherished tradition.

MISSION

Kathy Millstein, Chair

The summer is over, but hunger has not taken a vacation. The latest publication from the **Center for Food Action** reports that there are 25 residents of Norwood who use their program. Surprising? Old Tappan has 16. Montvale has 18. Closter has 74. Our neighbors are hungry, and we continue to help feed them with our donations to the Center for Food Action. Bring in your pantry items and leave them in the Bell Tower. Lucille and Al Laino collect them and drive them to Englewood.

Our relationship with **Mercy Center** in the South Bronx has been inspiring on both

sides. We can all help them in an easy way right from our homes. The next time you want to search the internet, use GoodSearch.com. There is a place to enter the charity of your choice. Each time you search, the charity will receive one cent. It doesn't sound like much, but it can add up. If not Mercy Center, there are many other charities that could benefit from your searches using GoodSearch.com.

Looking ahead: We are planning once again to collect **KITS for Church World Service** on November 22; more information will be given as the time draws near. If you like to plan ahead, go to ChurchWorldService.org and search on kits.

JR. YOUTH GROUP BEGINS....

ATTENTION 3rd-6th Graders:

Jr. Youth Group is here! Starting in Sept., we are going to have a monthly meeting that will be approximately 2-3 hours, depending on our activity. Looking for a few good PARENTS!! In order for this to be successful, 2-3 parents will need to be at each meeting. Not the same parents each time, this is not a full-time commitment unless you choose so. Some of the activities we have planned are bowling, miniature golf, a movie, and the CROP Walk. Remember to bring your friends.

Sr. Youth Group has another great year planned. Discussing our Halloween party, a domestic violence discussion is in the works, as well as hiking and CPR first aid training. Sr. YG meets the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month 5-7 P.M. in the Chris. Ed. Bldg. (subject to change depending on the activity). Anyone interested or having any ideas for either Youth Group please see **Amanda Otworth**.

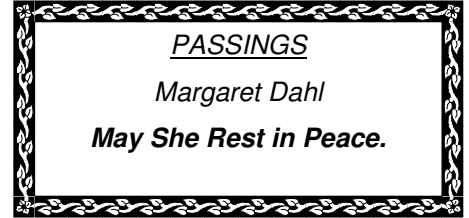
**AN INTERFAITH SERVICE
OF REMEMBRANCE AND PEACE**
SEPTEMBER 11
7:00 P.M. at The Norwood Fire House

Each year September 11 is a time to respond to our spiritual yearnings to pause and reflect on the value of life and on our Christian duty to work for peace. This year the Session and I asked the Norwood Fire Department to join with us for our September 11 Interfaith Service of Remembrance and Peace. They enthusiastically accepted this invitation and will host the event at the fire department, 602 Broadway, Norwood.

The Norwood Fire Department was active in the World Trade Center rescue efforts on September 11, and many were present at Staten Island during the painful days that followed. Each year the Norwood firefighters' presence at our church service is meaningful to them and to us.

At the service this year, the names of the firefighters, police men and women, and port authority workers who perished at the WTC on September 11 will be spoken, and prayer will be offered for all who were affected by their deaths. As we pray in the midst of the equipment and paraphernalia that defines "rescue and bravery," we hope that our gratitude to God for all we share together will deepen.

Local clergy as well as representatives from the Buddhist, Muslim, Jewish, and Christian traditions will offer prayers. Our friends, Penny McCulloch (harp), Mary Nussear (flute), and David Hanson (keyboard), will provide special music. This a whole-church event; invite your friends as we come together to bear witness to our commitment to Norwood, to peace, and to God.



- Colby & Gretta Barker
- Ruth Bovee
- Pam Colesworthy
- Sebastian DeIDuca
- Joan Finke
- Ron & Dee Fleming
- Donna Gorgo
- Anne Graff
- William Grundy
- Linda Guthrie
- Carol Haldeman
- Jeff Heyman
- Jason, Carolyn, and Jalena Johnson
- Jim Kuhn
- Dorothy Lodomez
- Sally Mendelson
- Peter Michelmore
- Brian O'Hare
- Ann Pacifico-Carnavale
- Seon Park
- Richard Rac
- Barbara Ritowsky
- Linda Salisbury
- Michael Sass
- Alice Watson and James Watson
- Family & Friends of our Service
- Members who have died in
- Afghanistan and Iraq
- The Invisible Children in Africa
- The People Suffering in Darfur
- Family & Friends Battling Cancer
- and Other Illnesses
- Battered Women and Children
- Young & Old Struggling with
- Mental Illness and their families
- All Organ Donors and their Families
- Unemployed Workers



Wanted: Hungry Minds



Why: To learn of and deepen one's appreciation of Presbyterian beliefs.

When: Monthly on Communion Sunday after worship. Time 11-ish or after Coffee Hour, whichever comes first.

Where: Christian Ed. Building.

What: A discussion of the book: *Theology for Liberal Presbyterians (and Other Endangered Species)*, by Douglas Ottati, a Presbyterian theologian.

How: Specific sections of the book (approx. 15 pages each) will be the focus of faith-based sharing and discussion throughout the year.

Both the Pastor and the Session are excited about offering this opportunity to work together in continuing to build a faith-filled community. Please join us!

Our Family Matters



Summer is gone? Yes, it really is, and here are some of the joys and concerns that summer brought for our church family!

A big concern is member **Jim Kuhn** in Care One in Cresskill on County Road for rehab for his new, but temporary, hip. He goes through it all again in six months. Visitors are very welcome after 4:00 P.M. In the meantime, daughters **Ellen** (Tenafly) and **Claudia** Kuhn (a teacher in upstate New York) have taken charge. Claudia is now back upstate; and a real joy, **Mulee** is with **Lila** Kuhn, taking her to see Jim once or twice a day, to church, meals. Visitors are welcome for Lila, too. (15 Norman Place, Tenafly; call 201-568-6340) And prayers for all the Kuhns.

Prayers also are asked for **Dee** and **Ron Fleming**. Ron has been hospitalized with pneumonia.

Many members have asked for prayers for ill and suffering friends. Prayers were asked for the comfort of the families of servicemen and women killed or grievously wounded in wars and for their families. Prayers were asked for help with the continuing health problems in new generations of those who survived the nuclear blasts of August 6 and 9 at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and those exposed to the testing here in the US. Many concerns.

The Bergen Record reports that Spectrum for Living is suffering a shortfall in its funds to help its residents. We have several members who live in its facilities.

And, yes, we have JOYS, too! One is Spectrum's resident and our member **Richard Rac** who has been very ill, but now is recovering nicely. Church members have visited him, which helped him very much.

More Joys! We have two new members, friends well known to us, **Katherine Kelley** and **Anne Henschen**. We rejoice to welcome them officially.

And we had a musical joy, when the small children of the substitute musician (when David Hanson was on vacation) sang a lovely duet. Thank you, **Abigal** and **Rachel**. And it always is a musical treat to hear **Kathy Millstein's** flute. Thank you, Kathy.

Baseball great, Daryl Strawberry, had the privilege of having his picture taken and printed in The Suburbanite with Norwood's own young sports greats, **Jackson** and **Jedh Downey**, at a Northvale book signing. **Sophie Downey** is a sports great, too, of course.

The reflections of **Claudia Kim** and of **Helen Chong** in our Summer OLT were very moving. Claudia wrote "A Lesson in Culture" about the importance of being called by your own name. Helen wrote about the pleasure of volunteering at Habitat. Thank you, friends.

Full of joy, we welcomed **Nancy Galloway**, visiting from Reno. Whoopee! And we welcomed home **Laura Thiessen**! Hooray!

And yes, it is a joy to bring a bag of groceries - or two or three - to the church for members to carry down to Englewood's Center for Food Action (CFA). So many more have come there for help lately in these hard times.

Christine O'Neill, our Boell Scholarship winner, spoke to us of her hopes and dreams. And by extension, all our graduates' hopes and dreams, too.

You must surely have noticed how beautiful our grounds look, so many flowers, and nice grass, and bushes. Thank you, **Bob Lewis**. We look so great! And now it's Fall! Cool beautiful Fall!

From Dee Fleming: *I would like to thank all of you who have sent notes, phoned, e-mailed, and above all offered spiritual support. Although it's been a difficult time and Ron is very sick, your concern has given me strength and your love has helped me know the closeness of God even during these difficult days. You are my church family and I feel close to you. Please keep us in your prayers.*

For those of you who would like to send notes, the address is Ron and Dee Fleming, 24 Stirling Ct., Hamburg, NJ 07419.

Happy Birthday



Birthday wishes are extended to:

September

Anne Henschen (5), Cynthia Carabetta (6), Ethan & Ryleigh Sanderson-Raphael (6), Stacy Sanderson-Raphael (8), Tommy Henschen (9), Amanda Otworth (13), Susan Stambaugh (20), Shannon Hampton (21), Nancy Collins (21), Kristen Libonati (25), Ethel Larson (29), Colin Sanderson (29)

October

Nicholas Navarro (17), Diane Kuenzler (23), Joseph Otworth (23), Jedh Downey (25), Jeffrey Pinelli (27), Sophie Downey (28), Richard Rac (31), Fran Thiessen (31)

November

Erica Kuenzler (1), Nancy Galloway (4), Melissa Sungela (7), Ronald Fleming (9), Leslie Whatley (9), Kenneth Sungela (9), Glenn Slezak (10), Claudia Kwitchoff (11), Gary Watson-Mucciolo (11), Zoe Millard (12), Reilly Hamilton (15), Doug Henschen (20), Christine Mujica (20), Theresa Carabetta (22)



CALENDAR



September

- 8:** 7:00 P.M. - Deacon's Meeting: Carol Golem's Home, 1 Fourth Street, Norwood
- 11:** 7:00 P.M. - September 11 Interfaith Service of Remembrance and Peace, Norwood Fire House, 602 Broadway.
- 13:** Education Sunday
- Sunday School Registration. Grades K-7.
 - *Exploring Faith: Where Do I Fit In?* Grades 8&9. An introduction and explanation of this new exciting program after worship in the Sanctuary.
 - Congregational Book Forum - A monthly Discussion on the book: *Theology for Liberal Protestants (and other endangered species)*, by Douglas Ottati. Check out the book on the table at the rear of the church. Discussion times: First Sunday of the month after worship. Adults and teens welcome.
 - Sign-ups for Adult Hand Bell Choir
 - Sign-ups for The Joy Ringers (Children's Bell Choir, beginning mid-November)
 - Sign-ups for the Joy Singers - **A wonderful opportunity for your children to praise God in joyful song** (Beginning mid-September)
- 14:** 7:00 P.M. – Session Meeting, Sanctuary
- 15:** 7:30 P.M. - *The Faith Club* – Carol Watson-Mucciolo's Home: 601 Nottingham Ct., Norwood.
A discussion of *Ghandi's Pilgrimage of Faith*, by Uma Majmuda. New Members Welcome. See Pastor Fran.
- 16:** Wednesdays at Noon, in the Sanctuary
Bible 101: Learn about books, themes, and people in the Bible. Reflect and become aware of God in your life. Brown Bag Lunch. This Fall: Paul the Apostle
- 16:** 7:00 P.M. - Adult Choir Rehearsal Resumes
- 17:** Thursdays at 10:30 A.M. in the Sanctuary
ESL: Levels 1 and 2
- 19:** Saturday: Fall Clean-Up of our Grounds. Details to follow.
- 20:** Sunday:
Church School Begins
5:00 P.M Youth Group: A Demonstration and class on CPR is planned.
- 27:** Talent Show/Covered Dish Brunch – after Worship in the C.E. Bldg. Volunteers needed. See Judy Banes and Deacons.

October

- 4:** World Communion Sunday – Peacemaking Offering Collected
- 12:** 7:00 P.M. - Session Meeting, Sanctuary
- 18:** Annual Crop Walk – For the entire family. *"We walk because they walk."*
- 25:** Reformation Sunday
We commemorate John Calvin's Birthday

November

- 1:** The Communion of Saints – We remember those who have died.
- 9:** 7:00 P.M. - Session Meeting, Sanctuary
- 11:** 3:30 P.M. Wednesday – Joy Ringers (Children's Bell Choir) begin preparation for Christmas
- 22:** Sunday – A Service of Gratitude as we prepare for Thanksgiving. Church World Service Kits are collected.

December

- 20:** An Advent Music Celebration at Worship. Choir and Congregational Singing.
- 24:** *Christmas Eve*
First Service at 5:00 P.M.;
Second Service time to be decided.

