



Cornerstone Connection

December 2012

Building Community on the Solid Rock of Jesus Christ

www.cornerstonechurchofjackson.org**SUNDAY WORSHIP****Sunday School** 9:00 - 9:45am
for Adults
(childcare available)**Fellowship** 9:45 - 10:00am**Worship** 10:00am
(Sunday School for kids during worship)**Pastor:**

Courtney Cromie, 732-928-2424

Music Minister:

Kenneth Ahlstrom, 732-759-5219

Interns:

Konnie Clary, 509-590-9156

Kathy Genus, 732-585-3290

Administrative Manager:

Jim Ryan, 732-833-8514

Administrative Secretary:

Elizabeth Hughes, 732-833-6857

Treasurer:

Gordon Connelly, 732-833-4264

Director of Christian Education:

Kristen DiGirolamo, 732-657-7808

Nursery Care:

Patti Miller, 732-928-3212

Courtney Miner

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A Message from our Pastor**ABOUT THE SEASON OF ADVENT**
Preparing Our Hearts For The Christchild

Advent is a season of anticipation and hope. During these December days we look forward with great excitement to celebrate the birth of baby Jesus. We're leaning forward during Advent, looking ahead, hoping, anticipating.

The Advent wreath points our attention forward to Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. (John 8:12) These December days (in the northern hemisphere) are days of increasing darkness. The days are shorter and shorter, the nights are longer and longer. The candles of the Advent wreath bring increasing light as we light another candle each Sunday. The growing light dispels the growing darkness.

There is much darkness in our world today – especially as we consider the great devastation that Hurricane Sandy left in her wake. In addition, all around us we see and hear about violence, poverty, hunger, isolation, fear, greed. The darkness that we see and know is not too dark though to cover the Light of Christ. As we anticipate the celebration of the birth of Jesus, let us pray for the Light of Christ to chase away the darkness we live with each day, bringing us to full joy as we celebrate Christmas and the birth of our Savior. And, let us pray for and look forward to that time when Christ will come again, in fullness and final glory, bringing everything to its completion, wholly dispelling the darkness of this world.

As we light the Advent candles each week, we rejoice – for we walk and live in the light of the Lord, the light no darkness can overcome. (John 1:5)

During Advent, the pastor and deacons will be happy to take communion to homes or hospital rooms upon request.

Blessings in Christ, Courtney

Worship at McAuliffe Middle School

35 S. Hope Chapel Road, Jackson

Mailing address: P.O. Box 140, Jackson, NJ 08527

Cornerstone Community



Brandon Capurso, 12/1
Denise Mudalel, 12/3
Grace Tomczak, 12/4
Tyler Capurso, 12/14
Frank Fowler, 12/19
Joyce Connelly, 12/22
Courtney Cromie, 12/24
Michael DiGirolamo, 12/27
Sharron Smith, 12/27
Nicholas Tedeschi, 12/28
Lori Miller, 12/29
Sami Miner, 12/31



Gordon & Joyce Connelly, 12/19
Sueli & Dominique Robert, 12/26



Please pray for John Varrellman and his family after the death of his mother, Christine Varrellman.

ELDERS ON OUR SESSION

BOARD OF DEACONS

2012	Sharron Smith Jim Ryan Barbara Dougherty James Hughes	Laura Stone Alice Jones
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2013	Okoro Okparaekwe Denise Mudalel Lisa Capurso	Betty Thompson Laurie Wegner
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2014	Dominique Robert Bruce Thompson Kellie Pushko Todd Moyer	David Carlson Sueli Paes de Barros
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Aaron Beeg will be appearing in "Scrooge - A Christmas Carol" at the Historic Strand Theatre in Lakewood. Shows are on Friday December 7th at 8:00 PM, Saturday 12/8 at 2:00 PM and 8:00 PM, and Sunday, 12/9 at 2:00 PM. Come and see a great show, and support Aaron! Tickets can be purchased online at:

http://www.strand.org/TB_Event_Schedule.aspx.

MISSION STATEMENT

We the people of Cornerstone are a part of God's Grand Adventure to: ground our lives on the solid rock of Jesus Christ, build up each other in love through prayer, words and deeds, and to create God's community in Jackson and beyond.

Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of every month. If you have something for the newsletter, please email to Elizabeth Hughes at: administrative@cornerstonechurchofjackson.org

LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION FROM THE CORNERSTONE SESSION REGARDING THE PASTOR EMERITUS STATUS OF REVEREND ROBERT MORRISON

December 1, 2012

Dear Members,

One way for a congregation to honor a former pastor is to confer the status of pastor emeritus. When Reverend Robert "Rev. Rob" Morrison retired it was the expressed wish of the congregation to confer upon him the status of Pastor Emeritus of Cornerstone Presbyterian Church. Pastor emeritus is defined in the Book of Order prior to 2011 the following way:

"When any pastor or associate pastor retires, and the congregation is moved with affection and gratitude to continue an association in an honorary relationship, it may, at a regularly called congregational meeting, elect him or her as pastor emeritus or emerita, with or without honorarium, but with no pastoral authority or duty. This action shall be taken only after consultation with the committee on ministry of the presbytery concerning the wisdom of this relationship for the peace of the church. This action shall be subject to the approval of the presbytery, and may take effect upon the formal dissolution of the pastoral or associate pastoral relationship or anytime thereafter."

During Rev. Rob's retirement celebration on November 17, 2010 a motion was made stating that in gratitude for Reverend Dr. Robert Morrison's service to Cornerstone Presbyterian Church it be recommended to Presbytery that the title of "Pastor Emeritus" be conferred upon him. Although the congregation voted unanimously to approve the motion, the congregation was asked to wait at least one (1) year, as is customary within our presbytery, and revisit the honor at that time.

The necessary time has passed and the Session has reopened consultations with our Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM). In entering into consultation with the COM, the Session will now fulfill the expressed wishes of the congregation. The Session would also like to remind the Cornerstone community that the designation of pastor emeritus is an honorary relationship with "no pastoral authority or duty."

The COM and presbytery have now given their blessing to Cornerstone at the most recent Presbytery Meeting and the most recent COM meeting and we can now go forward and arrange for a worship service or other event to celebrate the occasion of this honorary relationship. This letter is meant to remind the congregation of the honor we have conferred upon Rev. Rob as well as to educate and be absolutely clear to the congregation about the role of a retired pastor (and pastor emeritus). It is extremely important that the congregation understand the role of the retired pastor, especially when the honor of pastor emeritus will allow the retired pastor to occasionally attend church services and events.

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This then leads to some practical questions:

What are the ethical guidelines for a retired pastor?

A retired pastor is no longer available to do the things they used to do--especially weddings, baptisms, and funerals. Close friends, of the retired pastor, from the congregation will need to get used to the fact that any conversations should exclude discussions of the current pastor and congregational life.

*A retired pastor who remains in the community **must** worship somewhere else and **must** say "NO" when parishioners call for advice, complain about congregational life, or ask him to perform weddings, baptisms or funerals.*

Does the pastor emeritus relationship change the responsibilities dictated by the ethical guidelines for retired pastors?

No! The guidelines for retired pastors are to be followed by all pastors. If anything, the pastor emeritus has increased responsibility to follow and interpret the ethics guidelines to the members of the congregation who may misunderstand the relationship and assume a continuing pastoral relationship.

The only changes are that a pastor emeritus can occasionally attend, as a guest, services or events of the church or congregation and can be enlisted to perform activities within the church, but only with the express invitation of the session and approval from the presbytery.

The Session has moved forward to faithfully carry out the expressed wishes of the congregation and extend appreciation and honor to Cornerstone's founding pastor. A celebration will be arranged at a convenient time for Rob and Kathe in early 2013.

Yours in Christ,

The Cornerstone Session

This information in the letter conforms to the Book of Order 2011-2013, which neither provides for nor prohibits the election of a pastor emeritus/emerita.

UPDATE ON OUR FORMER CORNERSTONE INTERNS!

We have been so blessed over the years to have amazing interns at Cornerstone. We are so grateful for the time that they spent with us, and we continue to pray for them as they continue their ministries elsewhere!



Dr. John Markel graduated from seminary and then in 2002, he was installed as organizing pastor of Tappahannock Presbyterian Chapel in Tappahannock, Virginia. Next, John served as Pastor at Bethesda Presbyterian in northeast Philadelphia March 2004 until he officially retired on Sunday, October 7, 2012. John was a dentist before becoming a pastor.

Joshua Sutherlun is the Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Huntingdon, WV. Joshua was born and raised in a little town outside of San Antonio called Cibolo, TX. He grew up in a United Methodist congregation, where his parents have been the volunteer youth directors for over 30 years now. He first heard of the Presbyterian Church when he decided to attend Austin College, a Presbyterian Liberal Arts School. It was there that he became involved in the ACTivators, who lead youth retreats all over Texas, began “professional” youth ministry at Trinity UMC, and met his wife, Amy (see below). Following college graduation and a year of real life experience (delivering pizzas, YMCA childcare, construction work, and getting married), Joshua attended Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey. He moved to Huntington with his wife in 2005, began officially working with the FPC youth in 2008, and was ordained as Associate Pastor for Student Ministries in June, 2011. Four small kids – Serena, Asher, Josiah and Micah – keep him busy, but Joshua also likes to run, chase Frisbees, play guitar, grill meat, and remodel his house (okay, he doesn’t really like this, but spends a lot of time doing it anyway).



Amy Sutherlun is the Director of Adult Discipleship at First Presbyterian Church, Huntingdon, WV. Amy began her ministry at First Presbyterian in 2005, as Associate Pastor for Discipleship with a focus on young adults. In June 2011, she transitioned into her current (part-time) role as Director of Adult Discipleship, which allows her to spend more time at home with her children and the privilege of continuing to minister in the areas of adult education, and young adult and young family nurture and fellowship. An ordained minister, Amy is a member-at-large of the presbytery of West Virginia. Amy grew up in Texas and New Mexico, and earned her B.A. in English and M.A. in Teaching from Austin College in Sherman, Texas. She taught elementary school in inner-city Dallas for 2 years before attending seminary at Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey, where she earned her M.Div. in May 2005. Much of Amy’s prior ministry experience is in Christian Education, Youth Ministry, and New Church Development, serving churches in Texas, Oklahoma, and New Jersey. She also spent a summer doing mission work in Malawi, Africa in 1998. Amy and her husband, Joshua met doing youth ministry in college, married in 2002, and attended seminary together. They are the parents of Serena, Asher, Josiah and Micah. Their family lives in a perpetually-renovated Southside house with their dog Bishop. Amy loves writing, preaching, dancing, travelling, and time with her family.

Larissa Kwong Abazia is now a workshop leader and living in the Princeton, NJ area. She served as Associate Pastor at Lake View Presbyterian Church from July 2008 – May 2012 in Chicago, Illinois. She is an energetic and passionate teacher who explores the world with others to envision and build an inclusive community that celebrates all of its uniqueness. She accompanies others to arrive at a new place that challenges and changes the way people see themselves, one another and the world. She graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary in 2007 and then served a year-long chaplaincy training as a CPE Resident for Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, PA. She serves as a board member with “That All May Freely Serve Advance Justice Committee.” She is a writer for the Presbytery of Chicago, And she has authored the Presbyterian Women’s Beatitudes Bible Study Supplemental Resources Racial Ethnic Young Women Together and the Racial Ethnic Dialog. She has received the Asian American Ministry Award, May 2007 and the David B. Watermulder Prize in Church Leadership, May 2007. She is married to Daniel and has a son, Jonathan.



Matt Knapp is the Associate Pastor for Youth at Centerville Presbyterian Church in Fremont, California. He has shared in ministry there since June 2008. He grew up in Merced California and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from California State University, Fresno. Matt also earned a Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary. He has been happily married to his wife Cari since June 2005, has two children, Ethan and Isabella, and a bulldog named Watson. His love for his family and the youth are only exceeded by his love for God. Matt leads the Jr. High, High School, and College ministries at CPC.



Mark Plunkett serves as Pastor and Director of Youth at Heritage Presbyterian Church in Houston, Texas. He graduated from Princeton Seminary in 2011. He is married to Jeanne with a son Daniel and daughter Megan. And is a recent grandfather to Daniel’s son, Logan. Before seminary he was an elementary school teacher for many years.



Matt and Mandy Fleming Mandy is serving as Minister of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation for Saint Mark United Methodist Church in Atlanta, Georgia since June 2007. And Matt serves as Preaching Instructor for Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia since July 2008. They have three children.

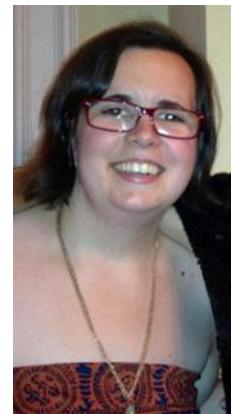


Travis McMaken Is married with two children and serves as an assistant professor of Religion at Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri.

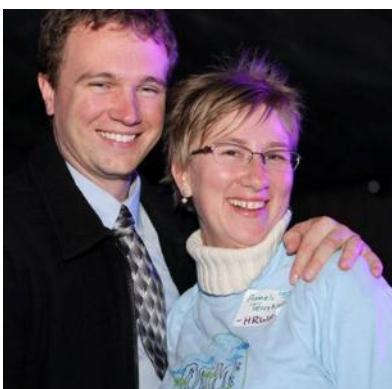
Jeremiah Knabe serves as Associate Pastor for Youth & Young Adults for Christ Presbyterian Church of Rancho La Costa in Carlsbad, California since February 2011. From his humble roots as a Minnesota hog farmer's son, he earned a Bachelor of Science in Space Physics and a Bachelor of Arts in Religion from Augsburg College (Minneapolis, MN) and a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary (Princeton, NJ). Jeremiah loves anything having to do with water including canoeing, waterskiing, SCUBA diving, and most recently surfing. He and his wife Lindsay welcomed their first son, Jackson Henry in April 2011. A Minnesota transplant he is beginning to become accustomed to the San Diego weather! 113 Frontier Dr. Oceanside, CA



Mary-Lynn Morrison currently serves as the Sandy Response Team Administrative Assistant for Monmouth Presbytery and New Brunswick Seminary. She formerly served as pastor of the Cranesville Reformed Church in Amsterdam, NY. She resides in Jackson with Kathe and Rob Morrison.



Leigh Stuckey until recently served as Interim Director of Youth, Young Adults and Worship Ministries in Lawrenceville, New Jersey. She is now searching for a new position and lives in Princeton.

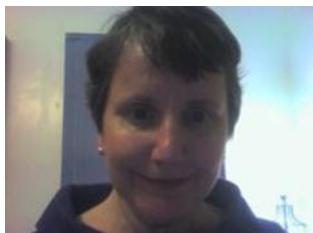


Chris Terry-Nelson is the pastor of the Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Franklin, Tennessee, near Nashville since 2010. He and his wife, Anneli, have two children, Nora and Ezra.



David Kahnt is a contract chaplain with Abington Memorial Hospital and is also a hospice chaplain with Holy Redeemer Home Care & Hospice. He and his wife Becky have three children. They live in Lansdale, Pennsylvania near Philadelphia.

Barbara Jarmon serves as a pastor/chaplain for Presbyterian Homes, a retirement community, in Lakeland, Florida.



Meredith Ryan is preaching in churches in the Trenton area.

Megan Grieshaber graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary in 2010 and has served as an intern and then Resident Chaplain at Christiana Care Health System in Delaware, providing trauma and emergency pastoral care to patients, family, and staff. She currently lives in Princeton, NJ and acts as a crisis intervention specialist at the New Jersey Division of Child Behavioural Health Services (DCBHS).



Matt Rhodes serves as the community leader for The L'Arche Community in Haddonfield. In this role, Rhodes is charged with overseeing the health of the community—spiritually, administratively, and financially, as well as facilitating the growth of its members. Currently, in the United States, there are only sixteen L'Arche Communities, family-like homes where individuals with and without disabilities share their lives together. The assistants and core members live in communities of faith and friendship where they reside, work, pray, and play together. Rhodes credits his time at L'Arche with giving him “the freedom to accept life as a gift and rejoice amidst the challenges we face.” Rhodes says, “Living and working at L'Arche with individuals who have developmental disabilities revealed an openness and tenderness in me. I knew that somehow my call would involve working with people with disabilities.” Rachel Achtemeier, his wife, serves as the associate pastor at the First Presbyterian Church in Haddonfield, New Jersey. Matt graduated from Princeton Seminary in 2011.

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY



Devin Berry is in her middle year at Princeton Theological Seminary and currently serves as the Hunger Action Enabler for The Presbytery of West Jersey in Haddon Heights, New Jersey since August 2012. She is engaged to David Scott and also serves as Youth Director for Providence Presbyterian Church in Burlington Township, New Jersey.

Carson Dockum is in his senior year at Princeton Theological Seminary and currently serves as the Youth Intern for Trinity Episcopal Church in Princeton, NJ. He is engaged to Britany Longsdorf and is employed by Princeton Theological Seminary as their PDR Catering Manager since September 2010.



MEET THE ELDER AND DEACON CANDIDATES

At the end of 2012, there are 4 elders and 2 deacons who will have completed their terms—we offer our sincere thanks and gratitude to them for their service to our church: Elders Sharron Smith, James Hughes, Jim Ryan, Barbara Dougherty and Deacons Laura Stone and Alice Jones. At this time, we are pleased to introduce you to the new elder and deacon candidates for 2013! These nominees will be voted on at the Congregational Meeting after worship on 12/9.

NEW ELDER NOMINEES



Barbara Dougherty has served as an Elder for the past three years. She has also been the Chair of the Cornerstone Nominating Committee. Barbara enjoys painting, traveling, gardening, and cooking.



Gail Carlson and her husband David live in Westlake, and between them they have 5 children and 5 grandchildren. Gail and David have volunteered at Vacation Bible School for several years, and they have also been setting up the hospitality table on Sunday mornings.



Chuck Calhoun has previously served as an Elder at Cornerstone. He owns and manages a pool service, maintenance and renovation company, and he is married to his wife Michele and they have a son that is a high school freshman and two sons in college. Chuck has been active in the planning related to our church property.

Wendy Barone officially joined Cornerstone in October. She has two sons, and is a Middle School Special Education teacher. Wendy has been active in our Mission projects and adult fellowship.



David LaCross joined Cornerstone in October. He and his wife Debbie have 2 children. David and his family have been very active in church setup and breakdown on Sunday mornings.

NEW DEACON NOMINEES

Laura Stone has been serving as a Deacon since March 2011. She is a registered nurse, and is very active as a volunteer in the Jackson community. At Cornerstone, she has been involved in adult fellowship and Bible Study.



Jim Ryan has been an Elder for the past 3 years and now feels a calling to serve as a Deacon. Jim has 2 children and 2 grandchildren. He has volunteered at Vacation Bible School for several years, and been active in the choir, adult fellowship and Bible Study.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING December 9, 2012

The Session of Cornerstone Presbyterian Church calls for a Congregational Meeting to be held **Sunday, December 9, 2012** immediately following the 10:00 Worship Service for the purpose of nominating four new Elders to session for the class of 2015 and one to fill a remaining one year term for the class of 2013; two Deacons for the class of 2015; the position of Clerk of Session; and members of the Cornerstone Nominating Committee. The Installation Service for Elders, Deacons, the Clerk, and the Nominating Committee will be on the following Sunday, December 16th.



Poinsettia Sale

The Church Ladies will be selling poinsettias and the proceeds will benefit our church! **Orders and payment are due 12/2**; forms will be available in church. Three sizes available: 6" for \$10, 8" for \$25, and 10" for \$35. The plants will be available for pickup on 12/9 .

"Updated" Photo Directory

We are planning to update the church photo directory by January 2013! If you would like to change your photo, please email a current photo of you and/or your family to:

administrative@cornerstonechurchofjackson.org

Also include any updates to your contact information, including email addresses, cell phones, birthdays, etc.. Also, if you would like us to help you to capture a NEW photo, we will also be available after church the last three Sundays in November to take photos.



Open House at Pastor Courtney's Home 12/2

Stop by anytime between 12:45 and 3:45 and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies! The address is 76 Quince Court, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648. Parking: Please use spaces without a number and park along the curbs as well.

December Birthdays!

We will celebrate all who have December birthdays on Sunday, December 9th with a cake after worship. Thanks to Dave and Gail Carlson for their efforts with hospitality!

INTRODUCING OUR NEW TREASURER, TINA KAS



My name is Tina Kas. I have worked in the accounting field since 1986. I have been an accounts payable manager and at my last company was promoted to the assistant of the CFO and controller. I have filled in for payroll and human resources in the past. When I had my son, in 2003, I continued to work part time. We then moved to North Carolina. I did not seek employment as we were planning to have another child.

We moved back to New Jersey in 2006. Since then, I served as treasurer of the Jackson MOMS Club for two years. It is a non-profit organization and I generated the appropriate year end reports along with the regular daily duties. In addition, I worked for the census in 2010 and was the crew leader's assistant for four months. I approved work hours and expenses. In addition, I processed and reviewed all paperwork before it was to be submitted.

My background will help me fill the shoes needed for this task. I look forward to helping my church and serving in this manner.

What Is the Christmas Joy Offering?



A cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Because Advent and Christmas shine a light not only on our world's greatest hope but also on our world's greatest need, the PC(USA) provides this timely opportunity for congregations to support causes specifically designed to bring "good news of great joy" (Luke 2:10) to the poor in circumstance or spirit. Alongside the message of promise and fulfillment in Luke's Gospel, we also hear the clear call to God's people to respond in faith as Christ calls us: "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded" (Luke 12:48).

Undesignated gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering will be distributed equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to support student scholarships at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

Cornerstone will be accepting the Joy Offering donations throughout the month of December with a special collection on December 23rd and 24th. Envelopes are available if needed.

Equipping the Saints: Leadership Training Day for Church Elders, Deacons, Clerks, and other Leaders

A Cooperative Effort by the Educational Ministries of Elizabeth, Monmouth and New Brunswick Presbyteries and of Princeton Theological Seminary as a ministry of the Synod of the Northeast.

**Saturday, January 12, 2013 from 8:30 am - 3:00 pm at Stuart Hall
in Princeton Theological Seminary**

A day of workshops, worship, resources and fellowship planned especially to support and equip new and ongoing church officers, pastors, worship leaders and interested others in their ministries, organized by the educational ministries of Elizabeth, Monmouth and New Brunswick Presbyteries, in partnership with Princeton Theological Seminary, and as a ministry of the Synod of the Northeast. This program is free and open to the public.

For more information or to register, visit: <http://ptsem.edu/offices/coned/index.aspx?id=5613>

December Services:

- **December 2** Advent Series—week 1: “Song of Hope”
- **December 9** Advent Series—week 2: “Song of Peace”
- **December 16** Advent Series—week 3: “Song of Joy”
- **December 23** Advent Series—week 4: “Song of Love”
- **December 24 Christmas Eve, 7:00 PM at McAuliffe Middle School**
- **December 30** Kathy Genus to preach, no communion on this day



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

**December 24, 2012
7:00 PM
McAuliffe Middle School**

This year we are blessed to have McAuliffe Middle School available to us for our Christmas Eve worship! There will be no setup or breakdown since the school is closed for the week.

This year, there will be one service FOR ALL at 7:00 PM. Join us to hear the Story of Christmas and the miracle of Jesus's birth, and share in Communion as we gather together for this very special worship service.



The Songs of Luke's Gospel: *Advent Sermon Series Overview*

The birth narrative in the Gospel of Luke is full of singing. Zechariah sings, Simeon sings, Mary sings, and the angels sing. Within these songs of Luke we find the major themes of the Advent season: hope, peace, joy, and love. These songs provide for us a way to present the timeless story of Immanuel from an interesting perspective.

Dec 2: First Sunday of Advent – Song’s Of

Luke’s Gospel Advent Series: Song of Hope,
Text: Luke 1:67-79 - Reverend Cromie

Dec 9: Second Sunday of Advent- Song’s Of

Luke’s Gospel Advent Series: Song of Peace,
Text: Luke 2:22-39 - Konnie Clary

Dec 16: Children’s Christmas Pageant/Third Sunday of Advent- Song’s Of Luke’s Gospel

Advent Series: Song of Joy, Text: Luke 1:46-55 - Kathy Genus

Dec 23: Fourth Sunday of Advent- Song’s Of

Luke’s Gospel Advent Series: Song of Love,
Text: Luke 2:1-20 - Reverend Cromie



The Beeg Family after Aaron’s baptism on 11/4

PHOTO GALLERY

Stewardship Sunday November 18, 2012



Cornerstone Children's Ministry & The DeBows Wesley Club
2nd and 4th Thursdays, 6-7:30 PM
Meets at DeBows United Methodist Church ,
509 Monmouth Road, Jackson, NJ

This group meets on the Second and Fourth Thursday of the month, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm., unless otherwise noted. It is for children in Kindergarten through Sixth Grade, and is led by Pastor Courtney and Pastor Betty. Each month there will be a Missions theme with an associated craft or trip. A fun evening of Christian fellowship through bible lessons, crafts, holiday plays, games, snacks, and field trips.

Mission for December: Writing Christmas cards and Caroling to Care One Residents and Shut-ins

December meetings:

- **November 30—December 1:** Sleepover at DeBows 11/30 7:00 PM—12/1 8:30 AM (children should bring pillow, sleeping bag or blanket, toothbrush, and a snack to share!)
- **December 9**—meet at 5:30, Caroling w/Families & Friends of DeBows & Cornerstone to Shut-ins
- **December 13**—Meet at 5:30 PM for pizza and a discussion of “Miracle of Jesus’ Birth, Matt. 1:18-25” at 6:15 PM we travel to Care One to Carol to Residents



At the Community
Thanksgiving Service
November 18th



YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY 12/16



All middle school and high school youth are invited to a Christmas Party after worship on December 16th at the Hughes home (5 Kindling Way). Games, food, and FUN—bring a \$10 gift to swap.

HELP NEEDED

Adult Youth and Children's Ministry Volunteers are needed for our mid-week and evening programs, so if you are interested in helping with Youth or with Children, please let Pastor Courtney know.

Youth Group for Grades 6-12 at JUMC



At Jackson United Methodist Church, Thursdays 6:15—7:15 PM

Youth will gather for times of Bible Study, Fellowship, Drama, Games, and FUN! Our middle school and high school students are invited to attend Youth Group led by a staff member from JUMC on Thursday evenings. Please speak to Pastor Courtney for more information.

The Youth Leader for this program is Rachel Holsey, who received her BA in Youth Ministry and Biblical Studies from Eastern University. She has experience ministering to and serving with youth in a variety of settings including church youth groups, conferences/camps, and non-profit organizations. Rachel's own experience growing up in her church youth group gave her the desire to share with people, especially youth, a love for Jesus and a passion for being Jesus' hands and feet to the world.

December schedule (theme: "Rethinking Christmas"):

- **December 6** 6:15-7:15
- **December 13** 6:15-7:15
- **December 20** 6:15-7:15

Cornerstone Confirmation Class Starting in February 2013

Confirmation Class for High School Youth in 9th grade and above will be offered from February–May 2013. This class is a time for youth to confirm the love that God has expressed for each of us in Jesus Christ.

It is important that both the youth and the family are involved in this journey.

On **Sunday, January 27th from 11:15 -11:30 AM**, there will be an informational meeting in which youth and parents are invited to learn more about the Confirmation Process here at Cornerstone Presbyterian. If a youth decides they are ready to join our church or would like more information about membership, we hope the youth and parent will attend this meeting. Confirmation Classes will be taught by the pastor, Courtney and adult mentors. **Adult mentors are needed!** If you can be a mentor, please talk to Pastor Courtney.

**Sunday School for Kids during
10AM worship**

**Sunday School for Adults
9:00—9:45 AM**

Adult Sunday School

This class is held on Sundays before worship from 9:00 –9:45 AM. Pastor Courtney will be teaching a Bible Study during the Christmas season. No class on December 30th. Please let Pastor Courtney or Kristen DiGirolamo know if you plan to attend and need child care.

Children's Play

"Christmas Around the World"

**Sunday December 16th during
10 AM Worship**

All children and youth are invited to participate! Preparations and practice will be taking place during Sunday School on 12/9. Children should arrive between 9:30-9:45 on 12/16 to get costumes on.



Sunday School for Kids!



This fall, the **elementary** children will be learning from the We Believe series called "We Worship God." The children will explore the beginnings of worship with the people of Israel, which will help them gain an awareness of worship in our own time.

The **Middle School Youth** will be studying a survey of the Bible, starting with an Old Testament study called "The Patriarchs," focusing on Isaac, Jacob and Joseph.

Teachers:

Nursery: Courtney Miner

Young Elementary (K-3rd): Allyson Moyer and Kellie Pushko

Older Elementary (4-5th): Patti Miller

Middle School: Elizabeth Hughes and Kristen DiGirolamo

THE PATRIARCHS
ISAAC - JACOB - JOSEPH



The Cornerstone Choir

The Cornerstone Choir, under the direction of Ken Ahlstrom, rehearses from September to May, and performs each week, at the 10 AM worship service. They sing and perform a variety of anthems, ranging from traditional classics to current praise anthems. All of their music is done in a modern, contemporary style with a keyboard accompaniment.

The Choir rehearses at DeBows United Methodist (509 Monmouth Road, Jackson, NJ) each Thursday night from 7-8:30 PM. The members of the choir are an extremely dedicated group of individuals who enjoy singing, as well as spending time together.

The Choir is always looking for new members. If you are interested in joining this wonderful group of people and feel God's leading to make a joyful sound unto the Lord, please call or text Ken Ahlstrom @ 732.759.5219 or send him a message via email: kennethahlstrom@ymail.com for more details.



Looking for Instrumentalists!

Please talk to Ken if you can share your gift and play a role in our music ministry! All ages and instrument types are welcome!



Sean Beeg sings at the Community Thanksgiving Service, 11/18

Thanks to Ken Ahlstrom for accompanying Sean and the kids!



Special music on Stewardship Sunday, 11/18—thank you to Kim Genus and Frank Genus and the drummer Chuck for being our guests.

Children's Music at DeBows

As part of the Children's Ministry Program with DeBows on Thursday nights, the children will be learning songs about Jesus and will be singing in worship. For more information, see page 15.

MISSION

LOCAL OUTREACH TO HELP THE VICTIMS OF HURRICANE SANDY

Donations can still be dropped off at Michele Calhoun's home (4 Dolphin Court, Jackson).

Cornerstone is planning to adopt up to three families from the shore area. We have contacted one family in Point Pleasant Beach who lost their home and would like our assistance in making sure that their three children (ages 8, 5, and 1) have some Christmas presents. **Please visit the Giving Tree, which will be at church through 12/16, and take an angel if you can help.**



Thank you to the Calhoun's for storing the items collected in their garage!



Hurricane Relief BIG DAY OF SERVING: Saturday



December 1st from 6 AM – 6 PM: Hurricane Sandy wreaked havoc in the Northeast on many communities, including the town of Keansburg, New Jersey. Several volunteers from Cornerstone

are serving residents affected by flooding by picking up debris and tearing out drywall, insulation and flooring, and doing home repairs to prepare for winter. **Please pray for all the volunteers as they serve God and our community on this day!**

Please Pray and Correspond with our Two Adopted Missionaries! If you are computer savvy, you may subscribe to their blogs and/or read letters at the PC(USA) website.

Kay Day – Missionary Worker in Malawi

Email: kay.day@pcusa.org

Blog/Website: <http://kaydaysdiary.blogspot.com/>

PCUSA Website for Kay: <http://gamac.pcusa.org/ministries/missionconnections/day-mary-catherine/>

Birthday: August 9

Kay's bio: Kay was appointed as a PC(USA) mission co-worker in July 2009 and serves in Malawi at the invitation of the Blantyre Synod of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP).

Dennis and Maribel Smith—Missionary Workers in Argentina

Emails: dennis.smith@pcusa.org, maribel.smith@pcusa.org

Pcusa website: <http://gamac.pcusa.org/ministries/missionconnections/smith-dennis-and-maribel/>

Office address: Sucre 2855, 3°, 1428, Buenos Aires, Argentina **Office phone:** +54 11 4787 0436;

Birthdays: Dennis - 11/1, Maribel - 6/22, Lucas - 9/22, Benji - 8/21

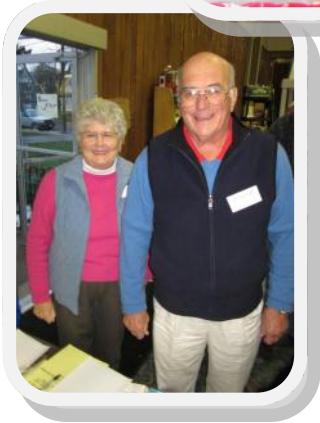
MISSION



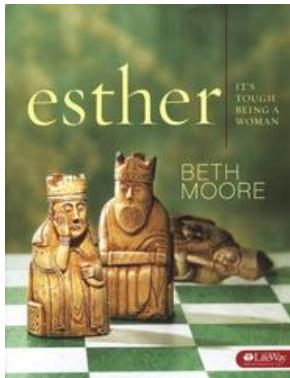
Thanks to all who helped with Operation Christmas Child!

Cornerstone packed and shipped 76 shoe boxes for Samaritan's Purse and through the generosity of the Church Ladies and the congregation we were able to pay for all the shipping costs. Thanks to all for making this worldwide mission project a success!

Thank you all who prepared food and volunteered to serve a meal and sort donations at Manasquan United Methodist Church on November 10th!



Tuesday Women's Bible Study



Study of Esther—It's Tough Being a Woman

This Study is for 10 weeks, Tuesdays from 10:30 AM - 12:15 PM through February 5th at the home of Elizabeth Hughes

Join Beth Moore in an in-depth and very personal examination of this great story of threat and deliverance. She peels back the layers of history and shows how very contemporary and applicable the story of Esther is to our lives. If you've ever felt inadequate, threatened, or pushed into situations that seemed overpowering, this is the study for you. Just as it was tough being a woman in Esther's day, it's tough today. This portion of God's Word contains treasures to aid us in our hurried, harried, and pressured lives. See Pastor Courtney for more information. Study Guides are \$16.00.

Advent Study on Sundays to begin Sunday December 2 from 5:30-6:30 at Jackson United Methodist Church (68 Bennetts Mills Road, Jackson, NJ)



The study will be lead by pastor Courtney and Kathy Genus. The Book is 10.00 and scholarship funds are available. The book is called, "Christmas: It's Not Your Birthday"

Summary: Every year, we say we're going to cut back, simplify, and have a Christmas that focuses on the real reason for the season—Jesus. But every year, advertisements beckon, the children plead, and it seems easier just to indulge our wants. This Christmas, experience the peace of knowing that God is truly with us, the joy of giving sacrificially, and the love of a Savior who gave everything he had for us.

Church Ladies

The Church Ladies meet on the third Wednesday of every month at 1:00 p.m. The women take turns hosting the meeting at their homes. All women are welcome to join them for a time of fellowship, friendship, and service to our church and the community. Talk to Joan Mallison for more information.

Next meeting: Christmas Luncheon at the Westlake Grill on Wednesday, Dec. 19th at 1:00 pm. Please call Betty Thompson or Joan Mallison and let them know if you would like to attend so that they can make a reservation.

Church Ladies Bake Sale Mark your calendars for the "Christmas Cookie Bake Sale" on December 16. There will be lots of "Goodies" for your holiday celebration. Talk to Joan Mallison for more information, and look for the signup sheet if you can bake.

Financial Report for November

- Tithes/offerings = \$7702
(Weekly: 11/4 = \$2422, 11/11 = \$2231, 11/18 = \$1938, 11/25 = \$1111)*
- Per Capita offering = \$0
- Foundation Fund = \$90 (Shop Rite)
- Gifts from other churches = \$ 0
- Special Offerings = \$481 (Samaritan's purse) + \$29 (candle donation) + \$25 (disaster relief)
- Miscellaneous income = \$0

* Our 2012 budget calls for \$1923 each week in offerings - please continue to prayerfully consider your giving each week.

Stewardship Update

Each week in worship we are sharing our thanks and challenges to pledge and give generously. In spite of the economy, God has blessed us at Cornerstone. How do we say thanks? We offer up our weekly tithes and offerings as we are able. Commitment is vital for the future of Cornerstone. We need your regular support of our ministry.

Cornerstone has about 70 potential giving units. To date, 22 have pledged (thank you!). Last year we had 42 pledges or about 60% of the potential giving units (families). We hope to have 48 pledges this year (we had 50 in 2010) and have about 45% of the expected pledges so far. Over 60 % of the pledges are increased over last year and as a result we have achieved over 70% of last years pledge total. Our goal is to increase last years total by 15%. If we can do that, we can finally present a balanced budget. We are on target to meet that goal but we need the support of the congregation to get their pledges in with the hope that they can increase their pledge and help us meet our goal. If you can pledge your support for 2013, please use the pledge form available at church or on the Stewardship page of our website. Thank you!

Per Capita

To provide support for Monmouth Presbytery, Northeast Synod and General Assembly, our church is asked to pay "dues" to the Presbytery each year that is equal to \$35 per member. Therefore, we are asking *each member* to give a special offering of \$35 per year to help us cover this expense. This is what we call the per-capita. If you have not yet had a chance to give your dues, please place it in the offering basket on Sunday (mark it as "per-capita") at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

Our thanks to the Finance Committee for their hard work (Dominique Robert, Gordon Connelly, Tina Kas, Okoro Okparaekie, and Denise Mudale).

Glory to the Newborn King

Decrypt this special
Christmas message!

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		R	N	T					
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24	4	7	22	15	10	12	18	20	4	12

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A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
18	24				5		4			19		
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23				16	7			3				



Cornerstone Yellow Pages

Do you have a skill or talent that could be a resource for other church members? Please contact Elizabeth Hughes if you would like to be listed.

Donna Rosato

732-276-6805

Notary Public

Pampered Chef Consultant/Trainer

<http://www.pamperedchef.biz/>
donnarosato

Meg Milligan

732-928-8117

www.clowningbymac.com

Clowning by Macaroni Anne Cheeze
Celebrating an event? Let Macaroni Anne Cheeze entertain with face/arm painting and balloon animals.

Reflection & Inspiration: Specialty note cards for that special person or occasion. Go Green! Send a lovely note card that can be framed and enjoyed by all! Total gift cost \$4.00.

John Rosato

732-806-7647

Things Done for You, LLC
Home Repairs and Property Maintenance
Licensed and Insured

List your business here!

Do you have a skill or talent that could benefit our members?

Talk to Elizabeth Hughes to put your ad HERE.

Rebecca Schiemer

732-286-4852

*I make homemade jewelry, homemade soaps, candles, and gift baskets for all occasions. I can also offer my services in cake decorating, cookie bouquets, fruit basket arrangements, chocolate covered strawberries, pretzels, and other homemade candies and chocolates. Please contact Rebecca at **Memories Made Floral & Gifts** or e-mail at sweetlady_16508@yahoo.com or by simply calling 732-286-4852.*

December 2012 at Cornerstone

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Open House at Pastor Courtney's 12:45-3:45 Advent Study 5:30 PM at JUMC	3	4 <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 10:30 am	5	6 <u>Choir Rehearsal</u> 7 PM Youth at JUMC 6:15-7:30 PM	7	8 Hurricane Relief BIG DAY OF SERVING 6 AM—6 PM
9 CONGREGATION MTG Blue Jean Sunday <u>Children's Ministry</u> Caroling 5:30-8 PM Advent Study 5:30 PM	10	11 <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 10:30 am	12	13 <u>Choir Rehearsal</u> 7 PM <u>Children's Ministry</u> 5:30-7:30 PM Youth at JUMC 6:15-7:30 PM	14	15 Live Nativity at DeBows 5 & 6 PM
16 Youth Christmas Party 12:00 PM Advent Study 5:30 PM at JUMC	17	18 <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 10:30 am	19 Church Ladies Luncheon 12:30 PM Deacons Meeting 7 PM	20	21 Choir Rehearsal 7 PM Youth at JUMC 6:15-7:30 PM	22
23	24 Christmas Eve Worship at McAuliffe 7:00 PM	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS! 	26	27	28	29
30						