



Cornerstone Presbyterian Church

Cornerstone Connection

December 2013

Building Community on the Solid Rock of Jesus Christ

www.cornerstonechurchofjackson.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday School for Adults (childcare available)	9:00 - 9:45am
Fellowship	9:45 - 10:00am
Worship (Sunday School for kids during worship)	10:00am

Pastor:

Courtney Cromie, 561-703-2263

Director of Music:

Susan Rovira, 609-371-1473

Interns:

Kathy Genus, 732-585-3290

Anthony Maimone, 732-722-8006

Youth Director:

Mary Gardiner, 706-358-8128

Administrative Secretary:

Elizabeth Hughes, 732-833-6857

Treasurer:

Tina Kas, 732-928-1778

Director of Christian Education:

Kristen DiGirolamo, 732-657-7808

Nursery Care:

Courtney Miner

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A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR



Welcome to Advent! Many would agree this is one of the busiest times of the year and is often stressful. It is also one of the holiest times of the year. As Christians we live life in tension between what the world promises and the mystery of a call to grow deeper in faith with Jesus. The birth of Jesus, that we celebrate at Christmas each year is when God took on human form and entered into our world to live among us. The Bible teaches that life is lived in the tension between the frailty of human existence and God's divine plan for our lives. In my studies over the years I am fascinated to understand that the Incarnation, where Jesus is both human and divine guides us through our own tension between the world around us and God's Kingdom that is here but not fully realized. As we venture through Advent, we see the tension between choosing to be holy in the midst of our busyness and to be busy in the midst of our holiness.

We need God's grace because we will inevitably stumble and fall in the tension. We find that we need God's grace in order to live into the sacred without getting pulled by the temptation of worldly things. My challenge to you during this Advent and Christmas season is to use every opportunity you receive, to invite God to guide you in the tension. Let your mind be in prayer and conversation with God. Your sense of the sacredness of ordinary life will grow in your heart and mind, making this holy season of the year even more powerful and meaningful for you. I pray for each of you and ask God to keep you in the palm of His Hand.

Blessings! Pastor 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
 Ryan Calhoun, 12/10
 Tyler Capurso, 12/14
 Frank Fowler, 12/19
 Joyce Connelly, 12/22
 John Lukacs, 12/23
 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

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.

ELDERS ON OUR SESSION

2013 Okoro Okparaeke
 Denise Mudalel
 Lisa Capurso
 Chuck Calhoun
 2014 Dominique Robert
 Bruce Thompson
 Kellie Pushko
 Todd Moyer
 2015 Barbara Dougherty
 Wendy Barone
 Gail Carlson
 David LaCross
 Clerk Sharron A. Smith

BOARD OF DEACONS

Betty Thompson
 Laurie Wegner
 David Carlson
 Sueli Paes de Barros
 Laura Stone



Please pray for:

- Vikki Leach and family after the passing of her mother, Diane
- Sharron and Bubba Smith's new granddaughter, Naija, with some health concerns

Continued prayers for:

- John Lukacs in Fountain View Rehab Center recovering from a fall
- Beverly Kaiser at Atlantic Coast Rehab in Lakewood
- Jim Ryan recovering from recent surgeries as he continues to struggle with circulation problems in his foot
- Laura Stone's brother Fred and sister Beth
- Bob and Joan Daniels
- Our troops at home and around the world, and their families

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



Ashley Moyer was honored at a Wag On Inn Banquet on November 17th. Instead of birthday gifts, Ashley asked for donations to benefit this animal rescue organization, and raised hundreds of dollars! Way to go, Ashley!



Congratulations to **Veronica Smith** on the birth of her daughter, Naija Ariana Kelsey born on Sunday, 11/3. Congratulations also to proud grandparents, **Sharron and Bubba Smith**, and Great-Grandmother **Marlene Ruth!**



On November 1st, at a Regional Tournament in Lancaster, PA, **Arne Ildsgaard** and his partner attained Life Master Level in the American Contract Bridge League. This takes *years* to attain! Congratulations, Arne!

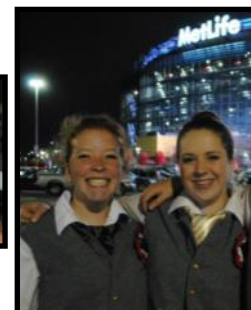


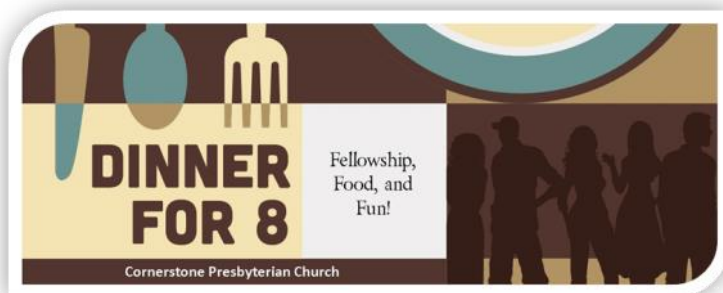
November was an exciting month for Jackson Memorial High School!



The football team won the title in the Class A South Division. Two weeks ago the football team won its first playoff game in seven years thanks to a last-minute field goal by sophomore **Jared Calhoun** against Rancocas Valley. The team finished their season on November 29th with a 34-0 victory over their crosstown rival, Jackson Liberty High School. Congratulations to Jared and the rest of the Jackson Jaguar football team!

The Jackson Jaguar Marching Band also had a spectacular season performing their field show "Les Miserables." They won the State Championship in October, and then on November 9th they won the US Bands Group VIA Championship! Congratulations to our Cornerstone band members: **Courtney Miner, Nicholas Hughes, Madeline Sarti, Madeleine Welch, and Shavonne Osiakwan!**





On November 9th, the Deacons had the first “Dinner for 8” where one host has a dinner party with 8 guests. There were 2 dinners—thank you to Bruce & Betty Thompson and Denise & Craig Tullo for opening your homes!



Community Thanksgiving Service

On Sunday, November 24th, the annual Community Thanksgiving Service was held at Hope Cathedral, joining congregations throughout Jackson in a special time of worship. Our Children’s Ministry sang a musical number, and Susan Rovira, Kathy Genus, Kristen DiGirolamo, and Mary Gardiner also sang! It was also a blessing to see our friend Danelle Horvath’s daughter perform as a liturgical dancer!





December 8th

On Sunday, December 8th, a group from Cornerstone will go caroling to local members and shut-ins. Meet at the McDonalds near McAuliffe at 5:30 PM. Open to Youth and ALL who would like to join the fun!

"Updated" Photo Directory

We are continuing to update the church photo directory! 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, please ask Pastor Courtney, Annabel Hughes, or Elizabeth Hughes to take your photo after worship.

Open House/Jewelry Party 12/15

On Sunday, December 15th at 1:00 PM, Pastor Courtney will host an open house with hot chocolate and cookies. Paparazzi Jewelry will also be available, with a portion of the sales being donated to

Cornerstone! They feature a wide assortment of jewelry, scarves, accessories, and children's items at very inexpensive prices (many \$5 or less). No pressure to buy - all are invited for fellowship and fun! The open house will be at the Hughes's home (5 Kindling Way). Please RSVP to Elizabeth or Pastor Courtney if you can come!



On Sunday, December 15th, the Church Ladies will have a bake sale before and after worship as a fundraiser for our church. If you can bake, please let Joan

Mallison know or sign up at church this Sunday. Please stop by the table and purchase some delicious treats for your family and your holiday gatherings!

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 11, 2014

8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Stuart Hall

Princeton Theological Seminary

Snow Date (if needed): Saturday, January 24, 2014 at 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 and registration forms, visit:

<http://ptsem.edu/offices/coned/index.aspx?id=5613>

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

December 24, 2013

4:30 PM

McAuliffe Middle
School



This year we are blessed to have McAuliffe Middle School available to us again for our Christmas Eve worship! There will be limited setup/breakdown since the school is closed for the week.

There will be one nativity and communion service with candlelight FOR ALL at 4:30 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.

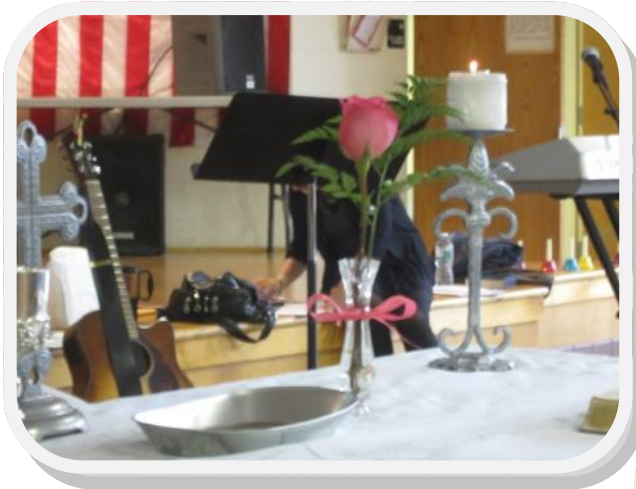
December Services:

- **December 1, 1st Sunday of Advent,** Advent Sermon Series "The Saving Light in Bethlehem," Week 1: "In the Despair of Darkness, There is the Light of Hope," Isaiah 9:2-7
- **December 8th, 2nd Sunday of Advent, Blue Jean Sunday,** Advent Sermon Series "The Saving Light in Bethlehem," Week 2: "In the Darkness of Death, There is the Light of Life and Love," Isaiah 9:2-7
- **December 15th, 3rd Sunday of Advent,** Advent Sermon Series "The Saving Light in Bethlehem," Week 3: "In the Darkness of Fear, There is the Light of Joy," Luke 2:8-11
- **December 22nd, 4th Sunday of Advent,** Advent Sermon Series "The Saving Light in Bethlehem," Week 4: "In the Darkness of Anxiety, There is the Light of Peace," Luke 2:12-17
- **December 24th, Christmas Eve,** "In the Darkness of Uncertainty, There is the Light of Wonder," Luke 2:17-20
- **December 29th,** "In the Darkness of Suspicion, There is the Light of Devotion," Matthew 2:1-12; Anthony Maimone to preach

The Saving Light
in Bethlehem

Advent Sermon Series: December 1—22, 2013

WORSHIP



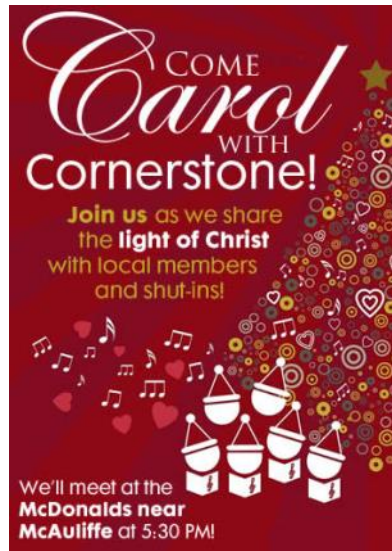
Youth Activities with Cornerstone Youth Ministry

Open to all middle school and high school youth. Talk to Youth Director Mary Gardiner or Pastor Courtney for more information on any of these activities!

December 8: Caroling to local shut-ins; meet at the McAuliffe at 5:30 PM

December 14: 6th Graders are welcome to join the Children's Ministry in visiting Ronald McDonald House to make dinner for the residents; 2:30—5:00 PM.

December 15: Youth Christmas Party: Sunday, December 15th from 4:00-6:30 PM at the home of the Calhoun's (4 Dolphin Ct). Games, food & FUN - bring a \$10 gift to swap.



Games and Gospel
on November 3rd



A "psalm" written by
the Youth



Collecting for the Food
Pantry

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, Anthony Maimone, 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.

December Schedule:

Fri. Dec. 6 - Dec. 7 Sleepover at DeBows Church 5:00 p.m. – 8:30 a.m. on Sat. (pizza at 5:30, travel to homes to carol. Then we return to church for kids' sleepover!)

Thu. Dec. 12 Meet at 5:30 PM at DeBows to travel to Care One to deliver blankets and to carol

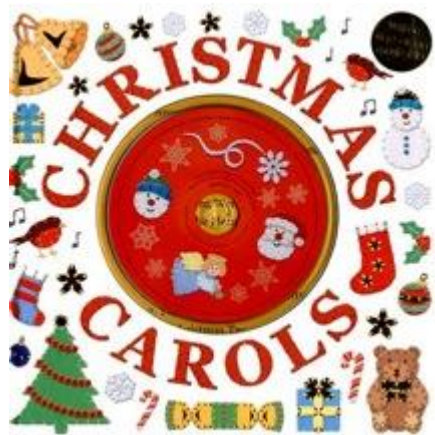
Sat. Dec. 14 Prepare Dinner for Residents of Ronald McDonald House in Long Branch, NJ; Leave Jackson at 2:30 PM

Sat. Dec. 14 Live Nativity at DeBows

Mission: Caroling to Care One Residents and Shut-ins



Christmas Play and Bible Dedications 12/15



On December 15th we will have our annual children's Christmas play during worship. This year's theme is "Christmas Carols." All children are invited to participate – the children will begin to prepare THIS Sunday 12/8 during Sunday School. Kids who plan to participate should please arrive at church by 9:45 AM on 12/15. Talk to Kristen DiGirolamo with any questions. On this day, we will also have a bible dedication for all children in 3rd and 4th grades. Join us for this special worship service!

Sunday School for Kids!

This fall, the **Elementary** children will be learning from the We Believe series called



"God's People Together." The children will learn about key relationships in the Old Testament through reading the Bible, playing games and doing crafts. Reading will include Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Jacob and Esau, Miriam and Moses and many more.

The **Middle School and High School Youth** will be studying a survey of the Bible, with an Old Testament study called "Moses and the Exodus," beginning with the birth of Moses and continuing through the journey through the wilderness and the building of the Tabernacle.

Teachers:

Nursery: Courtney Miner

Elementary: Allyson Moyer and Kellie Pushko

Middle & High School: Elizabeth Hughes and Kristen DiGirolamo





Make a
Joyful noise
Unto the Lord
Psalm 100:1

Cornerstone Choir News

The Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings at Debows United Methodist Church (509 Monmouth Road, Jackson) at 7:15 PM.

Choir rehearsals begin with a bible verse and prayer, warm ups of the voice, and then the rehearsing of anthems. Rehearsals are low key and fun! We are always looking for new members and hope that you will prayerfully consider joining this awesome group of singers. Singing is another way that we can pray. If you are interested in joining us consider stopping by one Thursday evening or contact Susan (srplus3@comcast.net).



Looking for Instrumentalists!

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



Cornerstone Missions Committee

The Missions Committee plans monthly service projects for Cornerstone. If you are interested in being a part of this committee, speak to Committee Chair, Elder Wendy Barone.

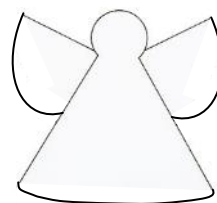
Cornerstone Helping Local People in Need



This year we are supporting a group of 12 single moms who are members and friends of the Bayhead Methodist Church who were affected by Superstorm Sandy. We are collecting gift cards for Walmart or Target to allow these moms to purchase Christmas gifts for the children.

We are also sponsoring a Jackson family in need. The family consists of a mom, dad, and their 15-year-old daughter. Specific items from their wish list will be on our angel tree.

Please visit our angel tree at church if you can help! Gifts should be returned to church by Sunday, December 15. THANK YOU!



Samaritan's Purse

The Church Ladies have filled 105 boxes for "Operation Christmas Child." Thank you to all who donated supplies and filled boxes, and a special thanks to Joan Mallison and the Church Ladies for their hard work! Stay tuned—we look forward to getting specific information this year on where our boxes go!



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://gamc.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://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/missionconnections/smith-dennis-and-maribel/>

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

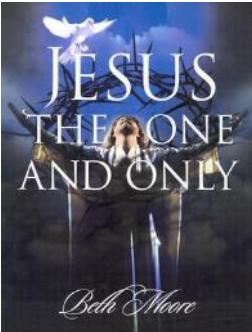
Birthdays: Dennis - 11/1, Maribel - 6/22, Lucas - 9/22, Benji - 8/21



Evangelism coordinator Ray Jones (center) and World Mission regional liaison for Latin America Dennis Smith (left) building relationships with Brazilians at recent church planting conference.

Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study—All Women Welcome!

The Women's Bible Study takes place on Tuesday mornings, led by Pastor Courtney at the home of Elizabeth Hughes from 10:30 AM—12:15 PM. The women are doing a Beth Moore DVD Study called *David: Seeking a Heart Like His*, and will complete this Study in December.



A new study will start January 7th—*Jesus the One and Only*, by Beth Moore. This in-depth women's Bible study is on the life of Jesus based on the book of Luke. Come along with Beth Moore and some wonderful Christian women at Cornerstone on a life-changing journey which will lead you through the hills of Galilee with the Teacher, across the lake with the Master, and finally, on the road toward the cross with the Savior. Get to know Jesus intimately ... as though you had walked with Him during His days of earthly ministry. This 10-week, in-depth Bible study includes weekly personal assignments and 11 video sessions taped on location in Jerusalem and throughout Israel.

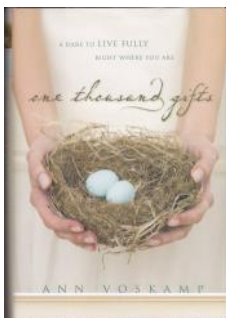
Church Ladies

The Church Ladies meet on the third Wednesday of every month September—June 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.

For their December meeting, the Church Ladies will attend a concert of the Newark Boys Choir on December 11th, 10:00am, at the Algonquin Arts Theatre.

ADULT BOOK STUDY—TUESDAY EVENINGS

at the home of Bob & Laurie Wegner



The adult book study continues this month with a study of the book *One Thousand Gifts: A Dare to Live Fully Right Where You Are* by Ann Voskamp. Schedule for December:

- Dec. 3 : Chapter 9
- Dec. 10 : Chapter 10
- Dec. 17 : Chapter 11 w/ Christmas Party and White Elephant Gift Exchange

A new book study will begin on January 7th!

Stewardship



On Sunday, November 24th, we joined together to commit our pledges of time, talent and financial support for 2014, and we shared a time of fellowship and reflection with our Regional Presbyter, the Reverend Wendy Bailey. THANK YOU to all who made their pledge - but it's not too late! Forms are available at church and also on our website for [download](#).



Financial Report for November

- Tithes/offerings* = \$7668
(Weekly: 11/3 = \$2700, 11/10 = \$1223, 11/17 = \$1894, 11/24 = \$1851)
- Per Capita offering = \$70
- Foundation Fund = \$50 (Shop Rite) + \$500 (special gift)
- Gifts from other churches = \$0
- Special Offerings = \$153 (Samaritans Purse) + \$100 (Prison Ministry) + \$20 (audio system) + \$100 (Deacon's Fund)
- Miscellaneous income = \$0

** Our 2013 budget calls for \$2200 each week in offerings - please prayerfully consider your giving each week.*

Our thanks to the Finance Committee for their hard work (Dominique Robert, Tina Kas, Okoro Okparaeke, and Denise Mudalel).

Happy Birthday Jesus

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

www.churchhousecollection.com

angels	manger
baby jesus	mary
bethlehem	noel
christmas	salvation
donkey	sheep
happy birthday	shepherd
hay	star
joseph	wise men
king	





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>

John Rosato

732-806-7647

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

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.

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 2013 at Cornerstone

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Youth Group 1:30-3 PM	2 Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM Adult Book Study 6:30 PM	3	4	5 Choir Rehearsal 7:15 PM	6	7 Children's Ministry Caroling and Sleepover at DeBows
8 Blue Jean Sunday Caroling	9 Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM Adult Book Study 6:30 PM	10	11 Church Ladies @ Newark Boys Choir	12 Children's Ministry Caroling 5:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:15 PM	13	14 Children's Ministry to visit Ronald McDonald House 2:30-5 PM
15 Christmas Pageant in Worship & Bake Sale Jewelry Party/Open House 1:00 PM Youth Christmas Party 4PM	16 Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM Adult Book Study 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:15 PM	17	18 Session Meeting and Potluck 6:00 PM	19	20	21
22	23 Christmas Eve Worship At McAuliffe 4:30 PM	24	25  Merry Christmas!	26	27	28
29	30	31				