



Cornerstone Presbyterian Church

Cornerstone Connection

January 2015

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

Youth Director:

Wendy Barone, 732-534-4936

Administrative Secretary:

Elizabeth Hughes, 732-833-6857

Treasurer:

Tina Kas, 732-928-1778

Director of Christian Education:

Kristen DiGirolamo, 732-657-7808

Nursery Care:

Sueli Paes de Barros

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Pastor Courtney's Farewell Letter...

Dear Members, Friends and Staff of Cornerstone-

As we enter this new 2015 year, we also begin our last days where you will be my pastoral family, and I will be your pastor.

A new year and a season of transition makes for a good time for the members and friends of Cornerstone to celebrate the rich history that has equipped this congregation. For back in 2001, Cornerstone was started and now in 2015 the congregation will have its first church building that will celebrate its 150th anniversary. Harmony Road Church at its start would have been a meeting place for area residents to gather to worship God and to connect with one another. Much has changed over the years and yet the wonder of the church is that it still calls out for folks to gather to worship and to care for the other. Harmony has weathered the years and Cornerstone has also and together "in harmony" both will do so in the future.

As I move on to another ministry opportunity, a new adventure awaits you as well. For a new pastor will emerge from the search process and excitement will build for the new missions and ministry that God will call you to do together in Harmony and for Jackson.

Please know that the fine folks of Cornerstone will always have a special place in my heart. You have been faithful to Christ in your heart for mission to those in need and for Jackson and its people. We have joined together in many ways to serve God faithfully in the lives of our children and in the hearts of our adults. I pray to God that only the very best will be met for all of you in the years ahead. I am grateful to have served as your pastor and for your willingness to let me into the challenges and joys of your life as we prayed and worshipped our God together.

Since I am only human, I pray that you will forgive me for any mistakes I have made and I pray that the good times and the work we have done for Christ will be what lasts in our hearts and minds.

On January 11th at midnight, I will cease to be your pastor. The policies of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and Monmouth Presbytery, where I remain a member, state the guidelines for former pastors clearly:

"Courtney B. Cromie agrees that she will not provide pastoral guidance for weddings, baptisms, or funerals in the former congregation or with members of the former congregation without the specific invitation of the Moderator of Session or if the Moderator is unavailable, the Clerk of Session. Planning and counseling are to be performed by the resident pastor, either interim or installed. She may be invited to share in services as a guest at the invitation of Session and the resident pastor as prescribed in the Book of Order. She will neither say nor listen to any

Worship at McAuliffe Middle School

35 S. Hope Chapel Road, Jackson

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

Cornerstone Community



Kristen DiGirolamo, 1/6
Amity Mamola, 1/7
Tim Woolverton, 1/10
John Bestenheider, 1/10
Dylan Nelson, 1/18
Sean Slusak, 1/18
Glenn Tunis, 1/19
Manny DaConceicao, 1/21
Marlene Kiefer, 1/21
Laura Stone, 1/23
Ben Leach, 1/26
Sam Hekl, 1/28
Leah Hekl, 1/28
Shavonne Osiakwan, 1/30
Anna Mudalel, 1/31
John Hekl, 1/31

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.

uncomplimentary or critical remarks concerning the present, interim, or future clergy in social or other gatherings."

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Furthermore, it is intended that as the former pastor, I will refrain from participating in any church functions for at least a full year. Thereafter, only as invited by the new pastor or Clerk of the Session.

This does not mean that friendships must be broken off, or that I will cease to care about you or the Cornerstone Church community. For the immediate future, I will still be living in the Central New Jersey area and wherever I live, I will follow your ministry and progress, and I will pray with you for God's Blessing. I will also seek to be of service to the larger church wherever God may lead me and my hope would be that you too would pray for me.

May God bless you and keep you in His Care and may each of you feel God's Presence in the days, years, and decades yet to be. For now and forever more...Amen.

In Christ's Unfailing Love, Pastor Courtney

What's Next?

As we enter into a time of transition, please be reassured that Cornerstone's "Grand Adventure" will continue! The year of 2015 promises to be an exciting one as we continue the renovation of the church on Harmony Road and seek to expand our ministry in Jackson and beyond. We will face challenges along the road as we have in the past, and we must pray and have faith that God will be with us as we look for a new pastor to lead us.

The first step in the transition process is to formally dissolve the pastoral relationship that we have with Pastor Courtney. This will be done at the Congregational Meeting scheduled for January 11th after worship. The Session will soon be appointing a Pastor Search Committee and this group will work with Presbytery to identify candidates to be our new pastor. In the meantime, we will be using the "pulpit supply" list provided by Presbytery to invite guests to preach for us each Sunday.

Please join us as we gather together for a meal of soup and bread after the congregational meeting on January 11th. This will be a time of celebration and fellowship as we express our gratitude to Pastor Courtney for her hard work and her service to Cornerstone, and to wish her well in her future endeavors. We were blessed to have her as our pastor for three and a half years.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any of the elders on our Session. Please pray for Pastor Courtney, and for Cornerstone and its ministry during this time of transition. God is good, all the time!

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

ELDERS ON OUR SESSION

BOARD OF DEACONS

2015 Bruce Thompson
Gail Carlson
Laura Stone
David LaCross

Dominique Robert

2016 Tina Kas
Patti Miller
Sharron Smith (Clerk)

Betty Thompson
Donna Rosato

2017 Vikki Leach
Todd Moyer
Kellie Pushko

Joan Mallison
Barbara Dougherty

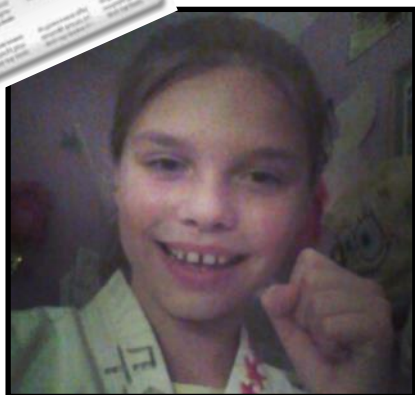
Please pray for:

- The family of Peggy Miner after her passing on 12/31
- Laura Tunis who needs to have another knee replacement surgery
- Pastor Courtney and Cornerstone during this time of transition



Continued prayers for:

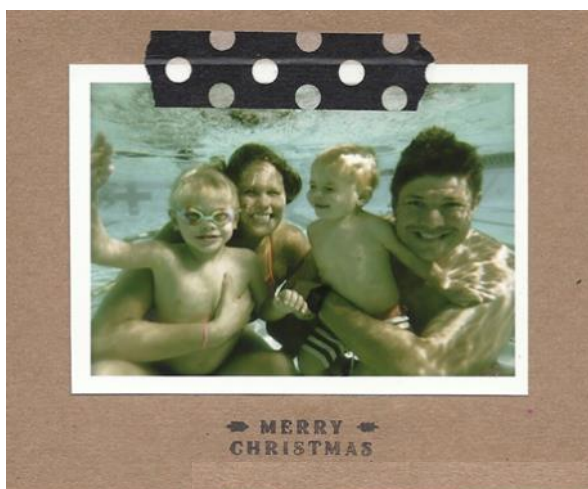
- Tina Kas's friends: Sharon Anderson being treated for rectal cancer, and Joey Weikel diagnosed with leukemia
- John Lukacs in Brookside Assisted Living Facility in Freehold
- Bev Kaiser recovering at home
- Our troops around the world and their families



Dyana LaCross earned her black belt in December! Congratulations to Dyana!



Congratulations to #6 **Jared Calhoun** and the Jackson Jaguars for their 21-18 victory against Middletown South in the NJSIAA Group IV Championship game on December 6th at Rutgers! The team finished their season with an overall ranking of #2 in the state of New Jersey! Way to go!



From
Jeremiah
and Lindsay
Knabe

Merry Christmas!

As many of you will notice from our large children you did not get a Christmas card from us last year. The past two years have truly been a whirlwind! The Senior Pastor at our church left January 2013 for a new call in Seattle. That left Jeremiah to hold down the fort until new pastoral leadership could be secured. Two interim pastors, 8 months of solo pastoring, and two years later, Christ Presbyterian Church hired a new pastor who started Dec. 1st. Though the time has been challenging personally to Jeremiah and our family has spent many evenings apart, we have continued to grow together.

Jackson loves to laugh, tell stories with his hands like his dad, has an eye for color like his mom (his favorite color is "Sea Foam"), and is gentle and kind with his little brother. Jackson started preschool this fall and has loved making new friends and learning his letters.

Peter is preparing to be a professional climber with amazing balance and we regularly find him on top of furniture or anything else he can climb. He has a strong personality, which serves him well in our house. He loves his big brother more than anything and often is found holding Jackson's hand on van rides around San Diego.

Lindsay has returned to her love of swimming, joining a Master's Swim team in Oceanside. She has also overcome her fear of the unknown and enjoyed ocean swimming around the mile long pier in Oceanside on many Saturday mornings. She is an awesome mom to these two boys and has found joy and contentment loving them.

We have experienced the Holy Spirit's provision these last two years and hope that you too have experienced Christ's love.

Merry Christmas,
The Knabe Family: Jeremiah, Lindsay, Jackson (3.5), and Peter (1.5)

Season's Greetings from
Cornerstone Friends!



From Faron and
Bethany Trick

Warm wishes for a holiday that's bright
with every joy and delight

Merry Christmas and a Happy, Joyful 2015
to everyone at Cornerstone!!

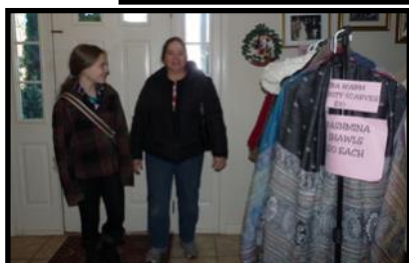
Faron and Beth



Harmony Road Church ready for Christmas!

Open House/Jewelry Fundraiser

On December 7th, Pastor Courtney hosted an open house at the Hughes's home with an opportunity to purchase Paparazzi jewelry. Thanks to all who attended! We raised \$195 for Cornerstone!



Celebration for Pastor Courtney, January 11th



January 11th will be Pastor Courtney's last Sunday with us. Please stay and join us after worship for a celebration honoring Pastor Courtney and thanking her for her three and a half years of dedicated service to our church! We will have a potluck meal of soup and bread – please talk to Elizabeth Hughes if you can bring something to share. Thank you to Allyson Moyer and Wendy Barone for organizing this farewell celebration!

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

Offered through the partnership of the educational ministries of Princeton Theological Seminary, the Presbyteries of Elizabeth, Monmouth and New Brunswick, and the Synod of the Northeast (PC(USA)).

Saturday, January 10, 2014

Stuart Hall, Princeton Theological Seminary

64 Mercer St., Princeton, NJ 08524

Equipping the Saints is a day of workshops, worship, resources and fellowship planned especially to support and equip church members in their ministries. This day is for new and ongoing church officers, pastors, worship leaders, educators, and any interested others. Workshops are led—almost exclusively—by volunteer experts in their fields. All are welcome to attend! The event is free; cost for hot buffet lunch \$10; lunch reservations will be taken through noon on Wednesday, January 7, 2015. Walk-ins welcome—just bring your own lunch!

QUESTIONS and REGISTRATION

Please email us at coned@ptsem.edu or call 609-497-7990. To register online, please visit:

<http://ptsem.edu/offices/coned/>

For a detailed list of workshops for morning and afternoon visit here:

<http://www.ptsem.edu/equippingthesaints/>



Cornerstone can now benefit from YOUR online Amazon purchases! From the website smile.amazon.com, you simply select Cornerstone as your nonprofit of choice, and then shop as usual on Amazon! See Pastor Courtney with any questions.

January Services:

January 4, Epiphany: Pastor Courtney will preach "What Gift Did God Bring?"

January 11, Blue Jean Sunday Pastor Courtney's last Sunday with us; Congregational meeting and celebration to follow after worship

January 18: Guest pastor Anthony Maimone, our former seminary intern!

January 25: Guest pastor Reverend Alice Batcher; Communion Served

Congregational Meeting 1/11

The Session of Cornerstone Presbyterian Church calls for a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 11th beginning before worship to receive a new elder on our Session and to approve the members of the Nominating Committee. The meeting will continue after worship to dissolve the pastoral relationship between Cornerstone and The Reverend Courtney Cromie.



Guest pastor, The Reverend Alice Batcher, on 12/28

WORSHIP



*For unto us a
child is born!*
Christmas Eve



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.

A complete schedule for Winter/Spring 2015 will be available this month!

January Meetings:

Thu. Jan 8 Lesson led by Pastor Courtney

Thu. Jan 22 Lesson led by Pastor Betty



"Late Night Fun"
Dec. 5th



Cornerstone Youth Ministry

Open to all incoming middle school and high school youth. Talk to our Youth Director, Wendy Barone, for more information on Youth Group! A schedule of upcoming events will be available soon!

The Youth had lots of fun doing a neighborhood scavenger hunt at their Christmas Party on Dec 7th!

Thanks to the Moyer family for hosting!



Christmas Caroling at Care One

The kids had a chance to sing and visit with our friends Bev Kaiser, Jim Ryan and Meg Milligan's mom!



Preparing a meal at Ronald McDonald House

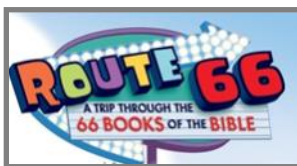


Christmas Pageant

The Christmas Pageant "The Christmas Starr" during worship on December 7th and it was FABULOUS! Thank you to Pastor Courtney and Kristen DiGirolamo for organizing it, and to all the kids who participated!



Sunday School for Kids!



The **Elementary School** class is studying "Route 66: A Trip Through the 66 Books of the Bible." This curriculum is designed to take children on a life-changing journey through each of the 66 books of the Bible, introducing them to more of the wonders of the Word and the adventures that can be found in a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. Each week, Route 66 will introduce children to a different book or group of books in the Bible. They'll learn about the author, the time frame, the key people and the book's purpose, while creating a souvenir scrapbook that will serve as a way to remember all of the different stops and to celebrate the journey.

The **Middle School and High School Youth** are studying a survey of the Bible, beginning a New Testament study this month called "Miracles of Jesus," which includes stories of the miracles of nature, healing, and resurrection.



Teachers:

Nursery: Sueli Paes de Barros

Elementary: Kellie Pushko & rotating teachers

Middle & High School: Elizabeth Hughes, Kristen DiGirolamo, Dominique Robert



Make a
Joyful noise
Unto the Lord
Psalm 100:1

The Cornerstone Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings at Debows United Methodist Church (509 Monmouth Road, Jackson) from 7-8 PM and before worship on Sundays at 9:00 AM.

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).



We were so blessed to have guest soloist John Calkins with us on Christmas Eve!



Cornerstone Helping Local People in Need

THANK YOU to all who participated in the Adopt-a-Family program this year. We were able provide 42+ gifts to two large Jackson families. Thank you for your generosity in spreading the spirit of Christmas and sharing your blessings some who are less fortunate!



Samaritan's Purse



This year our church filled 97 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Thank you to all who donated supplies and filled boxes!

We received word just before Christmas that our boxes were delivered to children in Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Colombia!

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

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

Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study

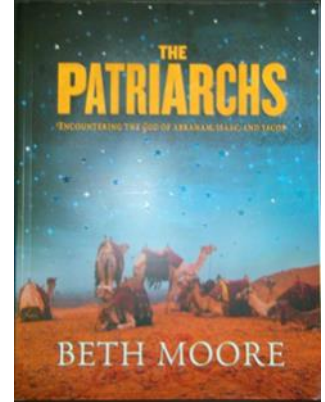
All Women Welcome!

The Women's Bible Study meets at the home of Elizabeth Hughes from 10:30 AM—12:15 PM. The women are completing a DVD study this month called *The Patriarchs: Encountering the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob*, by Beth Moore.

Schedule for January:

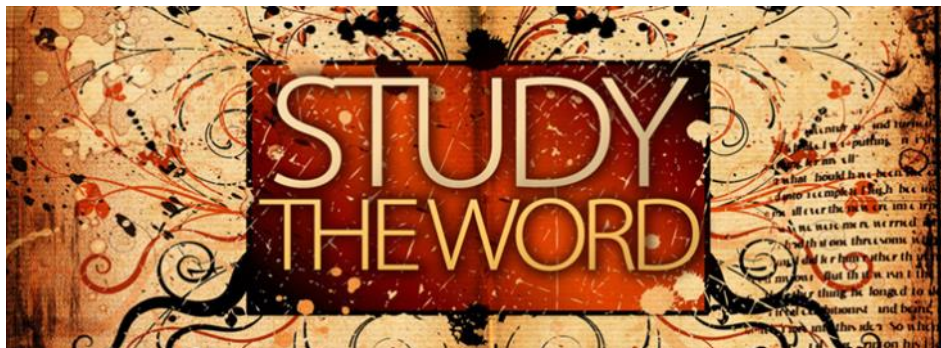
January 6th: Session 9, "A Fragile Band of Brothers"

January 13th: Session 10: "Epic Endings to the Beginning"



ADULT BIBLE STUDY—Monday Evenings 6:30–8:00 PM

The Adult Study will continue to meet at the home of Bob and Laurie Wegner on Monday evenings from 6:30—8:00 PM. The first meeting of the new year will be on Monday, January 5th, and the group will discuss the future direction of the group and an area of the Bible to study in the upcoming months. All adults are welcome to participate!



Financial Report for December



- Total Offerings* = \$9710
(Weekly: 12/7=\$3343, 12/14=\$1471, 12/21=\$1095, 12/24=\$944, 12/28=\$2857)
- Per Capita offering = \$0
- Foundation Fund = \$3560
- Gifts from other churches = \$1100 (First Presbyterian Church Allentown)
- Special Offerings = \$120 (Christmas Joy)
- Miscellaneous income = \$128 (Christmas Ornaments) + \$10 (Poinsettia sales) + \$175 (jewelry fundraiser) + \$1000 (Memorial Donation)



A Simple and Convenient Way to Give

In this new year of 2015, consider signing up for electronic giving. Cornerstone relies on the financial support of the congregation and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. It also provides a much needed consistency in the donations that our church receives. It's easy to sign up—automatic donations can be made using a credit card or directly from your checking account. To set up a recurring giving schedule, visit our [website](#) to download our authorization form. Our website also offers the opportunity to make a donation through PayPal. Please speak to Elizabeth Hughes for more information.

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. It's now time to start collecting for 2015—please place your per-capita offering in the basket on Sunday (mark it as “per-capita”) at your earliest convenience. Thank you.



Stewardship Update

Thank you to all who have submitted pledges for this new year. It's not too late if you still wish to pledge your financial support for 2015—please see Bruce Thompson. Also - please consider making a Building Fund pledge over and above your operating budget commitment to help us restore and renovate Harmony Road to be our future church home! We thank you all for your generosity and support!

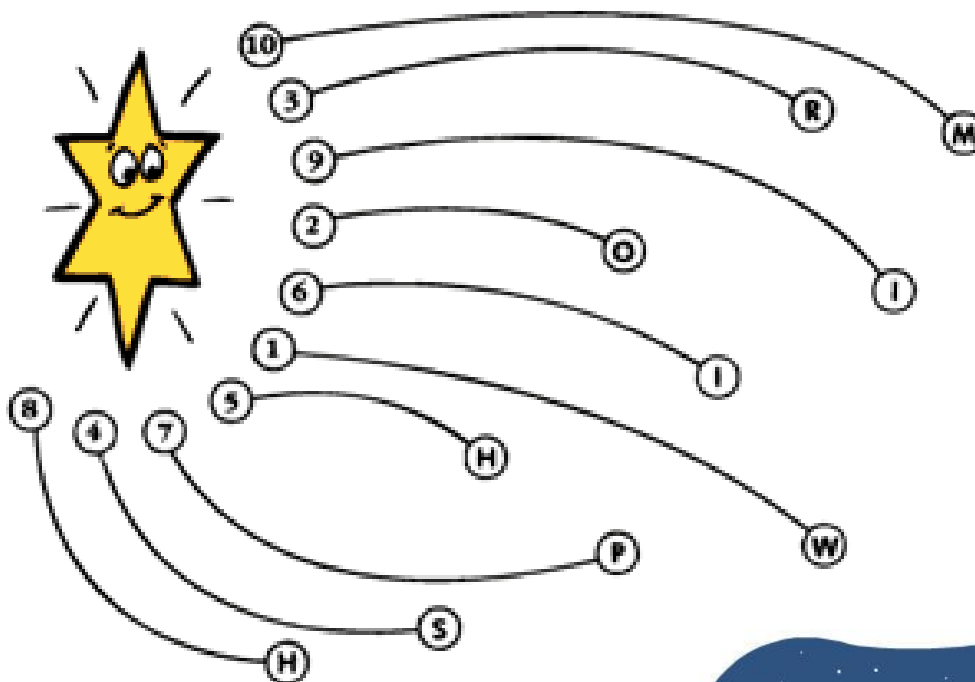
Our thanks to the Finance Committee for their hard work (Debbie LaCross, Denise Mudalel, Dominique Robert, Tina Kas, and Okoro Okparaeke).



Follow the Star

**Wise Men
Worship Jesus**
—Matthew 2

Follow each numbered ray of light from the star to find the letters you need to put in each numbered box. Then you will know what the wise men planned to do when they found Jesus.





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.

Qywnn Gross

qgross@hopecathedral.com

Framed customized prayers, 16x20", please contact Qywnn for more information!

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.*

January 2015 at Cornerstone

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 	2	3
4	5 Adult Bible Study 6:30 PM	6 Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM	7	8 Children's Ministry 6—7:30 PM	9	10 "Equipping the Saints" Leadership Conference at Princeton Seminary
11 Blue Jean Sunday Congregational Mtg Celebration for Pastor Courtney	12 Adult Bible Study 6:30 PM	13 Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM	14 Session Meeting 7:20 PM	15	16	17
18 Deacon's Meeting (after worship)	19 Adult Bible Study 6:30 PM	20	21	22 Children's Ministry 6—7:30 PM	23	24
25  Communion Served	26 Adult Bible Study 6:30 PM	27	28	29	30	31