

# Oak Leaves

The Presbyterian Church  
of Basking Ridge  
Newsletter



All Are Welcome

January/February 2011

www.brpc.org

Volume LXV Issue XI



## The Service of Installation of Dr. Maureen Paterson

*as Associate Pastor of  
The Presbyterian Church of Basking Ridge*

**Sunday, January 23, 2010**

During the 10 a.m. Worship Service

Come celebrate this significant event in the life of the church. So we may all worship together, there will only be one service this day.

## Eggstravaganza Brunch Sunday, January 23

Following the 10 a.m. Installation Service

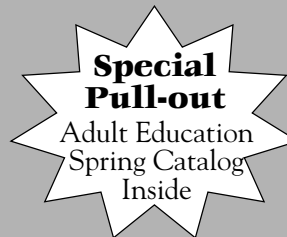


Come share in fellowship and celebrate with Maureen as we enjoy some eggs, fruit and pastries in Westminster Hall!

(Free-will offering at the door.)

## Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 30

Following the 10 a.m. Worship Service  
(See details of the meeting on page 14.)



## Souper Sunday Workcamp Fundraiser

**What:** A hearty soup and chili luncheon served by the Senior Highs and a slideshow of the 2010 workcamp in Pemaquid, Maine.

**When:** Sunday, February 6, 2010  
Following the Family Worship Service. Continuous serving and slideshow viewings from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Where:** Westminster Hall

**Why:** To raise money for the 2011 Workcamp. Your support enables our young people to go out each summer and make a true difference by repairing the homes of those in need.

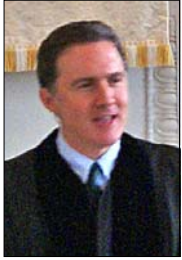
**Cost:** Donations kindly accepted at the door. Take-out also available.

*Come for the 10 a.m. family worship service (details page 11)  
then stay for the fundraiser lunch!*

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*Dear Friends,*



**Rev. Dennis  
W. Jones**

djones@brpc.org  
766.1616 x15

Welcome to 2011! As we enter the fresh and possibility-filled gift of this new year, God is at work in the life of our church in significant and remarkable ways! As I scan the landscape of our life together and look for signs of his presence, and listen for the sound of his call, these are some of the things I am noticing and am extremely excited about.

### **Saturday Evening Advent Worship Services Exceeded our Prayers**

During the four weekends of Advent we offered informal and brief worship services in the chapel on Saturdays at 5 p.m. Most weeks the Chapel was nearly full. A soup supper, free of charge and with the option of "take out," was served. People of all ages, including some who had never worshipped with us before, were blessed and grateful for the experience. In the weeks ahead we will be prayerfully considering next steps God might be calling us to take. I welcome your feedback, and covet your prayers.

### **Hands-On Mission Opportunities**

Our life and ministry together has always been about loving God, and our neighbor, with all that we are. Opportunities abound with ways that you can live out your faith in Christ by caring for our brothers and sisters in need. Want to spend a Saturday hammering nails with Habitat for Humanity? Do you feel called to go on a week-long mission trip to Haiti, Ecuador, or Maine? Details regarding those opportunities, along with many more, are in the pages that follow.

### **Launch of New Web Site at brpc.org**

To help us continue to reach out to and engage the world around us, we have launched a new web site that we are very excited about! I am exceedingly grateful to David Klippel for the leadership and vision he has brought to our website ministry for more years than I can even count, and to communications coordinator Joanna Wittig who has worked long and hard in preparing for this new chapter.

### **Church Officers saying "Yes" to God's Call**

At the January 30 Annual Congregational Meeting, you will be asked to elect an amazing and large group of men and women to serve as elders, deacons, trustees, and in other vital roles. I am astounded by the faith, wisdom, love, and commitment, that they will each bring, and for the blessing they will be to God's work in our midst. Please be present for that important meeting, and pray for them in the months that follow as they begin their service.

### **New Interim Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry**

Susanna Miller, already a beloved and valued member of our music ministry staff, has been called by God to serve as an Interim Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Susanna brings much experience, an authentic love for Christ, and a deep love for young people. As our dedicated search committee, under the able leadership of Peggy Eicher, continues to seek a person to serve in this crucial role in a more permanent capacity, I am grateful that Susanna will be at the helm.

### **Installation of our new Associate Pastor**

It has been four and a half years since we had the stability and certainty of two installed pastors on staff. On January 23, during our morning worship at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary, with much joy and thanksgiving we will celebrate the installation of the Rev. Dr. Maureen Paterson as our associate pastor. I count Maureen as a valued friend and respected colleague, and thank God for this significant moment in her life and in ours as a community of faith. I urge you to be present for this important day!

Grateful to be serving a God that is so big, so loving, and so at work in the life of our church,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Dennis". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dennis W. Jones, Pastor

## Highlights from the December 6, 2010 Meeting

**Session approved the request of Rev. Dr. Maureen Paterson** on behalf of the Board of Deacons to embrace a new structure and vision to their work to more faithfully fulfill their calling.

**Jeff Sell, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, submitted the financial report** indicating that everything is on plan.

**Ken Warman, on behalf of the Adult Education Council,** received approval for the Adult Forums and other programs for 2011.

**Bonnie Kelly, Executive Director, Ridge Oak Senior Housing,** and Brad Henry, BRPC Trustee representative, presented their annual report to session. They are looking forward to building the final two building units which will complete the site plan. All has been approved by HUD and construction should begin next summer. They are always looking for volunteers, especially drivers to take the residents to their appointments, etc. The Moderator expressed his sincere thanks for the work of Ridge Oak and offered a prayer of thanksgiving.

**Fran Mustaro, Chair of the Stewardship Council,** provided an update on the stewardship campaign showing 199 pledges totaling \$750,000.

**Jacob Mathew for the Planning Council** reviewed the faithful work they have carried out during this, their first year as a council of Session. Together we reflected on what we have learned and how to strengthen our process of strategic and prayerful long-term planning.

**George Fricke, Chair of the Gifts and Memorials Committee,** received approval for the expenditure of \$1000 from the James Plumstead memorial account to refurbish the cross in the chapel. Hal Slapin, Chair of the Worship and Music Council, reported on the need to replace the recording system in the sanctuary and to install a heavy duty surge protector at an estimated cost of \$1,000.

**Rev. Dennis Jones reported on the Saturday evening informal worship services** during Advent as an example of God's moving us in a new direction, with average attendance in the past two weeks of over 70. Our new website is very close to being up and hopefully it will be on line beginning next week. Thanks was expressed to David Klippel for his enormous leadership in this area now that Joanna Wittig, Communications Coordinator, will be taking the lead with the new site.

Ashley Bastow  
Ruth Bashe  
Nancy Bedner  
Rob Brown  
Dorothy Dameo  
Peggy Eicher  
Jim Felter  
George Fricke  
Charles King  
Shirley Klippel  
John Kuhn  
Chuck Miller  
Linda Mills  
Fran Mustaro  
Claire Pratt  
Mike Rountree  
Molly Schulenburg  
Craig Sutherland  
Cindy VanderVoort  
Ken Warman

*Moderator*

Rev. Dennis W. Jones

*Clerk of Session*

Dick Fryling

*Assistant Clerk*

Don Wadsworth

## MEMBER GIVING IN 2011

*You are not just a number to us – but a number REALLY helps!*



In order to help us most effectively record your contributions in 2011, we ask that you include your contribution number on any check, pew envelope or special offering envelope you use.

We have assigned a contribution number to each church member. If you requested weekly offering envelopes, your number is on the envelopes. If you did not request envelopes, and wish to help us by recording your number on checks and envelopes you use, please contact Lisa-Ann Smith at [lasmith@brpc.org](mailto:lasmith@brpc.org), or

call the church office at 908.766.1616 (ask for Lisa-Ann or Janet) to obtain your number.

For those who have offerings mailed directly to the church via online banking, please include your contribution number in the message line of the check.

Thank you from all the volunteer counting team members and the church finance office staff.

## TRUSTEES

### Highlights from the December 13, 2010 Meeting

**80% of pledged income has been received** through the end of November. Reminder notes have been sent out to those who have not, yet, completed their pledges for 2010.

**A motion was made and passed that we increase** our Ordinance & Law, Demolition & Removal insurance coverage as well as to increase our deductible levels.

**Thanks to the bequest from Sid Collis and lots of hard work**, the Youth Center renovation is effectively complete! (Check it out when you get a chance.)

**Some work will be done by the Gifts & Memorials Council** to renovate the cross in the Chapel.

**As of the first week in December 2010, pledges** are about 4% ahead (in dollar value) of the pace from last year's Stewardship campaign. (If you have not, yet, submitted your Pledge card, please do so.)

**The Trustees will oversee a project** to develop and place new signage to help visitors and new members make their way around our "campus."

Dick Bedner  
Diana Boquist  
Dan Cokewood  
Butch Cooper  
Doug Dunn  
Tom Fitzsimons  
Stephanie Link  
Jacob Mathew  
Jeff Sell

*Secretary*  
Kathy Graback

*Treasurer*  
Janet Bentley

## DEACONS

### There are real angels among us!

One of the two primary Deacon missions is Congregational Care where Deacons support and respond to the Church members, and our greater community of faith, to provide help in times of need. As part of this support, Deacons reach out to those who have been sick or homebound, and might be in need of meals, to help get them through a challenging time.



Since the Spring of 2009, the Deacons have led a team of BRPC "Food Angels" who prepare and deliver meals when the Church becomes aware of a need. Our Food Angels provide their support with care and confidentiality, and deliver the meals with a warm smile, a caring heart, and a touch of delicious taste!

At first, the "angels" were only Deacons, but now the Food Angel ranks are open to any congregation member who is willing to share their cooking and to give back to those who need their help. If you feel you would like to be a Food Angel, please contact Sue Pape at 908.719.7631.

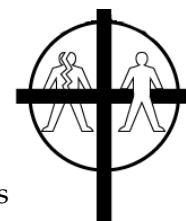
Muriel Anderson  
Pamela Blackstone  
Debbie Carroll  
Dan Comperiat  
Jean Dorr  
Joanne Hamilton  
Florence Henry  
Ingeborg Hartwig  
Mary Jane Hoare  
Joanne Howell  
William Hull  
Ellen Johnson  
Barbara Knudson  
Connie Ledger  
Jean Loizeaux

Susan Pape  
Cooper Pearson  
Ryan Poehner  
Suzanne Price  
John Schulenburg  
Karen Skoglund  
Jann Slapin  
*Moderator*  
Jenny Speal  
*Vice-Moderator*  
Helen Mallon  
*Secretary*  
Patti Williams

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

### Do Not Suffer Alone

The start of a New Year can bring new possibilities, hopes and dreams. It can also be a time when the dark days of winter seem to reflect the mood of your heart. After the celebrations of Christmas you might be left feeling empty and alone. You might be troubled by the bills that now arrive or the seemingly hopeless search for work. Instead of joy and peace you may be dealing with fear and anxiety, pain or grief. Do not suffer alone. We are proud to have a strong team of Stephen Ministers who are trained and equipped to help people through some of life's struggles. We can pair you with a care giver who will meet with you regularly to listen to you, support you and pray with and for you. These relationships are completely confidential and can help you to look forward to 2011 with renewed hope and joy. Please contact Dr. Maureen Paterson (mpaterson@brpc.org or 908.766.1616 x11) if you or someone you know could use the listening ear and caring word of a Stephen Minister.



*Go Ye Into All the World* (Mark 16:15)

## Worldwide Mission Trip Opportunities

### Haiti Mission Trip: May 20-29

Continuing on the spirit of our October *Help Rebuild Haiti* Concert, our church is coordinating a mission trip to Haiti led by the Christian-based non-profit organization Foundation for Peace. The Foundation for Peace is a New Jersey based organization partnering and working hand-in-hand with local community members and churches in Haiti. Mission team members work together on construction projects, providing medical care, clean water, food, clothing and education for and with the local community. If you are interested or want to learn more please contact Dawn Cicchetti at 908.766.0708 and visit [www.foundationforpeace.org](http://www.foundationforpeace.org). Meetings will be held in the new year to discuss specifics such as fundraising, travel coordination, etc.



### Ecuador Mission Trip: June/July, TBD

In this upcoming summer of 2011, our church will again send a mission work group to Ecuador to build houses. Preliminary plans are currently being made with the folks from our sister congregation at Pluckemin Presbyterian Church. While the exact dates have not been confirmed, it will be either the last week in June or the first week in July. In addition to our core mission of building houses, our plans include a proposed new undertaking to serve the folks we work with in Ecuador, that of teaching them to construct bag gardens in their yards to help them learn to raise some of their own fresh food. For a video on how these gardens are constructed, please go to You Tube and do a search for "Uganda make a bag garden." As we count down the months until the 2011 Ecuador mission trip, please consider joining us, "into all the world." Contact Judy Pasnik for more information at 908.766.2297

*Love Your Neighbor as Yourself* (Mark 12:31)

## Local Mission Opportunity

### Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity: January 22 and March 26

Are you ready to put on your work gloves and put your hands and hearts to work? As Dr. Maureen Paterson shared in her sermon on Sunday December 19, we are the gloves and God is the hand working through us, fulfilling his mission. Our church will help complete the construction of the final 2 homes of a 9 home community in Bridgewater.



RVHFH currently has provided homes for approximately 145 people in Somerset and Hunterdon counties, at least 90 of them are children and 80% of the homeowners are single moms. RVHFH is not only providing a structure for these families but is providing a stable, safe and healthy environment for families to strengthen and grow. Sign up requested by January 8 for the first work day. Contact Ashley Bastow at 908.432.3781 or [ahbastow@gmail.com](mailto:ahbastow@gmail.com) if you are interested or have questions. ([www.rvhabitat.org](http://www.rvhabitat.org))

## Hands-On Mission Calender

*Where Can You Lend a Hand?*

### Sundays

(1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month)  
Food collection for the Food Bank Network of Somerset County in sanct. narthex  
Mike Rountree: 908.696.1122

### Mondays at 3:30 p.m.

SCEEP – Tutor or prepare a snack for Newark students in the Church House  
Betsy Miller: 908.221.9177

### Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.

Oak Tree Quilters in Westminster Hall  
Jane Mahan: 908.234.0605

### Sat. January 22

Habitat for Humanity  
See article at left.

### Fridays in February

"Women, Word, Work"  
A women's small group focusing on book discussion and mission work.  
See article on next page.

### March 6-13

Interfaith Hospitality Network – Hosting and serving homeless families at BRPC  
Evelyn Gruening: 908.766.9820

### Sat. March 26

Habitat for Humanity  
See article at left.

### Sat. April 30

Food preparation and service at Homeless Solutions in Morristown  
Cicchetti's: 908.766.0708

### May 20-29

Mission Trip to Haiti  
See article at left.

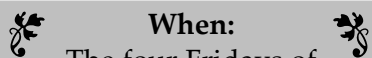
### June/July TBD

Mission Trip to Ecuador  
See article at left.

## MISSION

### The 3 W's - Women, The Word and Works

*Are you a woman? enjoy reading? interested in hands on mission outreach? Have we got a group for you!*



**When:**

The four Fridays of  
February @9:30 a.m.

**Where:**

The Church House parlor

**Book:**

*same kind of different as me* by  
Ron Hall and Denver Moore

**Sponsored by:**

The Mission Council

**Facilitators:**

Karen Hanson &  
Janet Bentley

February 2011 marks the beginning of a new small group, The 3 W's. The plan for this pilot program includes a book study, followed by a hands on mission project directly related to the subject of our book. The first book we will read is *same kind of different as me* written by Ron Hall and Denver Moore. This amazing true story is about a wealthy art dealer and a homeless man, and the woman who brings them together. It is a story of faith, of hope and of love. As one reviewer reported "I laughed and I cried, and I praised God for real life, walking around examples of what it means to "love them like Jesus."

Copies of the book are available at any local bookstore, or you can contact Karen Hanson at grammiehanson@aol.com who will order the book for you. Any questions please contact Karen Hanson (address above) or Janet Bentley at jrbentley@brpc.org.

We hope you will join us! (there will be cake!)

## MEN'S MINISTRIES

### Men's Luncheon on January 20 - Guest speaker Rev. Andy Kort



Our next luncheon for men will be held on January 20 at 12 noon in the church house parlor. Men from the church and community are invited to join us for a wonderful feast provided by chef Gary Ingram, and a fascinating talk by Rev. Andy Kort. Andy has been the pastor of the Pilgrim Presbyterian Church in Phillipsburg, NJ for the past five years and has led a number of church mission trips to the Dominican Republic. He is a member of the Board of Mission for The Foundation for Peace, and will be telling us more about the Foundation's work in Haiti.

Call the church house to make a reservation. A great lunch is just a \$7 donation. Feel free to invite a guest who may enjoy the wonderful fellowship at our luncheons.

## SANCTUARY FLOWERS

### Honor a Loved One or Special Occasion with Sunday Morning Flowers

One of the many ways of worshipping God and remembering those we love is to place flowers in the Sanctuary for Sunday services. The flowers enhance the beauty of our service and bring remembrance and joy to many in our congregation.

Flowers may be ordered for one or two piers. Every effort will be made to reserve the Sunday as near as possible to the date that is meaningful for you. If there are more than two people who want the same Sunday, I will upgrade the flowers so we have larger arrangements for each pier. We have an on going relationship with Somerset Hills Florist and the charge is \$42 per person to order flowers. You will receive a thank you letter and bill the week after the flowers are on the piers. If you are interested in donating flowers, please contact me at 908.953.9432 or jannslapin@gmail.com.

On the Sunday that your flowers are in the sanctuary, you are welcome to pick them up after the service.

The Deacons will take the remaining flowers to church members and friends at home or in the hospital. If

you have a special request, please let me know when you order the flowers. Please consider ordering flowers to grace our sanctuary on a special Sunday. They are an integral part of our worship service.



~Jann Slapin, Flower Coordinator

# Sunday Morning Forums

11:30 a.m. in the Church House Parlor (Childcare can be provided if pre-arranged.)

## Presbyterian Contributions to America

Sunday, January 9

Led by Rev. Bob Beringer

American Presbyterians have a rich and diverse heritage that spans more than three centuries. We will trace some of the highlights in that story from the formation of the First American Presbytery in 1716 to the Great Awakening, the critical role Presbyterians played in the American Revolution and their influence on our Constitution. The 1800's provide a story of how Presbyterians met the challenges of westward expansion, the enormous conflicts over slavery, the establishment of seminaries, colleges, hospitals, and the first outreach to the world through foreign missions. The 1900's witnessed significant changes in our understanding of our creeds and confessions, our response to global wars, civil rights, and the role of women in church leadership, culminating in reunification of the two largest Presbyterian churches in our country. It's a fascinating story and our Church was there through it all!

**Rev. Beringer** grew up in Basking Ridge and was confirmed at BRPC. A graduate of Cornell and Princeton Theological Seminary, he is the former pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Metuchen. After retirement, he and his wife Peggy returned to Basking Ridge. They have four grown children and several grandchildren. For many years, Bob served as the summer pastor at Christ Union Chapel at Culver Lake and has recently retired from this beloved "lake ministry." He was named Parish Associate in 2009. Bob will celebrate his 50th year as an ordained minister in 2011!



## Our Immigrant Neighbors

Sunday, January 30 at 7 p.m.

Led by Dr. Chester Kim

Dr. Kim, pastor at the First Presbyterian church of Bernardsville, will share his ministry experiences with immigrants in Bernardsville and adjacent communities. His church has specific programs for Spanish people, Korean immigrants and Korean adopted children and their parents. He will describe the status of working and living conditions of Spanish people in the local community and specific ministries offered to immigrants of various backgrounds. They include:

- Korean Culture Festival in October (Reaching out to families with adopted children from Asia.)
- Food Bank and the Annual Thanksgiving Basket Drive for Spanish families in need
- Spanish Culture Festival in May of 2011
- Nursery School outreach and care for Spanish children
- Culture School for adoptive families

A special guest during the evening will be Rev. Brooks Smith, Interim Pastor of Bound Brook Presbyterian Church, who will offer insights on his ministry to the Hispanic communities in North Plainfield (while pastor of Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church) and in Bound Brook.

**Pastor Kim** was born and grew up in Seoul, South Korea. He attended and was baptized at the Young Rak Presbyterian Church with over 55,000 members. His family came to the United States as immigrants in 1981. He subsequently obtained M.Div., Th.M., and D.Min. degrees at Princeton Theological Seminary. His Ph.D. work was in the Psychology of Religion at the Graduate School of Drew University. He has three years of training as a family counselor and therapist at the Family Institute of New Jersey and has worked as a Church counselor with two units of CPEs. He is a Certified Christian Educator. Pastor Kim was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in 1996 and served churches in Elizabeth and Martinsville. He has been serving as Pastor at the First Presbyterian Church of Bernardsville since September of 2002. He is married to Ms. Ui Kim and has two children: David (sophomore in college) and John (sophomore at Bernards High).



## BRPC: A History

Sundays, February 13 and 20

Led by George Fricke

In 1731 when the first log structure was erected, the great oak in the church yard was already over three hundred years old! A number of our former ministers still “reside” under this magnificent tree, but there are other notable members who have impacted our growth, as well as various historical events which have helped shape who we are today. Our church has a long and glorious history and we will take a glimpse into the past during this forum.

**George Fricke** currently serves on the church’s Cemetery Heritage Committee and is chair of the Historical Records Committee. He served as Clerk of Session for almost 10 years. In these positions, he has been working with our historical and burial records for over 22 years and has gleaned a great deal of knowledge about our church. As a result, he has become the de facto Historian of our church. George was first ordained an Elder in 1961 at the First Presbyterian Church in Whippany, New Jersey. Since moving to Basking Ridge in 1965, he has served as an active Elder on Session for a total of 13 years. He and his wife Carol have been married for 61 years, have a son and a daughter, five granddaughters, two great granddaughters and a great grandson.



## Faith Renewal Weekend

Friday-Sunday, March 11-13

Led by Rev. Graham Standish

We look forward to rekindling the tradition of a congregation-wide faith renewal weekend, so that as a church family, we will have a chance to deepen friendships and grow in faith. We are thrilled and fortunate to have as our guest leader The Reverend Dr. Graham Standish. Rev. Standish is the author of the book, *Becoming a Blessed Church: Forming a Church of Spiritual Purpose, Presence, and Power*, a book which our officers have studied and have been inspired and blessed by during this past year. Details will follow!

**Rev. Graham Standish** has been pastor of Calvin Presbyterian Church in Zelienople, Pennsylvania since January 1996. He is the author of six books and has also written numerous articles in spirituality, spiritual direction, and spirituality in congregations. He is an adjunct professor at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary Doctor of Ministry program and Certificate in Spiritual Formation Program, focusing in the areas of spirituality and congregational leadership. He is a teacher, retreat leader, spiritual director, and has a background in individual, marital, and family therapy. He holds a Ph.D. in formative spirituality from Duquesne University, a Master of Social Work from the University of Pittsburgh, and a Master of Divinity from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.



## The Spiritual Practice of Lectio Divina

Sundays, March 6–April 17

Led by Joan Anson

Spiritual practices encourage us to deepen our personal experience with God by drawing us inward. During the season of Lent, come and practice the discipline of Lectio Divina, a centuries-old tradition still in practice today that allows the ancient words of the Bible to provide insight and meaning for our lives today. Lectio Divina involves reading, contemplation, and personal (silent) interpretation. During this 30 to 45 minute experience, we will study the scripture that will be used in the following Sunday’s service. After abiding in this contemplation for the week, come to worship and see it illuminated in community through words, prayers, & music.

**Joan Anson**, along with her husband Bekim Protopapa and sons James and Jack Henry, has been a member of BRPC since 1994. Joan has participated in the life of the church in many ways; volunteering for Logos, attending Wednesday morning Bible study, volunteering for Homeless Solutions and Interfaith Hospitality Network, and has served for eight years as a Stephen Minister and Stephen Leader. Most recently, she served as the chair of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee that called Dr. Maureen Paterson. She is currently a student at Drew Theological School, pursuing a two year Certification in Spiritual Formation. Joan’s work experience spans 15 years in sales management and 18 years (and counting) mothering. In her spare time, Joan loves to cook and read.



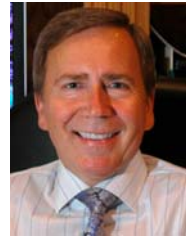
## Cross-cultural Awareness

Sunday, May 1

Led by Brian Szepkouski

Does culture impact our perception of reality? Come and find out! This session will focus on cultural differences that exist in our ways of reasoning, communicating and interacting with fellow citizens of planet earth. Together, we will explore (through a highly interactive format) how various layers of culture impact our own values, beliefs and attitudes. Come and share your own experiences of traveling (or living) overseas – and learn more about the role of culture in our spiritual views, and understanding of what is (or at least seems to be) true. Having lived in Japan for more than six years, Brian will share some of his experiences of cultural misunderstandings throughout the Asian region.

**Brian Szepkouski** is a leading authority on cross-cultural communications, international executive development, and strategic planning for global business expansion. He provides intercultural training to organizations worldwide seeking to improve global effectiveness & productivity, as well as executive coaching for long-term excellence in global leadership. Brian has been a life-long Presbyterian including service as a PCUSA Volunteer in Mission in Japan teaching English. After moving to New Jersey in 1986, Brian was a member of several Presbyterian churches prior to joining BRPC in 2001. His wife, Euphemia (Lori) Halivopoulos is a member of the Greek Orthodox Church in Westfield, but attends here regularly with their son, Stephen (a member of Cherub choir). Brian's daughter, Hannah, is a senior at Ridge High. Brian is the co-author of the books: *Business Passport to Japan: Maximizing Your Success in the 21st Century* and an art history catalog entitled: *Sino-Tibetan Bronze Sculptures of the Edward-Dean Museum in California*.



## Leadership Coaching

Sunday, May 15

Led by Anita Attridge

The discussion will focus on the influence of a leader, whether in business or an organization, and how the organizational culture impacts the leader's success. Areas of discussion:

- The leadership coaching process in business today.
- How the leader sets the tone for the organization and the participation of people in the group.
- How to determine the needs of an organization or group when you are the new leader.
- The importance of understanding and managing within the organizational culture.

**Anita Attridge** is a Business and Career coach with over 25 years of Human Resources corporate and non-profit experience. Throughout her career, Anita has coached leaders to develop their leadership skills and increase the effectiveness of their organizations. Her career includes senior Human Resources and Organizational Development positions with Xerox Corp., The Nature Conservancy and Merck & Co. She moved to NJ 13 years ago when she accepted the position with Merck. In January 2009 she began attending BRPC. She was looking for a church that would welcome new people and had education programs to support her spiritual growth and in her words "... I found it."



## Small Group Opportunities

### Women's Bible Study Group

Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Church Parlor, Led by Dr. Maureen Paterson

Beginning January 12, we will be reading and discussing *Spiritual Living In a Secular World* by Henri Nouwen. This book was one of the last that Nouwen wrote and tries to explain the impact of Christian faith in the living out of his life. It is written to a non-believer and is a simple and effective exploration of the life of faith. Books are available through the church office. We look forward to sharing the thoughts and ideas of this great spiritual writer and learning more about what it means to live a life of faith in today's world. New members are always welcome, so come along when you can.

### Women's Meditation Group

Wednesdays, 8:30-9:25 a.m., Church Library, Shared Leadership

Join this small group of women who meet at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday mornings in the Church House Library for an hour of prayer and meditation. New participants are welcome at any time. Call Marilyn King, 908-766-5609, for further information.

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## Presbyterian Women Circle

**Once a month, Thursdays, 12:30 p.m., Church House Parlor**

Presbyterian Women (PW) is the national women's organization of the Presbyterian Church (USA). PW is organized at all levels in synods, presbyteries and congregations. At BRPC, all women are invited to join the ongoing Mary Circle. This year, they are studying "Joshua: A Journey of Faith" If interested in joining, contact Jessie Bledsoe at 908-766-7644.

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## Tuesday Evening Group

**Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., Church Members' Home**

Beginning on January 11, we will be exploring together the *Living The Questions* DVD and reading materials. LTQ is an open-minded alternative study, striving to create an environment where participants can interact with one another in exploring what's next for Christianity. This series doesn't give answers, but invites small group members to explore questions of Christianity. We are expecting it to be a time of provocative questions, speaking openly, and sharing personal journeys. New members are very welcome to join us on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm at Bob and Eleanor Taylor's home in Basking Ridge. If you would like more information, please contact Bob and Eleanor Taylor (908-766-2077) or Ellen Greenhorn (908-766-2512).

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## Friday Evening Book Group

**First and Third Fridays, 8 p.m., Church Library**

The book group is taking a break for January and February and will resume meeting on March 4, 2011, and begin discussion of *Rabbi Jesus: An Intimate Biography* by Bruce Chilton. *Rabbi Jesus* is a compelling biography of the life of Jesus written by a professor of religion at Bard College and expert in Jewish studies near the beginning of the Common Era. The author uses his vast knowledge of Aramaic, the language Jesus spoke, and the Targums, the oral Hebrew Biblical tradition known to Jesus, to aid his analysis of Jesus within the context of his times. He offers clues to what the parables meant to Jesus, what his deep spirituality and his relationship with God were like, what he really meant when he said "this wine is my blood and this bread is my flesh" and how Jesus' contemporaries might have realistically viewed him.

Please join us in the discussion of this engaging book. We meet the first and third Fridays of the month from 8-10 p.m. in the Church House Library. All are welcome. For more information please contact Evelyn Drake at 908-766-9282 or [endrake@verizon.net](mailto:endrake@verizon.net).

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## Men's Coffee and Conversation

**Saturdays, 7:30 a.m., Church Library**

No preparation and no homework required for this informal men's group that gathers in the Church House on Saturdays – first around the coffee maker in the kitchen, then in the parlor or the library for conversation and study. This summer, the group started studying "Becoming a Blessed Church." Walk-ins are always welcome. For more information, call Jim Felter, 908-221-0630.

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## Sunday Evening Group

**Sundays, 7:30 p.m., Church House Library**

Beginning Sunday January 9, come join a reading and discussion group that meets on Sunday evenings in the Church House Library. All are welcome! Contact Karen Johnson for more information at 973-543-7532.

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## GriefShare

**Mondays, 7-9 p.m.**

**Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church, Liberty Corner**

If you've lost a spouse, child, family member or friend, consider gaining support from this small group program based on the Bible. GriefShare small groups meet weekly and are led by people who understand and want to help. For more information, contact Jan Pletscher at 908-766-6994. For descriptions of the GriefShare program, visit <http://www.griefshare.org>.

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

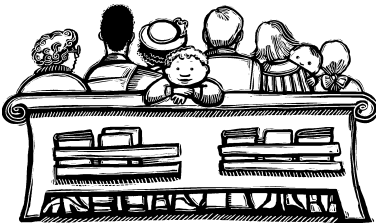


### Susanna Miller as Interim Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Susanna Miller, already a beloved and valued member of our music ministry staff, has been called by God to serve as an Interim Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Susanna brings much experience, an authentic love for Christ, and a deep love for young people. While the search committee continues to look for a Youth Director, Susanna will oversee Middle School Fellowship, Senior High Fellowship and Young Adult Fellowship opportunities. Susanna will be working part-time in the office and can be contacted at [smiller@brpc.org](mailto:smiller@brpc.org).

## CHILDREN AND FAMILY

### Family Worship Service on February 6 at 10 a.m.



On Sunday, February 6 we will share in a special worship service for all ages at 10 a.m. The children's choirs will participate and Rev. Dennis Jones will share a sermon that is particularly appropriate for youth and meaningful for all ages. This is a special opportunity for the children to receive Communion together with the entire church family. Following the service, all are invited to Westminster Hall for the Souper Sunday Youth Workcamp Fundraiser lunch.

## TREE HOUSE

### Updates from The Tree House Child Caring Center

The Tree House wishes everyone a Happy New Year! We're having a wonderful year of learning and growing – our children are happy and we are excited to offer new and enriching programs in the fall of 2011. We are accepting applications for preschool for the fall.

#### Full Day Kindergarten - Only 18 Spots Available

The Tree House is very excited to announce that we are offering a full-day comprehensive, fun and exciting Kindergarten program in the fall. There are only 18 available spots so please call the office soon for an application, tour or more information.

#### Program for 2 Year Old Children

We are also offering a program for 2 year olds two days a week. Enrollment is now open to the outside community. Please call the office with any questions.

#### First Annual Fund Drive

This year we have kicked off our first Annual Fund Drive. We need to raise funds to replace the playground within the next few years in order to meet state mandates and we also need to raise funds to furnish the classrooms with developmentally appropriate materials. We hope to raise \$30,000 by the year 2014. Please call the office if you would like to learn more about our Annual Fund. We also participate in matching funds.



1 East Oak Street  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

908.221.1619  
[www.treehousechildcare.org](http://www.treehousechildcare.org)

Jennifer Iannaconi, Director  
[director@treehousechildcare.org](mailto:director@treehousechildcare.org)



**Christmas Oratorio**  
**December 5**  
**"O Come, Let Us Adore Him"**



Knox Bell Choir

Chancel Choir



## Oratorio Thank You!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to the members of the Oratorio Choir, Chancel Choir, Knox Bell Choir, soloists and instrumentalists who performed so beautifully in our Service of Lessons and Carols on Dec. 5. What a gift to the whole community to hear the lovely familiar carols and some new carols sung so beautifully! Thank you for giving your talents and many hours of your time and energy to give this gift to our congregation and the whole community.

THANK YOU, also to all those behind the scenes who helped with the services and reception: Jean Wadsworth and the Fellowship Council, Marshall Smith and all the ushers, Nancy Frink and Karen Morrison who decorated the sanctuary with the assistance of church sextons Peter O'Connor and David Brownlee, Helen Mallon, Bill Williams, and Wayman Williams for publicity, the church office staff for the programs and publicity flyers, and all of you who contributed to Friends of Music to support this music ministry financially. We could not have these special services without you.

## Oratorio Choir Looking ahead to the Spring . . . *Requiem* by Gabriel Fauré

The Oratorio Choir will begin rehearsals on Thursday, January 27, at 8:45 p.m., for our spring music service on Sunday afternoon, March 27. We will be singing Gabriel Fauré's beautiful *Requiem* and some shorter works.

If you are interested in singing, please contact Mary Lou Stevens at 908.953.9809 or [mstevens@brpc.org](mailto:mstevens@brpc.org).

## Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church ❖ chancelchoir

It is NOT too late to join our fantastic Chancel Choir! If you are in grades 6-12, we want YOU to come and sing with us! We meet each Sunday from 6-7 p.m. in the choir room (between middle school fellowship and high school fellowship meeting times). Come and check it out and stay for pizza! We'd love to see you there. If interested, please contact Susanna Miller at [smiller@brpc.org](mailto:smiller@brpc.org).

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (Sign Ups Begin in February)**

Tuesday, March 8 at 6:30 p.m. | Westminster Hall | \$7/person or \$20/family



What a lively and fun-filled evening! This annual event is all about excess, just before the solemnity of the Lenten season. The pancakes, the sweets, the decorations, the fun! After dinner don't forget the ice cream sundae bar with tons of forbidden toppings—never count calories at Mardi Gras! (This event is sponsored by the Fellowship Council.)

COMMUNICATIONS

**What's on the New Website?**

[www.brpc.org](http://www.brpc.org)

- Audio Sermons
- Daily Devotional
- Kid's Activities
- News & Events
- Pastor's Blog

- Members Section with:
- Church Member Directory
  - Deacon Cluster Map
  - Board Members

**Oak Leaves Newsletter Transition to Every Other Month**

As we shared in November, our Oak Leaves newsletter is transitioning from a monthly to an every other month publication beginning this month. This transition will allow for better use of our resources, including printing and mailing costs, as well as staff hours, allowing more time to focus on our on-line ministry as we continue to build a new website and consider new tools for communication.

For the months when there is not an Oak Leaves, an email will be available highlighting some of the important ministries and events happening in the life of the church, with a link to more details on our web site. For those who are currently receiving Oak Leaves in the mail, you will receive a postcard which will highlight the month's upcoming events and will include a brief letter from Rev. Jones, similar to his Pastor's blog on the website. For more in-depth printed material, we will continue to print announcements in our Sunday bulletins.

In the year ahead, we will be open to and grateful for your suggestions as we see how this all unfolds, and as we continue to learn how to communicate with our congregation, and the community and world beyond it, as effectively as possible.

CHRISTIAN MEANING

**Liturgical Colors Throughout the Year**

Have you ever noticed the different colors used on the decorative vestments in the Sanctuary or on the stoles worn by the pastors? These colors are representative of the church seasons.

The liturgical colors of the year are white, purple, red, and green. White is used for special days in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, such as Christmas and Easter. Purple marks the seasons of penitence and preparation — Advent and Lent. Red is the color for Pentecost and is often used for ordination services. During Holy Week, the color is purple until the church is stripped at the end of Maundy Thursday. The church remains bare (gray) until the Easter Vigil (white); however some congregations use black or deep scarlet. Green is used for all other time periods not marked by a specific season (called Ordinary Time) to represent spiritual growth. These colors can be used with some flexibility.

**The Meaning of Epiphany**

Epiphany is the Christian festival celebrated each year on January 6. Along with Christmas, Easter and Pentecost, it is one of the oldest Christian holy days.

Epiphany commemorates the first "showing forth" or manifestation of Jesus to the Gentiles, particularly the Magi or Wise Men. The Epiphany story is meant to explain that Christ was not just for the Jews, but for non-Jews (Gentiles) as well, anywhere in the world.



## CHURCH FAMILY

### *Baptisms*

*Ella Anne Sparrey*, daughter of Kristie and Adam Sparrey, baptized December 26, 2010.

### *Weddings*

*Nancy Van Hook & Sean Arroyo*, married January 1, 2011.

### *Deaths*

*Prayers of help and comfort for the families of:*

*Laverne Phelps*, on her death, November 24, 2010.

*Dory Yochum*, on her death, December 5, 2010.

*If you would like to sign up for email notifications of losses in our church family, please contact Cara Burchett at 908.766.1616 x19 or cburchett@brpc.org.*

## Exploring Membership Class January 16, 2010



We extend a warm invitation to our next "Exploring Membership" class, on Sunday, January 16, 2011 at 11:30 a.m. in the Church House Parlor (located across the street from the Sanctuary). This is an excellent opportunity to share about your own faith journey, and learn more about the beliefs and ministry of our church.

Toward the end of the class, you will have an opportunity to meet with members of our Session (the governing body for Presbyterian churches) and prayerfully consider whether you feel called to formally become a member and affirm, or re-affirm, your faith in Jesus Christ. Lunch will be served and childcare will be provided. We promise to send you home by 2 p.m. New members from this class will be welcomed into membership at worship on Sunday, January 23 at 10 a.m. If interested in attending, please contact the church office at 908.766.1616.

## Helping with Funeral and Memorial Service Receptions

This is an opportunity to provide needed support in helping congregation members during their time of need. The Deacons are looking for volunteers to support the Deacon Hospitality Committee which provides receptions following funeral and memorial services. Responsibilities include setting up the refreshment station, serving the refreshments, and cleaning-up. Please consider this opportunity. Please pray on it. Should God move you to volunteer, please call Helen Mallon at 908.647.2834.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

### CALL FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

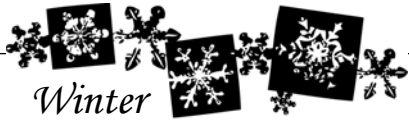
The Annual Meeting of the Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Basking Ridge, New Jersey, will be in the Sanctuary on January 30, 2011, immediately following the second Service of Worship, for the purpose of receiving the Statistical and Financial Reports for 2010; for consideration of the Local and General Mission Budgets for 2011; for receiving reports of the Boards and Organizations; for the election of Elders, Deacons and Members-At-Large to the Church Officer Nominating Committee; for acting on the Pastors' terms of call for 2011; and for such other business as may properly come before the Congregation.

*January 3, 2011 – Richard Fryling, Jr., Clerk of Session*

### CALL FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CORPORATION

The Annual Business Meeting of the Corporation of the Presbyterian Church in Basking Ridge, New Jersey, incorporated by Act of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey in the year 1785 as the Trustees of the Presbyterian Congregation at Baskenridge in the counties of Somerset and Morris, will be held in the Sanctuary on January 30, 2011, immediately following the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. This meeting is called for the purpose of hearing the Annual Report, for the election of new Trustees and members of the Financial Review Committee, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the Congregation.

*January 3, 2011 – Jeff Sell, President of the Board of Trustees*



**Upcoming Special  
Sundays in January/February**

**January 9**  
*Baptism of the Lord Sunday*

**January 16**  
*Exploring Membership Class, 11:15 a.m.*

**January 23**  
*10 a.m. Installation of Dr. Paterson  
Eggstravaganza Brunch*

**January 30**  
*Annual Congregational Meeting*

**February 6**  
*10 a.m. Family Worship  
Souper Sunday Workcamp Fundraiser*

| January 2011 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 16           | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23           | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30           | 31 |    |    |    |    |    |

| February 2011 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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|               |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |
| 6             | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13            | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20            | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27            | 28 |    |    |    |    |    |

**A Typical Winter Week at the Church**

**SUNDAY**

- Worship ..... 8:30 & 10 a.m.
- Sunday School ..... 10:15 a.m.
- Coffee Hour ..... 11:15 a.m.
- Adult Education Forum ..... 11:30 a.m.
- Middle School Fellowship ..... 5 p.m.
- Chancel Choir ..... 6 p.m.
- Senior High Fellowship ..... 7:30 p.m.
- Adult Small Group Study ..... 7:30 p.m.

**MONDAY**

- Little Spirit ..... 3:45 p.m.
- Tai Chi ..... 7:15 p.m.
- Council and Board Meetings ..... 7:30 p.m.

**TUESDAY**

- Oak Tree Quilters ..... 9:30 a.m.
- Alpha Bell Choir ..... 5:30 p.m.
- Knox Bell Choir ..... 7:30 p.m.
- Adult Small Group Study ..... 7:30 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY**

- Women's Meditation Group ..... 8:30 a.m.
- Women's Bible Study ..... 9:30 a.m.
- Children's Spirit Program ..... 3:45 p.m.
- Senior High Bible Study ..... 7:30 p.m.

**THURSDAY**

- Boy Scout Troop #351 ..... 7:30 p.m.
- Senior Choir ..... 7:30 p.m.
- Oratorio Choir ..... 8:45 p.m.

**FRIDAYS (February)**

- Women, Word, Work ..... 9:30 a.m.

**SATURDAY**

- Men's Coffee & Conversation ..... 7:30 a.m.



*Therefore encourage one another  
and build each other up, as indeed  
you are doing. The grace of our  
Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*

I Thessalonians 5:11, 28

**Statement of Purpose**

*Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church*

God calls the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church to be a living community and light to the world, guided by the Holy Spirit and transmitting God's love revealed through Christ Jesus. In response to God's call, we seek to realize the Kingdom of God as we

- WELCOME** everyone into our community with open arms,
- CARE** for each other both in times of joy and in times of sorrow,
- WORSHIP** together creatively and enthusiastically in gratitude to God,
- PREPARE** each other through Bible-based education and open discussion to
- SERVE** Jesus Christ as disciples in local and global ministry and to
- SHARE** our wealth, time, talents and faith with the world.

## Oak Leaves

is published monthly  
by and for members and friends of  
The Presbyterian Church  
1 East Oak Street  
Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920  
908.766.1616  
www.brpc.org

We welcome news about your family,  
friends, and church activities. Submit  
articles and photographic materials to  
the editor —  
1 East Oak St., fax: 766-4450,  
or e-mail: oakleaves@brpc.org.

**The deadline for the  
March/April issue  
is Sunday, February 20.**

Editor reserves the right to condense copy.

### Editor

Joanna Wittig

### Circulation

Pam Smith

### Distribution

BRPC Volunteers

### Ministers

All the People

### Pastor

Rev. Dennis W. Jones – x15

### Associate Pastor

Dr. Maureen Paterson – x11

### Parish Associate

Rev. Bob Beringer

### Pastors Emeriti

Dr. J. Calvin K. Jackson

Dr. James Morris

### Minister of Music

Mary Lou Stevens – 908.953.9809

### Director of Children's Music

Beth Donley – 908.500.1798

### Interim Director of Youth and Director of Handbell and Youth Choirs

Susanna Miller – 214.616.3069

### Church Administrator

Janet Bentley – x18

### Assistant Treasurers

Pam Meyers (M,W) – x21

Lisa-Ann Smith (Th.) – x21

### Administrative Assistant for Worship and Pastoral Ministries

Cara Burchett – x19

### Administrative Assistant for Membership and Education Ministries

Pam Smith - x12

### Communications Coordinator

Joanna Wittig – x17

### Sexton Staff

Peter O'Connor – x16

David Brownlee

## SERMONS AND SERVICES FOR JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011 8:30 A.M. CHAPEL — 10 A.M. SANCTUARY

- January 2** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Christmas  
Scripture: Jeremiah 31: 7=14, John 1: 1-14  
Sermon: *So, What's New?* Rev. Bob Beringer
- January 9** Baptism of the Lord  
Scripture: Matthew 2: 1-12  
Sermon: *Visitors Expected* Rev. Dennis W. Jones
- January 16** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Scripture: Mark 9: 3-37  
Sermon: *When Humility is Hard* Rev. Dennis W. Jones
- January 23** **Only One Worship Service at 10 a.m.**  
Installation Service of Dr. Maureen Paterson  
Guest Preacher Rev. Ian Rankin
- January 30** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Scripture: Exodus 3: 1-12, 4: 1-5, 10-15; 1 Timothy 4: 12-15  
Sermon: *The Preacher and the Muleskinner* Rev. Dennis W. Jones
- February 6** 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship  
10 a.m. Family Worship Rev. Dennis W. Jones
- February 13** 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 3: 1-15  
Sermon: *Growing God's Way* Dr. Maureen Paterson
- February 20** 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Scripture: Psalm 127: 1-2, Mark 4: 35-41  
Sermon: *Sleeping in Church* Rev. Dennis Jones
- February 27** 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Scripture: Matthew 7: 7-11  
Sermon: *The Long Search* Rev. Dennis Jones

**The Presbyterian Church**  
**One East Oak Street**  
**Basking Ridge NJ 07920**  
**908.766.1616**  
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