

Oak Leaves

The Presbyterian Church
of Basking Ridge
Newsletter



October 2011

www.brpc.org

Volume LXVI Issue XVI

Loving God and Neighbor

October Special Events



Join us for
Worship & Special Events

- October 2** 3rd Graders receive Bibles,
New members received at
10 a.m. service.
- October 9** Confirmation Class Begins
- October 16** Mission Celebration Sunday
Exhibits & Activities
following 10 a.m. service
- October 23** Blessing of Choirs
All Cluster Brunch

Sunday School & Spirit Teachers & Assistant Teachers Needed!



Contact any Sunday School
teacher or Children and
Family Ministry council
member to find out how easy
and rewarding spending time
with God's children can be!

**Photos for our
New Church Directory
will be taken Nov. 6-12.**

Sign-Ups Begin Sunday, October 9

Adult Education Forums

To find out more about our forums and speakers,
please pick up an Adult Education Brochure in the
Narthex or Church House or access the brochure
on our website, brpc.org.

October 2: Led by Dr. Joy Carol
Can We Find Healing in Our World Today?

October 9: Led by Brian Szepekowski
Cross Cultural Awareness

October 30: Led by Laurie Rowe
No Place Like Home in Somerset County

November 6: Led by Erwin Ganz
Holocaust Experience



All Cluster Brunch

*Join us in Westminster Hall following
the 10 a.m. Worship Service
for our All Cluster Brunch on October 23*

Please look for your invitations in the mail
and RSVP to your deacon
including what type of food you will bring
(casseroles, salads or desserts)

**Re-connect with your church family
and meet new people!**

Sponsored by the Deacons

Men's Luncheons for October and November

Thursday, October 20 at 12 noon in Church House Parlor

Anne Painter, The Somerset Hills Visiting Nurse Association and Bob Lomauro,
The Somerset Hills YMCA will discuss critical unmet needs in our community.

Thursday, November 17 at 12 noon in Church House Parlor

Ask Pastors Dennis Jones, Tex Culton and Bob Beringer your questions
about the Bible, faith or their ministry experiences!

Great Lunch by Gary Ingram ~ \$7 Donation ~ Call 766-1616 to Register ~ Bring a Friend



PASTOR'S LETTER



**Rev. Dennis
W. Jones**

djones@brpc.org
766.1616 x15

*"Love the
Lord your
God with all
your heart,
and with all
your soul and
with all your
mind..."*

*Love your
neighbor as
yourself."*

Dear Friends,

George Bernard Shaw once wrote, "The only man I know who behaves sensibly is my tailor; he takes my measurements anew each time he sees me. The rest go on with their old measurements and expect me to fit them." Ever feel like that? Ever feel that as much as you might grow and learn and mature, that there are some people in your life who still relate to you as the person you were a long time ago, instead of the one you are today? And even when you give them the opportunity to see and to celebrate how you have grown, they don't.

Jim Morris is a dear friend of mine who served here as an associate pastor for many years. When we first met he was serving on our staff . . . and I was a student in the same 5th grade class as his son! We reconnected when I was in high school and began to get involved in our church. For a few years I was away at college, and then I returned as a young adult and joined our church as a member. Each time Jim was here to welcome and embrace me, and to get to know who I had become. For six years we found ourselves serving side by side on our staff as peers, both of us associate pastors. When he retired and I accepted a call at another church, I was grateful for the chance to invite him to assist me as parish associate. During each and every one of those chapters Jim took the time to get to know me, one might even say to measure me, anew. He never just related to me as the person I once was. And over all those years in the ways that I measured him, I think I did the same.

In the gospels, Jesus affirms that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord our God with all of our heart and soul and mind. He declares that it is the first and greatest commandment. He then adds, "And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" As we seek to love one another with all that we are, with every ounce of our heart and soul and mind, may we love in such a way that we allow others to grow, and to become more than they once were. And may we be grateful that that is the very way our Almighty God loves us.

See you in church,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis".

Dennis W. Jones, *Pastor*

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights from the September Session Meeting

Session approved up to \$6,000 for the purchase and installation of signs for the Church campus.

Barbara Price gave a presentation of the Stewardship Council's work to revive our planned giving effort with a proposed program launch in January 2012.

Highlights from the September Trustee Meeting

The church recently received a notice of bequest from the estates of Robert Hull, Mary Fedoruk and Mrs. T. Richard Rieder.

The church parking lots were all paved and tree trimming around the church campus is in progress.

Opportunities from the Deacons

Greeting on Sunday Mornings: Greeters welcome members and visitors at the Sanctuary doors and extend the traditional warmth of our congregation. All are invited to participate in this ministry, including families and children. Please contact Amanda Hughes at 973-813-3004 to sign up for a week that suits your schedule.

Coffee Hour Volunteers: Share fellowship with your church family during coffee hour in Westminster Hall following the 10 a.m. service. Serving coffee (and tea) to fellow members, choir and clergy is a great way to serve your church, meet members and visitors, and foster the warmth that is the hallmark of BRPC. Call Nancy Sinni at 908-696-0317 to help with this ministry.

Births

Katelynn Elizabeth, daughter of Kelly and Admir Rakovic, born September 3
Granddaughter of Peter and Sue Schundler

Baptisms

Liam Robert Waggenpack, son of Brian and Melissa, September 4

Matthew Christian Koehler, son of Todd and Heather, September 25

Deaths

Prayers of help and comfort for the families of:

Barbara Traynor-Lindsay, former wife of former BRPC sexton, the late James Traynor, on her death, August 16

Mother of Ken Peters, Maureen Peters, on her death, September 17 in Maryland

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.

New Communications Coordinator

Welcome Andrea! We are delighted to announce that Andrea Mastrobattista is our new Communications Coordinator. Andrea has training and experience in both church and corporate website administration and newsletter editing. She brings a strong interest in working in a church setting and a vivacious personality. Please stop by the church office to meet Andrea and *communicate* your welcome!

Stephen Ministry Presents...

Understanding Memory Loss

October 19, 7-8 p.m. - Church House Parlor

Memory loss that disrupts everyday life is not a normal part of aging! Learn the difference between normal age-related memory changes and abnormal changes associated with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia disorders; the 10 warning signs will be described. Discuss the importance of a thorough medical examination when symptoms first arise, treatment options and research trends.

Living with Alzheimer's Disease: Help for Caregivers During the Middle and Later Stages

November 2, 7-8 p.m. - Church House Parlor

Discuss concerns when caring for someone with advanced disease, including physical care, late-stage medical and communication issues, the emotional challenges of caregiving, ethical decisions in end-of-life, and understanding the dying process. Also, learn about helpful resources for those caring for a family member at home or in a care setting.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Friends of Music

This is the time of year when we ask for gifts to *Friends of Music* to support all our special music events. These events include our Christmas Oratorio Services on Dec. 4, Spring Oratorio Service, Lenten Music and Meditation Services, Jazz Service, and guest musicians for Easter and other festival occasions. No funds from the general operating budget of the church go to support our special music events.

Gifts from members and friends of the congregation who are moved and drawn closer to God through music have enabled us to present these music events in the past. We invite you to play an important role in the music ministry of this congregation once again by making a contribution to the Friends of Music in Basking Ridge this year. Gifts of any amount will be greatly appreciated.

Please accept my donation for the Friends of Music in Basking Ridge for 2011-2012.

Name _____

Address _____

Amount of Gift _____

Please return this form with your check (payable to "The Presbyterian Church") to:

The Presbyterian Church
1 East Oak Street
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

The names of all donors will be listed in the Oratorio Choir bulletins this program year.

Oak Leaves

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by and for members and friends of
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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, Cara Burchett

1 East Oak St., fax: 766-4450,
or e-mail: oakleaves@brpc.org.

**The deadline for the
November issue
is Sunday, October 9.**

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Cara Burchett

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Pam Smith

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All the People

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Rev. Dennis W. Jones – x15

Associate Pastor

Dr. Maureen Paterson – x11

Parish Associates

Rev. Bob Beringer

Rev. William “Tex” Culton

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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

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Assistant Treasurer

Lisa-Ann Smith – x21

Pastoral Administrative Assistant

Cara Burchett – x19

Church Administrative Assistant

Pam Smith - x12

Communications Coordinator

Andrea Mastrobattista – x13

Sexton Staff

Peter O’Connor – x16

David Brownlee



Small Group Ministries



Join a Small Group this fall! Enjoy spiritual growth and fellowship and meet new people. This is a partial listing showing only the groups that begin in October. Please see the adult education brochure in the narthex or website, brpc.org, for a complete listing of all our small groups.

Sundays, 7:30 p.m.

Small Book Group - Church House Library - group discusses various selections of Spiritual Reading - Begins 10/2.

Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m.

Ecumenical Bible Study led by Rev. Bob Beringer - Fellowship Village - Begins 10/11.

Tuesdays, 7:15 p.m.

Small Group - Meet at Home of Eleanor and Bob Taylor - discuss spiritual books and topics.

Fridays, 8:00 p.m.

Book Group - 1st and 3rd Fridays of month - Church House Library - shared leadership - Begins 10/7.

Save the Dates...

Upcoming Events sponsored by the Fellowship Council:

11/20: 9 a.m. - 12 noon Flapjack Fest, Westminster Hall

12/10: 5-8 p.m. *Appy* Christmas Social, the Sell’s Home

Enjoy Food, Fun and Fellowship with your Church Family

**The Presbyterian Church
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OCTOBER

Due to increased postage rates
please allow us to add you to
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