

Oak Leaves

The Presbyterian Church
of Basking Ridge
Newsletter



September 2011

www.brpc.org

Volume LXV Issue XV

Loving God and Neighbor

Reflection and Hope

Sunday, September 11

10:00 a.m.

*One Worship Service
in our Sanctuary*

6:30 p.m.

*Community Interfaith Service
of
Reflection and Hope*



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

Details for Sign-Up coming soon!

September Worship Schedule

Mark your calendars with this month's
worship schedule:

- September 4** 8:30 a.m. Chapel
10 a.m. Sanctuary
- September 11** One Svc - 10 a.m. Sanctuary
6:30 p.m. Community
Interfaith Service of
Reflection and Hope
- September 18** One Svc - 10 a.m. Sanctuary
Fall Kickoff Sunday!
- September 25** 8:30 a.m. Chapel
10 a.m. Sanctuary

Fall Kickoff Sunday

September 18, 2011

One Worship Service at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary
Rev. Jones Preaching "Summoned by God"

Festivities Under the Oak Tree Following the Service
Games, food, fellowship

Sign up for choirs, Sunday school, small groups
Discover opportunities for children, youth and adults

*Come welcome new friends and re-connect with old ones
as we worship and share in fellowship together.*

Blessing of the Backpacks - We invite all
children to bring their backpacks to church
as we mark the start of a new school year
and ask for God's blessing upon each child.



Exploring Membership Class

*Interested in learning more
about becoming a member?*

Please join us for our next
"Exploring Membership" class on
Sunday, September 25

11:30 a.m. in the Church House Parlor.

Lunch will be served and childcare will be provided.

Share your own faith journey and learn more about the
beliefs and ministry of our church. If interested, please
contact the church office, 766-1616.



Save The Date - Sunday, October 2
Third Grade Students will receive their Bibles
at the 10 a.m. worship service.

PASTOR'S LETTER



**Rev. Dennis
W. Jones**

djones@brpc.org
766.1616 x15

*Proverbs 3.
"Trust in the
Lord with all
your heart,
and do not
rely on your
own insight.
In all your
ways
acknowledge
him, and he
will make
straight your
paths."*

Dear Friends,

I give thanks that over these summer months God has been profoundly present and at work in the life of our church! I think of our adult mission trips to Haiti, Ecuador, Kenya, and Malawi, and our senior high workcamp to Maine. I think of our Spirit-filled and joyously successful Vacation Bible School. And I think of how each week we have offered unto God heart-felt worship, we have welcomed strangers and wayfarers into our fellowship, and have cared for those who grieve or are in need.

September will be a rich and meaningful month as we continue to love God and neighbor with all that we are, and seek out the leading and love of Christ's presence among us. On Sunday, September 11, we will have just one morning service of worship, and it will be at 10 am. There will be special music, prayer, and a message of healing and hope. That evening we will host an inter-faith community-wide service in our sanctuary at 6:30 pm. I invite you to be present at both of these special services, and seize this unique opportunity to invite a friend to join you.

Our passionate commitment to children and youth will also be celebrated this month. On September 18, which is also Fall Kick-Off Sunday and another day that we will have just one service of worship at 10 am, during worship we will offer a "blessing of the backpacks." All children are encouraged to bring their backpacks to church that day as we mark the start of a new school year and ask that God's blessing be upon each child. On September 25 we will return to our regular schedule, Sunday School begins, and in worship you will have an opportunity to make a pledge to pray each day in the year ahead for a young person in our congregation.

You may have heard the joyous news that the Reverend William "Tex" Culton will serve as an additional parish associate along with Rev. Bob Beringer! Tex served with much love and energy among us as a temporary associate pastor, and completed that ministry about a year ago. This new role is one in which he does not have formal responsibilities, nor will he receive a salary. As Tex continues to enjoy some of the blessings of retirement, including more time with his family, what he *will* do is assist our pastors in providing pastoral care to the congregation. Welcome back to our church family, Tex!

As we begin this new year and strive for it to be one that is marked by faithfulness and spiritual growth, we would do well to remember these words from Proverbs 3. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." May it be so for us all. May we trust in God's faithfulness, rely on God's wisdom, and allow God to lovingly shape and mold us anew.

In the love of Christ,

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

Dennis W. Jones
Pastor



SESSION

Key Actions taken at the July 25, 2011 Meeting:

On behalf of the Children and Family Ministries Council and the Tree House Board, Session approved hiring Jen Nowack as Tree House Director.

On behalf of the Personnel Council, Session approved to have Rev. Tex Culton serve as an additional Parish Associate along with Rev. Bob Beringer. Session also approved reinstating our involvement in the Teaching Church Field Education Program of Princeton Seminary.

Nancy Bedner, Chair of the Invitation and Membership Council, reported on the status of the new photo directory with photo sessions being scheduled from November 6-12 and the next new Member Class scheduled for September 25, 2011.

Ruth Bashe
Ashley Bastow
Nancy Bedner
Rob Brown
Dawn Cicchetti
Dorothy Dameo
Evelyn Drake
Peggy Eicher
Jim Felter
George Fricke
Katja Gruening
Gary Ingram
Charles King
Shirley Klippel
Chuck Miller
Fran Mustaro
Craig Sutherland
Brian Szepekouski
Cindy VanderVoort
Jean Wadsworth
Kristina Wenner

Moderator

Rev. Dennis W. Jones

Clerk of Session

Dick Fryling

Assistant Clerk

Don Wadsworth

Per Capita

We respectfully ask you to remit to the church the **\$36 Per Capita assessment for each confirmed member of your family.** Thank you for your support!

DEACONS

Coffee Hour Volunteers

Are you seeking a volunteer opportunity that involves a minimal time commitment?

Serving coffee after the 10 a.m. Sunday Worship Service could be just the opportunity you are looking for! It's easy, upbeat, and can be limited to only one Sunday of your choosing. It's a great way for all members to become involved. You may just want to give it a try. Coffee Hour resumes on September 25, with volunteers needed every Sunday. Call Nancy Sinni (908-696-0317) for details and/or to sign up.

All-Cluster Brunch

On Sunday, October 23 following the 10 a.m. worship service, there will be an All-Cluster Brunch in Westminster Hall. This is an effort by deacons to help church members get to know their fellow members who live geographically close to each other. For those to whom the term "church cluster" is an enigma, we have traditionally divided our membership into smaller geographic neighborhoods in an effort to foster friendship. When the church was smaller this worked extremely well. As we have grown and become more dispersed, our "neighborhoods" have become much larger. However, meeting in smaller groups does help us connect with others in the church. It also provides a support group to help fellow church members who experience illness or death in the family. The All-Cluster Brunch will allow you to meet your assigned cluster deacon and to enjoy fellowship with your church "neighbors." **SAVE THE DATE!**

Moderator Muriel Anderson
Helen Mallon Jean Aurnhammer
Vice-Moderator Pam Blackstone
Sue Pape Dan Boston
Secretary Debbie Carroll
Patti Williams Patrick Clarke
Dan Comperiat
Jean Dorr
Ingeborg Hartwig
Florence Henry
Mary Jane Hoare
Joanne Howell
Amanda Hughes
Shelby Karasek
Barb Knudson
Connie Ledder
Jean Loizeaux
Bill Penney
Jeanne Poehner
Kate Prins
Beverly Prochazka
John Schulenburg
Nancy Sinni
Karen Skoglund
Jann Slapin
Sally Warman

MISSION

Ecuador Mission Trip Update

In June, our work mission team of 23 people from the Basking Ridge and Pluckemin Presbyterian Churches built 16 homes through Hogar de Cristo - a new record! We worked on La Union Island, which is an isolated location in the Guayas River. The residents live in extreme poverty, but the people are a close knit community, and we found them extremely helpful to us and to each other. We added two new projects this year. We provided all the 170 families on the island with *Potters for Peace* water filters as well as instructed the families in their proper use. We also constructed bag vegetable gardens and provided instruction in gardening to improve families' nutrition. Both new projects were very successful and the people were extremely grateful for all that was done. The generous on-going support of our churches and other donors for the critical work done in Ecuador is inspirational to all who benefit from and are a witness to the compassion and care you have shown for people you have never met - a true act of faith. *Muchimas Gracias! From the Basking Ridge Ecuador Mission Team: Frank Anderson, Jillian Anderson, Stu Conway, Judith Cook, Christine Cramer, Josh Felter, Joanne Hamilton, Susan Hendershot, Judy Pasnik, Mike Pasnik, Michael Pasnik, Tracy Valero and Kelsey Speal.*

Interfaith Hospitality Hosting Week - September 18-25



Our congregation will again be providing food and shelter to homeless families in our church house lower level the week of September 18-25. There is a sign-up table outside Westminster Hall each Sunday after services. Volunteers are needed for set-up, hosting for dinner, evening and overnight, as well as grocery shopping, picking up and returning linens, and driving the truck to bring beds and belongings to the next host congregation at the end of the week. I invite you to mark the date on your calendars and to come by the sign-up table to learn how you can volunteer, or call Evelyn Gruening at 908-766-9820. Thank you so very much for your help and support of this mission.

3W's - Women, the Word and Works

Our book study meetings begin September 9. We will be discussing *Heaven Is For Real* by Todd Burpo and *Three Cups of Tea* and *Stones into Schools* by Greg Mortenson. New members are most welcome and childcare is available! Gods Co-op Pantry, our mission project, continues to address the needs of the hungry in our community. The September "food item of the month" is peanut butter. You will learn more about this mission opportunity, and how you might help, at the 3W's meeting September 9. Hope to see you there!



Save the Date: Mission Worship Service and Fair - October 16 at the 10 a.m. Worship Service
Exhibits and activities from more than 20 service groups in Westminster Hall following the service.
Learn about ways you and your family can get involved in hands-on mission!

SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES

Join a Small Group this fall! Enjoy spiritual growth and fellowship and meet new people. Please call the church for more information or to sign up for these groups. Some require advance purchase of materials.

Sundays, 7:30 p.m. - Church House Library - group discusses various selections of Spiritual Reading

Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. - Meet at Home of Eleanor and Bob Taylor - discuss spiritual books and topics

Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. - Church House Library - Women's Meditation Group

Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. - Church House Parlor - Women's Bible Study - begins 9/21. New study on the Gospel of Mark

Thursdays, 7:00 p.m. - Church House Library - begins 9/22. New study on Biblical knowledge and understanding

Fridays, 9:30 a.m. - Church House Parlor - 3W's Book Study & Mission Group. (Childcare is avail. for Fri. morning groups)

Fridays, 9:30 a.m. - Youth Center - New Parenting Group begins 9/23. Begin by reading *ScreamFree Parenting*

Saturdays, 7:30 a.m. - Men's Coffee and Conversation

Adult Education September - October Opportunities

Adult Education will start the new programming year with a variety of Sunday morning forums and small group studies. To find out more about these forums, small groups and their speakers, please pick up an Adult Education Brochure in the Narthex or Church House. The Adult Education Brochure may also be accessed on the Church website at brpc.org.

Upcoming Sunday Morning Forums ~ 11:30 a.m., Church House Parlor

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

In this program, Joy will present ways that people and communities can heal from adversity in the form of terrorism, unemployment, financial insecurity, and war.

October 9: Led by Brian Szepekouski "Cross Cultural Awareness"

This program will address how cultural differences can affect our ways of reasoning, communicating, and interacting with fellow citizens of planet earth.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

New Sunday School Model

After careful consideration and prayer, and with eager anticipation, we share plans for BRPC Children's Sunday School beginning in September. *Prayerfully consider how God might be calling you to take an active part in this exciting transition!*

While the rotation Sunday School model provided rich educational opportunities for BRPC children, current feedback points to the need for a program that allows the opportunity to build a broader knowledge base of Scripture and Christian tradition, as well as a chance for our children to build deep and meaningful relationships with their Sunday School teachers.

To this end, we will return to the classroom Sunday School model in which children meet weekly in the same classroom, with the same group of children, and with more consistent teachers. Understanding that it is difficult to commit to teaching Sunday School every week, we will form teaching teams of three teachers and three assistants for each age group. On these teams of six, each individual will be responsible to teach a total of three months of Sundays over the course of the school year.

Teachers will be equipped with the user-friendly, faith-activating, "Spark Activate Faith" curriculum that leads children through the broad sweep of scripture with fun, easy to prepare, interactive lessons. The curriculum provides many age-specific resources for teachers and families to engage in the learning process. We are very excited about all that the Spark curriculum has to offer our children, families, and teachers. Check it out at www.activatefaith.org.

Consider becoming an active part of this exciting step in our church's ministry to children and families! You can help...

1. Pray for this important ministry and for the children, families, teachers, and other leaders involved.
2. Help us plan by letting us know if your children plan to attend Sunday School this fall. Please send children's names, ages, and grades as of September to Dawn Cichetti (dawnchris@juno.com) or Shirley Klippel (shirley@klippel.com).
3. Prayerfully consider joining one of our teaching teams. By participating in this ministry, you will make a lasting difference in children's lives and be immeasurably blessed yourself. If you might consider this step, please contact Dawn Cichetti or Shirley Klippel (above).



Thank you for your commitment to this vital ministry.

MUSIC MINISTRIES

Have you always wanted to sing or ring in one of our choirs? Now is the time!

Singing Choirs for Teens and Adults

Mary Lou Stevens, Director

Youth Choir

All youth (gr. 6 – 12) are welcome.

First rehearsal:

Sun., Sept. 25 at 11:15 a.m.

(Note new time)

Sanctuary Choir

All adults welcome.

First rehearsal:

Thurs., Sept. 1, 7:30 p.m.

Oratorio Choir

All youth (gr. 9–12) and adults are welcome.

First rehearsal:

Thurs., Oct. 6, 8:45 – 10 p.m.

Christmas Oratorio is

Sun., Dec. 4, at 4 & 6:30 p.m.

Singing Choirs for Children

Beth Donley, Director

Cherub Choir

Ages 3 yr. - Kindergarten

First rehearsal:

Mon., Sept. 19, 3:45 – 5 p.m.

Carol Choir

Grades 1 - 2

First rehearsal:

Wed., Sept. 21, 3:45 – 4:30 p.m.

Spirit Choir

Grades 3 - 5

First rehearsal:

Wed., Sept. 21, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.



Handbell Choirs for All Ages

Alpha Bell Choir

Adults and Sr. High Youth

First rehearsal:

Tues., Sept. 6 at 5:30 p.m.

Knox Bell Choir

Experienced adult ringers

First rehearsal:

Tues., Sept. 6 at 6:30 p.m.



Would you like to sing or ring?

Contact Mary Lou Stevens at
908.953.9809, mstevens@brpc.org
or Beth Donley at
908.500.1798, bdonley@brpc.org.

CHURCH STAFF

Church Staff Positions Available

We invite you to pray for our church family as we seek to fill the following positions to strengthen vital areas of our ministry.

Director of Ministry to Youth, Young Adults and their Families

Energetic, thoughtful and creative full-time Director who will create a warm and welcoming climate for our middle school and high school youth. Must have a strong personal faith, college degree and some experience in youth ministry, as well as strong teaching, relational and organizational skills.

Director of Ministry to Children and their Families

Part-time (30 hrs/week) Director who will strengthen our children's ministry program and provide program development and curriculum design, leadership, worship participation and planning. Must have college degree and be well-versed in the Presbyterian tradition.

Communication Coordinator

Part-time position that requires familiarity with web content management (html). Other responsibilities include edit and publish Oak Leaves, create brochures, flyers, ads, etc.

Handbell Director

Director for our two handbell choirs. Degree in music; handbell and directing experience needed; church experience desired. Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings.

Youth Choir Director

Director for our Youth Choir (grades 6-12). Degree in music; vocal, piano, teaching and directing skills needed; church experience desired. Rehearsals are presently on Sundays.

Births

Jane Gray and Anderson James, children of Gillian and Chris Tucker, born July 11. Grandchildren of Jill and Doug Dunn

Anna Paige, daughter of Jennifer and Mark Webster, born June 20. Granddaughter of Ed and Marilyn King

Madison Rose, daughter of Christina and Ted Beaudry, born July 15. Granddaughter of Nancy Croot and Gerry Beaudry

Baptisms

Benjamin Paul Rachofsky, son of Jean Sorabella and Ed Rachofsky, July 24

Ed Rachofsky, (adult), July 24

George Joseph Williams, son of Joseph and Emily Williams, August 14

New Assignments

Kim Hoare named New Director of The Carpenter's Boatshop in Pemaquid, ME

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.

Weddings

Elizabeth Perley and Kevin Ku, July 23

Erin Paruta and Bryan Healy, July 29

Susan Ryder and Stephen Whitman, in Washington state, July 30

Jenny Scherer and Gregory May, Aug. 6

Kate Barone and Jon Hanson III, in Wyoming, August 13

Deaths

Prayers of help and comfort for the families of:

Hannelore Gerhardt, on her death, July 7

Mother of Neill Johnson, on her death in Pullman, WA, on July 14

Dwight Johnson, on his death, July 20

Meg Ambrose Uhlman, former member, on her death, July 24

Mother of Dale Harris, on her death

Mother of Beth Adams, on her death

Lorraine Rieder, on her death, August 14

Father of Becky Creswell, John Berry, on his death in Massachusetts, August 15

Son of Chris and Bill Halsey, William Halsey IV, on his death, August 23

CHURCH LIBRARY

Library Leaves - News from the BRPC Library



Written by Maya Ajmera, Magda Nakassis and Cynthia Pon, *Faith* explores the many ways our world celebrates and practices religious beliefs, showing the common threads

which our various traditions share. The book is the recipient of Church and Synagogue Library Association's 2011 Dot Rodda Award for outstanding children's literature. Full color photos of children from around the world and limited text encourage discussion and provide a wonderful sharing opportunity for younger children. A short section, *Elements of Faith*, provides additional information about points of commonality and the *words to know* section helps to explain unfamiliar terminology. The book is available in our library.

MEN & WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Mary Circle Begins

Our Presbyterian Women's Group, Mary Circle, will begin their new season on Thursday, September 8 at 12:30 p.m. in the church house parlor. The new study book, *Confessing the Beatitudes*, will be available at the meeting for \$9.00. Please mark your calendars and join us!

Men's Luncheon Starts New Season



The men of our church family and their guests are invited to our Kick-Off Men's Luncheon on Thursday, September 15 at 12 noon in the Church House Parlor. Chef Gary Ingram will prepare a culinary feast, and our guest will be the Rev. Jim Morris, who will offer some reflections and challenges for us to consider. Please call the Church House at 766-1616 to sign up.

Oak Leaves

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

**The deadline for the
October issue
is Sunday, September 11.**

Editor reserves the right to condense copy.

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Pam Smith

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All the People

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Associate Pastor

Dr. Maureen Paterson – x11

Parish Associate

Rev. Bob Beringer

Rev. William “Tex” Culton

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

Church Administrator & Treasurer

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Assistant Treasurer

Lisa-Ann Smith – x21

Pastoral Administrative Assistant

Cara Burchett – x19

Church Administrative Assistant

Pam Smith - x12

Sexton Staff

Peter O’Connor – x16

David Brownlee



Youth Ministry



Middle School Sunday School

Calling all 6th, 7th and 8th grade students! Please join us for Sunday School on Sunday, Sept. 25 at 10:30 a.m. Stay tuned for details on the kick-off of Middle School Fellowship!

Senior High Fellowship

We are looking forward to a great year of faith and fellowship! Senior High Fellowship begins on Sunday, Sept. 25. Gather for pizza at 7 p.m. and stay for fellowship at 7:30 p.m. Come along and bring a friend!

Confirmation Class

All 9th graders are enthusiastically invited to join this year’s Confirmation Class! Participation will prepare you to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ and become a full adult member of our congregation. We will begin the year with a potluck dinner and meeting on October 9 at 5:30 p.m. in the parlor. Parents are also asked to join us. To find out more, or sign up to attend, please contact the church office at 908-766-1616, or Theresa Creedon at 204-0761.

Children’s and Youth Ministry Renovation Team

The Renovation Team has begun their work! Please pray for Matthew Dresner, Gary Ingram, Lisa-Ann Smith, Jenny Speal, Susan Ward and Sally Warman as they guide us in establishing a renewed vision for these areas of ministry and create the infrastructure necessary for long-term sustainability.

The Presbyterian Church

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Basking Ridge NJ 07920

908.766.1616

www.brpc.org



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