

The Cranbury Presbyterian

"We praise God that we are called to serve Christ in love. We invite others to join us in this calling."

(From our Mission Statement)

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December 2010

From the Pastor...

COME CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF CHRIST WITH US!

Sunday, December 5, 2010 - The Second Sunday of Advent

9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Sunday, December 12, 2010 - The Third Sunday of Advent

9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Meeting of the Congregation following worship

4:00 p.m. Vespers Service

Sunday, December 19, 2010 - The Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

10:10 a.m. Sunday School Sing-Along

10:30 am Worship Service

Annual Christmas Luncheon following worship

Friday, December 24, 2010 - Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. Service of Bells for children of all ages

8:00 p.m. Family Service

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service

Sunday, December 26, 2009 - The First Sunday after Christmas

No Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

"What Can I Give Him?" by Christina Rossetti

What can I give Him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb,

If I were a wise man, I would do my part.

Yet what can I give Him? Give my heart.

Have a blessed and wonderful Advent and Christmas, Lou



From Pastor Rosanna...

"The Voyage of the Dawn Treader"

This December 10 is the opening night for the third movie in the Chronicles of Narnia series. It is in digital 3D, which will be excellent for depicting Lucy, Edmund and Caspian's dynamic adventures at sea and the magical happenings on shore. I am really looking forward to seeing it! The talented actors we enjoyed in the earlier movies return, as charming as ever. Even Peter and Susan make appearances. Find out what happens when they are brought back into the world of Narnia and given a new mission to accomplish that takes them, and some courageous new friends, to the farthest reaches of the sea.

I encourage our teenagers, college students and families to read or re-read *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*. It is an exciting and intriguing book that, among other things, raises good questions about character, motivation and purpose in life. You may be surprised at the biblical, literary and mythological references that you discern as influences. The writings of C. S. Lewis continually offer insights into living as a person of faith. This is no less true of this series of fiction, which can be truly inspiring for people of all ages.

During the season of Advent and in our celebration of Christmas we ponder the meaning of Christ's uniqueness. As we look back in history, we realize that God brought together wonderful elements in the dramatic events surrounding the nativity. We also look forward with hope and expectation to Christ's return as the risen Lord of all. Sometimes our reflections on faith can be given new energy or depth through the creative work of a Christian writer whose work speaks indirectly about other mysteries. In *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, we can even learn from a wise star and his intriguing daughter! May you be blessed indeed.

Grace and peace, Rosanna

ADULT EDUCATION

"The Sermon on the Mount" with Gretchen Gaebelein Hull: Please join us in the church Library on Sunday mornings through December 12. Each lesson is designed as a complete unit. Ms. Hull is the author of *Equal to Serve: Women and Men Working Together Revealing the Gospel*, published in 1998 by Baker Books. She has written numerous book chapters and articles and is a widely-cited scholar. Participants should read Matthew chapters 5-7 and be prepared for a close reading of the text.

ADULT EDUCATION AT OTHER TIMES

Cranbury Men's Bible Study: Sundays 7:30-9:00 p.m. at The Cranbury Inn: All men are invited to join us in this relaxed setting for our study of the Westminster Confession of Faith, in the *Book of Confessions*, Part I of the Constitution of the PC(USA). Weekly themes are the starting point for our conversation about confessing Christ in our contemporary context. For more information, please contact Mike Kasper at cwcollector@aol.com or Clifford Anderson at clifford.anderson@ptsem.edu. **Please note:** We will not be meeting on Sunday, December 26.

Martha Circle Women's Bible Study: First Monday of the Month, 1:30 p.m. in the Library. Rose Eller will lead our group on Monday, December 6. Our study is *Journeys Through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today* by Barbara Rossing, the PC(USA) Horizons Bible study. All women are welcome to join us!

CHILDREN & YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Pre School

Date	Kindergarten	3-4 Year-Olds
Dec 5	Jesus' Birth Lesson 2	
Dec 12	Jesus' Birth Lesson 3	
Dec 19	Jesus' Birth Lesson 4	
Dec 26	No Sunday School	

Grade 1 to 4 Workshop Rotations

Date	Workshop Rotation Bible Story
Dec 5	Christmas: Angel Gabriel spoke of God's promises to Elizabeth and Mary
Dec 12	Christmas
Dec 19	Christmas
Dec 26	No Sunday School

5th and 6th Grades

Date	Workshop Rotation Bible Story
Dec 5	Unit 2: Hebrew History - Section 6 Joshua, Judges, Ruth
Dec 12	Christmas Session
Dec 19	Christmas Session
Dec 26	No Sunday School

Confirmation Class will discuss the following topics about (1) Crucifixion/Resurrection: Atonement (2) Salvation (3) Other Religions

Youth Class covers a variety of topics dealing with ethical questions that teens face in their everyday lives. Currently the Youth Class is exploring the question of what it means to be a "Christian" and how this differs from the labels of "Presbyterian", "Catholic", etc... To supplement our discussion we have been watching a video series titled "Real Faith TV" which explores similar topics in our discussion.

CONFIRMATION CORNER

- Dec. 3-5 (Fri. 5 p.m. - Sun. 2 p.m.) Middle School Retreat at Camp Johnsonburg
- Dec. 12 Class and fellowship activity from 4:00-5:00 p.m., we will enjoy the Vespers Service!
- Dec. 19 Class meets in the McKnight Room

CPNS NEWS

Christmas is almost here and during the season of Advent we get ready for this very special holiday. We will be baking cookies, singing songs for our senior citizens and collecting pennies for our Pennies for Presents program that will purchase gifts for several local families this year. We are all looking forward to hearing the story of Christmas in our beautiful sanctuary told by Pastor Lou and Pastor Rosanna. Sharing the story of Jesus and his birth with the children is a wonderful opportunity to share the love of Jesus with the children. We will also be celebrating Christmas with a very special family Christmas sing-along around our Christmas Tree in Fellowship Hall. Please join us; our programs will be on Tuesday, December 21 and Wednesday, December 22 at 10:45 AM and 2:15. The excitement the children bring, the happiness on their faces and the love in their eyes make Christmas at CPNS extra special.

Our Winter/Spring session of all of our enrichment programs will begin in February. We only have a few openings left for these classes. They include Art & Literacy (Morning and Afternoon), Science & Math (Morning and Afternoon), Music & Movement (Afternoon), Power of Play (Afternoon) and our Mommy's Morning Out (Morning). If you are interested, don't let the opportunity pass you by, call today.

Our registration process for the school year 2011-2012 began in November. In addition to all of our class offerings we are also offering a 4-day 4/5-year old class with an added enrichment component. Don't miss out on the opportunity of having your child attend CPNS. We would love to show you our school and tell you about all the wonderful things we do. Feel free to view our new CPNS slide show that can be found on the front page of our church web site and see a few of the things we do at CPNS every day. Please feel free to call Janice Parker at 655-8663 for any information about our nursery school or e-mail us at CPNSchool@comcast.net.

We hope everyone has a joyous Advent season filled with hope, love, joy and peace and a very blessed Christmas. Our hope is that we all carry the Christmas feeling in our hearts wherever we go.

Have a blessed Advent!
Your Friends at CPNS



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE NEWS

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Sunday, December 19 at 11:30 a.m.
after our Worship Service in Fellowship Hall

Celebrate Christmas with food and song – and the fellowship of our congregation. On December 19, we'll be serving good, old-fashioned homemade chicken soup – Liz Callaway's great recipe! There will be fresh rolls, dessert, and holiday punch to complete the family style lunch.

We'll have Christmas Carols for all to take part in, and best of all, we'll be together to share in the joy of the Advent season.

If you would like to bring something for the meal you are welcome and encouraged to bring either a dessert (cookies, brownies, or other "finger food" desserts) or special bread if you have a recipe that you like to make. Just drop off your dessert items in the kitchen before our worship service so that we can have all of the preparations ready in the fellowship hall after our church service.

Mark your calendar and be sure come and bring your family to our Christmas Luncheon on December 19!

CRANBURY COFFEE HOUSE

As you know the coffee house is a venue to showcase local musical talent with musical genres such as Jazz, Folk, Acoustic Rock, String Quartet, Barbershop Quartet, Open Mike, Oldies & Brass Band. The coffee house is being held this year every other month on the second Friday through June 10, 2011. Our upcoming event will be on Friday, December 10 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Performing will be Laurie Davis our own Children's choir director and CPNS teacher. She will be singing two sets, the first for children of all ages and in the second more adult contemporary music will be performed. We hope you will all mark your calendars and let all your friends and neighbors know about this wonderful opportunity.

Tickets for the December show are \$5.00 per person, one price for everyone. If you have children that would like to sit on the floor (there will be space in front of the stage), please bring a blanket. Child friendly refreshments, dinner, or light snacks and coffee for the older children (parents) will be available at an additional cost. (Please go to the Coffee House website for the link to Cranbury Delights to reserve a dinner for you and your guest).

Through the effort of a small task force we have been able to make this night happen. However, your help and support will be what will make this program a continued success. Remember the proceeds less expenses benefit Skeet's Pantry & the Deacons' Benevolent Fund.

For information about the Cranbury Coffee House or how you can help please go to www.cranburycoffeehouse.com.

We thank you in advance for all your help and support.

MISSION, SERVICE & GRANTS NEWS

Thanks to All for Mission Fair Success. Our "Cranbury Pres" 2010 Mission Fair on November 14th was a huge success, thanks to so much support from so many members of our congregation. The Mission, Service and Grants Committee extends our heartfelt appreciation to each and every one who helped with this important mission effort.

Approximately \$700 was raised at the Fair through the Caring Crafts and Bake Sale, made possible through contribution of crafts and baked goods from over 50 congregation members. And, of course, we could not have raised these funds without the support of all who enjoyed shopping for the wonderful crafts and goodies. Needless to say, the staff and patients of the Good Shepherd Hospital in the Congo, who will be the recipients of these funds, are also extremely grateful.

The Fair also depends on the help of many "behind the scenes" people, including George Conley and the Cranbury Boy Scouts who set up our tables; Fran Stewart, who kept the coffee, tea and juice flowing at the Fair; the several church organizations who participated in the Fair; and the MS&G Committee members who set the scene for the Fair and served as our sales force during the Fair.

We are grateful for the help and support of so many caring people, and the mission organizations who participated this year have all expressed their thanks, as well, for the interest and concern shown by all who stopped to talk with them at their tables. Thank You!!

The Mission, Service and Grants Committee:

Connie Bauder, George Conley, Pat Demers, Helen Dickerson, Arlene Duran, Anne Gordon, Carol Kientz, Heidi Knowlton, Karen Olchvary, John Sprout, Nancy Stewart, and Doris Wiegartner,

BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS WREATH FROM MAINE

Wreaths may be picked up, as in the past, at the Gordon home, 127 North Main St., Cranbury, after December 4.



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

During this Christmas season we celebrate God's awesome love in the birth of his Son; His greatest gift to us all. God's love compels us to recognize His image in all those around us. It compels us to reach out to others in charity, and grace.

Our church family can reach out this Christmas season by giving generously to the Christmas Joy Offering. Our Offering will help the families of both active and retired ministers and other church workers who have dedicated their lives to serving us. Now it is our chance to serve them with our gifts. Our Christmas Joy Offering will help these individuals and families to meet unexpected needs, or help make ends meet.

The Offering will also help students at racial ethnic schools and colleges to develop their gifts and recognize their calling to serve God and their communities. We will be collecting the Christmas Joy Offering on Sunday, December 12.

In Christ, Dina Ellsworth

GUATEMALA DINNER FUNDRAISER

Our sixth annual gourmet dinner to support our Guatemala mission is quickly approaching. Don't miss the wonderful opportunity for church fellowship, entertainment and a delicious meal. There are a limited number of tickets being sold, so buy them today.

We will be serving dinner on Friday, January 28 and on Saturday, January 29 beginning at 7:00 p.m. with open seating beginning at 6:30 p.m. As you dine on Friday, you will be serenaded by classical music. The entertainment for Saturday is soon to be announced. The cost of the meal will be \$50.00 per person (remember this is a fundraiser). You may want to attend both evenings to experience the variety of entertainment being offered. The tickets are on sale now and will be available during coffee hour (see Lil or George Conley) or call the church office.

We are offering a filet mignon, grilled salmon or stuffed chicken as your main entrees along with all the trimmings and a delicious desert to top it off with.

Checks can be made payable to The First Presbyterian Church (tax deductible) memo: Guatemala dinner. Any amount above the \$50.00 fee will be greatly appreciated.

Please save this date, we are counting on you for our success in this project.

George Conley, Guatemalan Team (609) 395-0513

OTHER NEWS

SAVE THE DATE - WOMEN'S RETREAT: Please join us at the **Women's Retreat**, sponsored by Monmouth Presbytery at Camp Johnsonburg **April 8 to 10**. The theme will be *The Spirituality of Women: Finding Time for God and Ourselves in the world in which we live*. It promises to be a wonderful weekend of fellowship and reflection with women of all ages from our church and the entire Presbytery. The cost is \$100.00 and you can pick up a registration form in the church office. For further information, please contact Joanne Petto or Anne Gordon.

A special note from the family of Ken Eiker wishing to thank everyone for their support, cards, prayers and kindness.

SENIOR BREAKFAST CLUB NEWS

Please join us on December 16 when our own Gaylord French will be playing Christmas Music at the Cranbury Inn.

The Senior Breakfast Club is open to all who wish to hear these talks at our Thursday, once-a-month breakfast at 8:30 a.m. at the Cranbury Inn in Cranbury, New Jersey. If you wish to attend, and have not done so before, please notify the church office at 609-395-0897 so that we can contact you. We need to notify the Cranbury Inn with a head count of the guests that wish to attend.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Senior Fellowship exercise class is currently keeping a waiting list. If you would like to be placed on the waiting list, please call the church office at (609) 395-0897.

EXERCISE SCHEDULE

Dec. 2, Dec. 6, Dec. 9, Dec. 13, Dec. 16

Upcoming Event

Senior Fellowship will have their Christmas Party on December 7 at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall for all of those people who have preregistered to attend.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL FROM THE SENIOR FELLOWSHIP! Many thanks to all the volunteers who make it possible for us to have this Senior Fellowship program and especially to those who volunteer to help with the Christmas party.

Program Schedule

Senior Fellowship is open to all seniors in the church or community. We have a wonderful group and would like to have you join us. We provide rides for those who need them. The Senior Fellowship coordinator is Connie Bauder. If you have any questions, please contact Connie.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS

November 7 was when your financial pledge for 2011 was due. For those of you who have not pledged, consider doing so ...soon. Session is now in the process of developing our budget needs for next year and the more pledges we have on hand, less guesswork is needed. While you are considering your pledge, consider all that our church family is able to do with your support. In fact, if you increase your pledge just by a small amount, this will help reduce our dependence on endowment income to pay the bills. This will free up funds to be used for long-term mission giving, the repair and upkeep of our facilities and many other things. Please contact the office if you need another pledge card. When you get it, turn it in during worship service. We appreciate it.

P.S. A pledge statement covering the 11 months through November 30 will be available in the first few days of December. Look for your copy in the mail or in the Narthex. Check it out to see if you are up-to-date on your 2010 pledge

and use the remaining weeks of the year to catch up. Thank you.

P.P.S. Have you considered donating securities in-lieu of cash to fulfill your pledge? It can be a useful tax-efficient technique to dispose of highly appreciated securities and make us happy. Talk to Ken Gordon for additional information on how to accomplish this kind of transfer.

WORSHIP NEWS

USHERS' GUILD

Do you have an extra hour or two 4 or 6 times a year? Would you like to help the church? Would you like to be part of a great team? The Ushers' Guild is looking for new members. Every week the ushers provide an invaluable service before, during and after the Sunday Worship services.

Every Sunday the members---open the shutters, put out the sidewalk signs, greeting parishioners, distribute bulletins, collect the offering, clean up and tidy the church after the service. If you are interested or need more information, contact Caren Anuszewski, Ushers' Guild Coordinator, at (609) 587-8883 or email her at ccrab91@optonline.net

Vespers and Christmas Eve Services

Would you like to help usher one of the 4 beautiful services for this year's Advent and Christmas season?

Vespers service - Sunday, December 12
4:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Worship - Friday, December 24
5:00 p.m. - Children's Service
8:00 p.m. - Family Service
11:00 p.m. - Communion Candlelight Service

Sign-up sheet available in the Narthex or contact Caren Anuszewski, Ushers' Guild Coordinator, at (609) 587-8883 or email her at ccrab91@optonline.net

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Youth Group Activities

- Dec. 3-5 (Fri. 5 p.m. - Sun. 2 p.m.) Middle School Retreat at Camp Johnsonburg
- Dec. 5 5:30-7 p.m. Youth Group meeting in the McKnight Room
- Dec. 12 Vespers worship service 4-5 p.m., practice carols until 5:30 p.m.
- Dec. 19 Annual Christmas Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall and at 5:30 p.m. Christmas Caroling at the Elms
- Dec. 26 Merry Christmas! 10:30 a.m. worship, no evening meeting

Save the date!

January 2 5:30-7 p.m. Epiphany Party (bring a \$10 wrapped gift to exchange)

<p><u>Worship Service</u> 10:30 a.m. Worship (Childcare provided)</p>	<p><u>Staff</u> Rev. Dr. Louis Mitchell, Pastor Rev. Rosanna Anderson, Associate Pastor Rev. Joanne Petto, Parish Associate Kurt Heineman, Seminary Intern</p>	<p><u>Church Office Hours</u> 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. <u>Closed:</u> 12/24 and 12/27</p> <p>Holiday Office Hours: 12/28 through 12/30 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 12/31 9:00 a.m. to 12 (noon)</p>	<p><i>"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases."</i> (Lamentations 3:22)</p>
<p><u>Cranbury Presbyterian Nursery School (CPNS)</u> Janice Parker, Director Phone: 609-655-8663 cpnschool@comcast.net</p> <p><u>Closed:</u> 12/23 through 12/31</p>	<p>You can view the monthly newsletter, calendar and hear past sermons on our website at www.cranburypres.org.</p> <p>If you have suggestions, or want to submit information to be included on the website, send your request to webmaster@cranburypres.org. Requests made by Wednesday will be posted on the website by Saturday.</p>	<p>The deadline for the <u>January Newsletter is due on December 23, 2010.</u> If possible, please submit articles as attachments via email to: FirstPresOffice@comcast.net</p>	<p><u>Dates and Deadlines</u></p> <p>12/16 9:00a Session Material Due 12/21 7:30p Session Meeting 12/23 Newsletter Articles Due</p>