

OLD BERGEN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



"Making a Space for Grace"

JANUARY 2016

Old Bergen Church of Jersey City
1 Highland Ave.

Jersey City, NJ 07306-4509

Phone 201-433-1815 Fax 201-433-0788

<http://www.oldbergenchurch.com>

A Note from the Pastor

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.
~John 1:14, 16

Blessings and grace to you in the name of our Lord as we begin this new calendar year!

The lectionary scripture assigned to the first week of this year is a word from the gospel of John, reminding us how God's love, grace and truth came and lived among us in the flesh. The eternal mysteries of God were made manifest in the actions and compassion of Christ. And because of his life among us, we have all received grace upon grace. As we venture into 2016, let us take time to give thanks for God's "grace upon grace" that surrounds and infuses our lives.

What better way to give thanks than to live out our gratitude with our own acts of compassion and care. What ways will God open opportunities for us as individuals and a community together to demonstrate grace, truth and love?

Teresa of Avila put it so well when she wrote of Christ's presence beyond his earthly physical life, "Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

As you read through the announcements and happenings of Old Bergen Church in this month's newsletter, take special note of how God might use you – in service, in prayer, in commitments, in giving – to be Christ's hands feet and eyes in the world today. In so doing we will continue to "Make a Space for Grace" here in the heart of Jersey City!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Jon

STAFF

Pastor:

Rev. Jonathan Brown

Ministries: All Members

Clerk of Session:

Johnnie Lovejoy

Secretary:

Bernadette Williams

Custodian:

Mario Curis

Music Director:

Chris Johnson

Bookkeeper:

Michael Rems

CHURCH OFFICERS

Elders

Deacons

Trustees

CHURCH GROUPS

Alter Guild

Church Life, Music and
Worship

Personnel

Sunday school

SPECIAL EVENTS

1st Sunday-Sunday School,
Communion

2nd Sunday-Sunday School,
Children's Day

3rd Sunday, Sunday School,
Morning Worship

4th Sunday, Sunday School,
Morning Worship

5th Sunday, Sunday School,
Morning Worship, Healing
Service

2 Timothy 4:2 - *Preach
the word; be instant in
season, out of season;
reprove, rebuke, exhort
with all longsuffering
and doctrine.*

DEACONS' NEWS

The deacons had their meeting on the 22nd of December. Thank you notes were sent to the schools who donated food to the food pantry and a thank you note will be sent to Liquid Church who donated an unbelievable amount of pre-packaged meals. We were finally able to get in touch with the person, Erich Sekel, at St Peter's College regarding the Midnight Run/Emmaus Project and he will be coming to the January deacons meeting to explain the project. So, please continue to put personal toilet products in the hamper in the parlor since they are really needed for the homeless in Jersey City. The social group Old Bergen Church Connections is in the planning stages and will begin in February. Please look for the flyer in the upcoming bulletins and if you have any questions speak to Laurie Comes. The deacons will also be refilling the rack with the Care Notes so look for them too! Christmas gifts were purchased and sent to the shut-ins. Also, look forward to the Lay Pastoral Care being recreated so we can keep in touch with all the church members. We discussed the benevolence for 2016 but since there were some questions we decided to wait approving it until we got the answers for Tom Buno. With short notice from Women Rising we were able to purchase gifts for 7 children and 3 mothers in time. Plans were discussed as to a way to provide rides to church for the elderly members and other congregants who might need help getting to church so look for the sign-up sheet on the table by the ramp.

Children's Christmas Party



Deacons' Corner

Non-Perishable Foods are **ALWAYS** needed for the Food Pantry. Here are some suggestions:

Jan-Fruit

Feb-Peanut Butter

March-Snacks

April-Tuna

May-Powdered Milk

June-Juice

July-Soup

August-Pasta

September-Rice

October-Cereal

November-Sauce

December-Vegetables



MIDNIGHT RUN/EMMAUS PROJECT

This is an ongoing project with the Old Bergen Church Deacons and St Peter's College to help the homeless in the area. In the church parlor there is a hamper dressed in lady bugs. While you are doing your fall cleaning and beyond please bring any personal sized toilet articles (soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes, etc) to the church and put them in the hamper. St Peter's will collect them when we have enough donated and make up bags to give to the homeless. Thanks!



CHOIR

Calling all Choir Members Old and New!! Lift up your voice in song. Speak to Chris Johnson if you would like to join the choir. It is a lot of fun!!! Chris is sending emails with the song of the week so you can practice at home!! Also, an Old Bergen Church Facebook page is in the planning stages, more info to follow! The choir will meet each Sunday at 10:30 am in the church Parlor. Anyone is welcome each Sunday to rehearse the day's hymns and responses. From time to time the choir will also practice special music for special occasions. Those who are Sunday school teachers can meet the choir in the Parlor at 10:45 am or as soon as you are able. Come make joyful noise to the Lord! Visitors are invited to join even if it is for one week.



January Birthdays

- 3 Judy Crozier
- 4 Alvin Christopher Gangaram
- 5 Emily Carlin
- 6 Adrian Basdeo
- 7 Jameela Ramsundar
- 14 Bebe Harry
- 15 Bass Harris
- 21 Katrina Robinson
- 21 Kimberly Joi
- 26 Francisco Narvaez
- 27 Melissa Seurai



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Join us every Wednesday night at 7:00 pm in the Chapel of Peace for our Adult Bible Study. Bible study will resume January 13, 2016.



PHOTOS- If you have pictures from worship service or any special events at Old Bergen Church, please e-mail them to the church secretary.
oldbergenchurch@gmail.com

Thank You.



THE WEBSITE IS COMPLETE! CHECK IT OUT AT WWW.OLDBERGENCHURCH.COM



ALTAR FLOWERS- Following their use in worship the Deacons share the flowers every Sunday to a church member or those in need. Please let Deacon Dottie Stalter know if you know of someone in the hospital or not feeling well who might appreciate the flowers.

NEWSLETTER-If you have not received a newsletter via the Yahoo Group or regular mail, copies are available in the front of the Sanctuary.

SPIN CLASS - Start off the New Year right by taking care of yourself and getting some exercise in a fun low-key setting. Old Bergen Church is offering free spin classes on Monday evenings, January 11 and 25, from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. Professional trainer, Chris Paine, leads the class. These are the last two classes that will be offered at no charge. Beginning in February there will be a small fee for an ongoing spin class series. Come work off those holiday goodies and start off the New Year in a healthy way!

GIRL SCOUTS-A Girl Scout troop has starting meeting at 6:30 pm on Monday nights in the Parlor. If you are interested in signing your daughter up, please contact Margaret Lewis at 973-941-6814.

MARTIN LUTHER KING WEEKEND SERVICE PROJECT- The Martin Luther King Holiday is January 15-18, 2016. When this national holiday was established Dr. King's family asked the nation to honor his memory through a "day of community service." We will join with the Mideast Evangelical Church (on Sip Avenue) and the Presbyterian Church at Tenaflly to renovate Mideast Church's community center. A group from Tenaflly will stay at our church on Friday night and Sunday night. We will all work together on Saturday and Monday to prepare a space for some of our Egyptian immigrant neighbors to find assistance, ESL classes, and get spiritual support through the Mideast Church's ministries. Mark your calendars now and plan to take part. Here are some details regarding the project: Friday evening Old Bergen will host a dinner at 7:00 p.m. That evening will be an introduction to Jersey City and its changing dynamics. We are looking for members to bring pot luck dishes to share. Some members from Tenaflly will sleep overnight at our church. Saturday morning volunteers from the three churches will meet at Mideast Evangelical Church (on Sip Ave.) from 9:30 to 3:00 to do work on renovating their community center. Lunch will be provided. Sunday evening come enjoy a delicious mid-Eastern meal and hear stories of Egyptian Christian families. We will gather in Brett Hall from 4:30 to 7:00 pm. Monday from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm we will complete the work project at Sip Avenue and conclude with a shared worship service.



SUPERHERO NIGHT- On January 22, we will have a Family fun night. It will be Superhero night! Come dressed as your favorite Super hero! We will enjoy a viewing of the movie, "Tales of the Dark Knight".

ONGOING NEWS AND PROJECTS

OLD EYEGLASSES- Old Bergen Sunday School sponsors an ongoing collection of old eye glasses, also including your unused glass cases. Thank you for your donations.

Love on the Move-We are looking for volunteers to help move people who are in need of rapid re-housing.

Remember- If you have any questions or suggestions for a sermon; put them in the Spiritual Curiosity Box!

Knitters-We are making prayer shawls as a physical symbol of our care and support. If you are interested in learning to make one or would like to request one be made for you, contact Susan Kornutick.

Adult Literacy- We are conducting Adult Literacy Classes on the second and third Saturday of the month. Contact Shirley Thompson if you are interested in volunteering.

Companions in Christ-We would like to start a program in which congregational members assist elderly members with errands, fixing things, chores, etc. If you are interested in volunteering or know someone who might benefit from these services, please contact Emily Carlin at 201-915-0788.

Youth Fellowship-Middle school and High School young people are encouraged to join us once a month for regular youth fellowship. We typically meet on the fourth Sunday after worship.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Donna
Charlotte Carlin
Candice Buno
Alvin Gangram
Dirus Singh
Dorothy Wellinghorst
The Weaver Boys
Janelle Rowland
Steven Kishlansky
Warren Williams
Zenny Williams
Waveney Uthandi
The Sanchez Family
Richard Reilly

Ryan Gangram
Samantha Harriam
Rallston Gangram
Lucy & Matt Burns
Mavis Deodat
Marie Ennis & Bill Ennis
Nadia Harridam
Natalia Ahmad
June Ali
Eleanor Longo
Laurie Comes
Barbara & Milton Frankle
Bob Steele

Allan Boodoo
Ahdesch Chandrasain
Kalila Martin
Sean Ramnauth
Dan Aaron
Sue Anne Ohman
William Carnemola
Vivian Evangel
Sally Ally
Angella Goolcharan
James Kornutick
Ivan Deodat
Francois Ibrahim
Florence Ibrahim



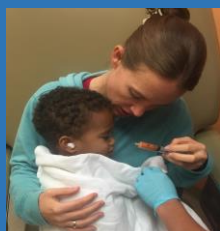
Notes from the Consistory Session

- The Consistory Session voted to approve two parties and a wedding.
- The Consistory Session is currently reviewing the budget for 2016.
- Scheduled Annual meeting for January 31, 2016
- We will have a guest preacher January 3, 2016
- The weekend of January 15-18, 2016 we will host a weekend mission support project.
- Average Sunday Attendance Nov 15, 2015-December 15, 2015 was 98.
- The next Consistory Session will be January 13, 2016.

Mission Support

In addition to our support of **Char and David Alexander** who serve in **Taiwan**, we have taken up direct support of **Nancy and Shelvis Smith-Mather**, in the **Republic of South Sudan**. Read more about their work with RECONCILE to build peace in this new nation following years of civil war and conflict.

www.presbyterianmission.org



ONGOING NEWS AND PROJECTS **(cont.)**

Contact Information- If your birthday has been missed, you do not receive this newsletter or you have recently moved, changed your telephone number, e mail address, etc. please contact the church office.

Community Outreach- We have been helping the local office of Church World Service in their ministry of refugee resettlement. Six families have been settled this year. Donations of household goods, linens, and clothing to the church and CWS will pick them up.

FAMILY PROMISE – INTERFAITH FAMILY SHELTER- Did you know that there is no homeless shelter in Jersey City that currently can take a complete family unit with two parents or boys over the age of fourteen? Old Bergen has made a commitment to this project, which would include meals and overnight accommodations at the church for a week at a time. The project expects to get under way in 2016.

FOSTER CARE MENTOR PROGRAM- They are looking for individuals who will meet once a month for a meal, to sit with a young person (ages 18 – 25) and accompany them on life's journey; one meal, once a month – usually on a Sunday evening. Please contact Pastor Jon if you are interested or if you would like to learn about this program.

AFTER CHRISTMAS

By: Susan Kornutick

The decorations now are stored to wait another day;
The children's cheeks are rosy red as in the snow they play.

The furniture is all in place, the Christmas tree is gone;
We look ahead to one more year as memories linger on.

The atmosphere is glum and blue, the silence screams aloud -
"Where are the balls and tinsel, where is the smiling crowd?"

The Christmas Season's over, the New Year's now in play,
But we can still rejoice and sing because of Christmas Day.

So as the old year says farewell and exits with a sigh,
I'll add some special wishes as part of its' good-bye.

I wish you all much happiness, good health, and friends galore;
Much food to fill your appetites - but wait, there's so much more.

I wish you love, of God and man; a sun to shine each day;
A smile to chase the darkening clouds when they decide to stay.

Some kindly words for those in need; perhaps some helping hands
To sooth an aching, ailing soul when no one understands;

A heart that has much courage, the strength for grief and strife;
A desire for adventure - for of what else is life?

I pray that God will fill your lives and bless you more and more;
that you may learn to call on Him when you enter each new door.

So now dear friends and family, I wish God's best to you -
Both as we start a brand new year - and all your lifetime through!!

Now dearest Lord, please take our hearts, fill them with love and peace.
Amen, amen, the angels sing, may Christmas never cease!



Remember our Shut-Ins

Lorraine Holmes at
Liberty House
620 Montgomery Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07302

Dorothy Wellinghorst at
Reformed Church Home
1990 Rt. 18 N
Old Bridge, NJ 08857

Margaret Page at
Hamilton Park
525 Monmouth Street
Jersey City, NJ 07302

1 Timothy 5:1 - Rebuke not an elder, but intreat [him] as a father; [and] the younger men as brethren;

PLEASE REMEMBER:

If someone is on the prayer list and needs to be removed please contact the church office.
Thank You.

Additions? If you have something for the newsletter, KUDOS or articles, please submit it to Pastor or the church secretary for publication. The newsletter is an ongoing project. The deadline for the next newsletter will be January 22nd.

Sunday School News

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR FAMILIES

2015 has closed with many fond memories for our Sunday School family. Our Christmas Pageant on December 13, 2015 was presented and well received by all the congregation and guests who may have stopped in that morning. We also read the meaning and decorated the Christmas trees with the help of many little helpers.

I want to share my appreciation for our teaching staff from Pastor Jon, Betsy Kislansky Wendy Badree, Sattie Deodat, and of course the masterminds of the animal Christmas skit, Sam and Sandy Santamaria for their work plus Dor for her input.

We also thank all of our students for the wonderful participation this year. We have many talents among the young people. Of course the parents are given praise for getting them all to rehearsals.

The Sunday School Christmas party went well on December 11th with crafts, stringing and singing, snowball fights and of course Santa's visit. Decorations were left for all to enjoy.

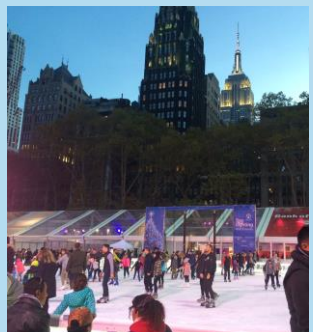
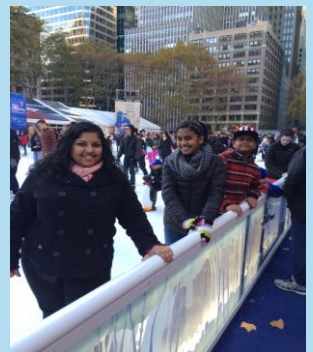
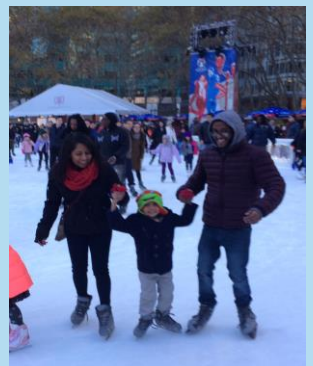
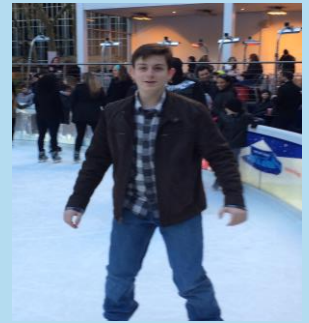
No Sunday school classes were scheduled for December 27th and for January 3rd so families who are visiting relatives and friends over this joyous season do not miss anything.

Most of all we thank GOD for allowing us to celebrate his son, Jesus' birth with joy and happiness and to start the NEW YEAR off with his love always with us. Looking forward to;

Blessing in 2016,

Gail Pantozzi, Superintendent

Ice Skating at Bryant Park



ANNUAL MEETING - All members of Old Bergen Church are encouraged to attend the annual meeting on Sunday, January 31 immediately following the worship service. We will begin with lunch in Brett Hall and continue with reports, presentations and the election of a new class of officers. The meeting should conclude by 2:00 pm.

Church Mice

Copyright Karl A. Zorowski



Christmas Pageant Rehearsal



Christmas Pageant



Interfaith Homeless Memorial Service



Christmas Eve



Happy New Year

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell the name of a popular location for
celebrating New Years Eve.

[illegible]

APPETIZERS
BABIES
BALLOONS
BANNERS
BUFFET
CELEBRATE
CHAMPAGNE
CONFETTI
DANCE
DAY ONE

DECORATIONS
END OF DECEMBER
EVENTS
FAMILY
FATHER TIME
FEAST
FESTIVITIES
FIREWORKS
FIRST OF JANUARY
FRIENDS

HATS
HOLIDAY
HORNS
KISS
MIDNIGHT
MUSIC
NEW YEARS DAY
NEW YEARS EVE
NOISEMAKERS
OCCASION

PARADES
PARTY
PUNCH
RESOLUTIONS
SINGING
STREAMERS
THIRTY FIRST
TIARAS
WINE
YEAR IN REVIEW

OLD BERGEN CHURCH 1 HIGHLAND AVE JERSEY CITY, NJ 07306
201-433-1815 CHURCH OFFICE M-F 9:30 am-2:30 pm

www.oldbergenchurch.com