

OLD BERGEN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Editor: Emily Carlin



"Making a Space for Grace"

OCTOBER 2015

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

Mystic and theologian Henri Nouwen wrote:

When God took on flesh in Jesus Christ, the uncreated and the created, the eternal and the temporal, the divine and the human became united. This unity meant that all that is mortal now points to the immortal, all that is finite now points to the infinite. In and through Jesus all creation has become like a splendid veil, through which the face of God is revealed to us.

This is called the sacramental quality of the created order. All that is is sacred because all that is speaks of God's redeeming love. Seas and winds, mountains and trees, sun, moon, and stars, and all the animals and people have become sacred windows offering us glimpses of God.

When we pay attention, all of creation has a story to tell of God's goodness, grace and love. God is also revealed in the Holy Scriptures, and of course, was best revealed in the Living Word, Jesus Christ. But all of creation also points to the Creator, if we but attend to the presence of God. As the psalmist said, "The heavens declare the glory of God."

This month we will share in a "***Blessing of the Animals***" on Saturday, October 3rd at 3:00 in the afternoon. It is one way to thank God for the gift of companionship offered through beloved pets, and to seek God's blessing on all of God's creatures.

We are also undertaking a new project to better utilize the gift of the historic cemetery across the street from Old Bergen Church. Plans are to make it into a memorial garden and park that will be accessible to the public during daylight hours. As the city grows we witness less and less green space where people can be refreshed by God's creation. Our hope is that we can offer a blessing to our community through our cemetery and soon to be memorial garden. Already city and county officials are excited to support and share in this effort to improve our neighborhood. "*You shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.*" (Isaiah 58:11-12)

Yes, even in the ways in which we cherish God's creation, may we continue to "***Make a Space for Grace***" in the heart of Jersey City.

Grace & 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

Matthew 18:20 – "*For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*"

Deacons' News

Our first meeting was September 13. We refreshed ourselves as to the June meeting and what happened over the summer. The food pantry was organized for September and the food will be ordered. We discussed that although we received the balance of the 2014 monies from Let's Celebrate but have not received any of the 2015 monies that we needed a fundraiser. So, instead of the turkey dinner we had in the past, there will be a Fall Harvest Dinner in October (see below). Also there will possibly be a concert in the spring as a fund raiser.

October Meeting Rescheduled!
October Deacons' Meeting will be October 25@ 12:15

Deacons' Project for Women Rising

Feels like autumn! So time to start thinking about the holidays! Also time to help support the Deacons' project **"No Crib For A Bed"**! So, when you purchase your **2015 Christmas cards** buy them from the Deacons! One card shows the Old Bergen Church Live Nativity and the other shows the Candlelight Service. The project helps support Women Rising! The cards are **10 cards and 10 envelopes per pack and cost \$12.00**. The cards will be on display at the coffee hours. If you would like to buy some packs please see a Deacon.



FOOD PANTRY FUNDRAISER **FALL HAREST DINNER**

October 11 at 12:15 PM in the Parlor

Each person should bring 4+ non-perishable items.

Come for Fellowship and Help the Hungry!

Food items for the food pantry: pasta, spaghetti sauce, soup, canned pasta, juice, cereal, snacks, vegetables, potatoes, shelf milk, macaroni and cheese, fruit, rice, etc.



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-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 spring 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.



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

Thank You.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Sandra Santamaria	16 Sounderya Kattekola
8 Waveney Uthandi	19 James Williams
11 Rick Harry	21 Nesha Gibbons
11 Warren Williams	23 Kathy(Heather) Williams
12 Harriette Harris Davis	23 Rebecca Williams
12 Indira Rambaran	27 Sohane Baptiste
12 Aaron Gibbons	28 McKenzie Nala Seural
12 Betsy Kishlansky	30 Brandon Ramlogan
13 Zenny Williams	30 Sandra Sanchara
15 Natasha Tricia Gibbons	31 Bruce Davis



ONGOING NEWS AND PROJECTS

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.

Yahoo Group

We are updating the Old Bergen Church Yahoo distribution list for our OBC church members. The Yahoo group manager, Emily Carlin, started fresh inviting all members who had emails in the church directory so everyone will be up to date. Invitations were sent out in June from the most up to date directory. They were resent at the end of August. **PLEASE ACCEPT THE INVITATION.** You can use your old information if you remember it. Our E-group is the quickest way to send and receive OBC announcements and the OBC monthly newsletter. Please contact Emily at books1127@verizon.net.

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 We are grateful for a recent generous gift from Una Ratmeyer in support of these missionaries.

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.

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. In addition, please notify us of any new births along with the baby's date of birth for our records. The congregation has grown this year and we want to ensure that we have everyone's correct contact information. Thank you.

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.



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 Laurie Comes 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.

CRAFTERS- If you are interested in knitting, crocheting or any other type of crafting and would like to join the crafting group, please see Susan Kornutick.

COLUMBUS DAY- The church office will be closed Monday, October 12, 2015 in observance of Columbus Day.



OLD EYEGLASSES- Old Bergen Sunday School sponsors an ongoing collection of old eye glasses, also including your unused glass cases. Look for the light blue "shoe box" in the sanctuary with a pair of used eyeglasses atop. Open and deposit whatever eyeglasses and case you do not have use for. We will see that they get redistributed and recycled for a good cause through an organization that does exactly that. As of the last donation Old Bergen donated 30 pairs of glasses. Thank you for your donations.

FAMILY PROMISE – INTERFAITH FAMILY SHELTER-Area congregations continue to make plans for launching a housing alliance for homeless families in Hudson County. 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? We are seeking 13 congregations who can share in this project by providing overnight housing up to four weeks a year for two to four families at a time. 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- What happens when young people "age out" of the foster care system? Some fall through the cracks. Some turn to gang affiliation and crime. Some just wander through the challenges of life without any family, support, or connection. Volunteers at Temple Beth El are seeking volunteers who will serve as mentors to these young people. Specifically, 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.

Notes from the Consistory Session

-The Consistory Session approved a request to have the Girl Scouts of America meet in Brett Hall every Monday night at 6:30 pm.

-Consistory has approved and we have moved into the planning stages for a new look to the cemetery. We will have some new landscaping done, a place to sit and reflect as well as a Column barium. We look forward to making our cemetery "A Space for Grace."

-Consistory has also approved a Blessing of the Animals on October 3rd in front of the Chapel of Peace.

The Consistory Session will meet again on October 14, 2015.

RALLY DAY



SPIN CLASS AT OLD BERGEN CHURCH!

We had such a great time at our first spin class that we're at it again. Come join us on Monday night, **October 5th at 7:30 p.m.** in Brett Hall. We will begin with a brief presentation on "Five Ways to Boost Your Energy and Nutrition" by Dr. Noah De Koyer, followed by the spin class led by Chris Paine. We should conclude by 8:15. The class is adaptable to all levels of experience and abilities, including youth, adults, first-time spinners and experienced veterans. So take an hour out of your week and do something good for yourself!

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS-

God is sovereign over all creation and we are grateful for God's gift of creation – especially in the form of beloved pets. On Saturday afternoon, **October 3rd at 3:00p.m.**, we will gather outside the Chapel of Peace for a Service of Blessing of the Animals. Members and friends are invited to bring their pets to receive a special blessing that day. All pets must be on leashes, harnesses or in carriers.

CHURCH WEBSITE- The church website has been updated this summer! Check out our new look at www.oldbergenchurch.com

PRAYER CONCERNS

Alberta Forst
Allan Boodoo
Dorothy Wellinghorst
Dottie Stalter
Elenor Longo
Edgar Andrada
Franklin Rogers
Janelle Rowland
June Ali
Connie Latham
Lisa Matthews
Margaret Carrol
Mavis Deodat
Nadia Harridam
Morris Sutherland
Cebedo Family
Jill
Shelby Jaundoo
Victor Strom and Neva (his daughter)
Dor Green
Valessa Shivprashad

Dirus Singh
Charlotte Carlin
Marie Ennis
Lucy and Matt Burns
Catherine Skipper
Ivan Deodat
Samantha Harriam
Natalia Ahmad
Barbara Stark
Samantha Harriam
Angella Goolcharan
Williams Family
Warren Williams
The Weaver Boys
William Carnemola
Oscar Gravensade
Trevor McLean
Sally Aly
Sue Ann Ohman

Kathy
Connie Latham
Angella Goolcharan
Dan Arron
Suman
Candice Buno
Laurie Comes
Jean Tischler
Rhett Stalter
Adesh Chandrasain
Sookran Family



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

Dorothea McNeese
Chandler Estate
1569 Teels Road, #12 D
Pen Argyl, PA 18072

PLEASE REMEMBER:

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



He's Never Been Away

By: Susan Kornutick

*Welcome back from summer fun,
The cooler days for Fall have come.
The sun sets sooner in the day,
And children have less time to play.*

*It's time for school,
It's time to learn
About the living they will earn.*

*And God, who's never been away,
But walked with us both night and day.
Is glad that once again we raise
Our voices, joined in songs of praise.*



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 *October 19th*.

Church Mice

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SPIN CLASS

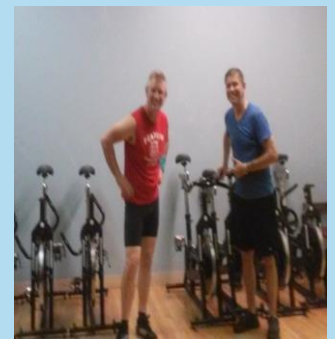


Tricky Halloween Word Search



c	s	c	a	r	y	m	m	u	m	o	o	n
j	k	a	f	l	o	w	e	r	e	w	k	t
h	c	y	r	e	t	s	n	o	m	l	h	r
c	w	k	i	n	d	k	i	h	o	d	s	i
t	l	o	g	i	r	e	g	a	o	w	p	c
i	h	o	h	k	a	l	h	l	r	y	i	k
w	y	p	t	p	c	e	t	l	b	p	d	o
c	d	s	e	m	u	t	s	o	c	e	e	r
h	b	t	n	u	l	o	c	w	a	e	r	t
b	o	i	m	p	a	n	a	e	l	r	i	r
l	n	r	h	a	u	n	t	e	d	c	p	e
a	e	i	b	m	o	z	m	n	r	j	m	a
c	s	p	a	s	n	i	l	b	o	g	a	t
k	w	s	t	s	o	h	g	w	n	a	v	g

bat	ghosts	scary
black	goblins	skeleton
bones	halloween	spider
broom	haunted	spirits
caldron	monster	spooky
cat	moon	trick or treat
costumes	mummy	vampire
creepy	night	werewolf
dracula	owl	witch
frighten	pumpkin	zombie



1 Corinthians 3:16

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and [that] the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"

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