

Christmas Newsletter 2015

OLD BERGEN CHURCH

Note from the Pastor

We hope that you enjoy this special holiday edition of the Old Bergen Church Newsletter! Advent and Christmas is such a special season. This year we will explore the theme: **"Who Are You Looking For?"** as we prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas.

Truth be told, we often find who or what we're looking for. When I was a child, I mapped out my neighborhood according to all the toy stores and candy shops. I didn't realize that there were real estate offices and investment firms on the same block. As far as I was concerned, they didn't even exist. The same is true in our spiritual lives. If we anticipate negativity, we often elicit negative responses from others – or at the least we notice the negative more than the positive. If we focus on material things of the holidays, we will likely miss out on the deeper joy and meaning found in the season.

Take a look at the Advent and Christmas Schedule listed here. I hope you will take part in those activities that bring meaning to your lives. May the One who came into this world as God's Love Incarnate fill you and yours with love this season and always. It is my prayer that these opportunities for worship, reflection, fellowship and service will enrich your experience of the season – as we ***Make a Space for Grace*** at our church and in our lives.

Grace & peace,
Pastor Jon

Advent & Christmas Schedule

NOVEMBER 29th Week of Advent – Service of Healing & Wholeness

Advent Workshop at 10:00 AM

Youth Ice Skating at 1:00 PM

DECEMBER 6 2nd Week of Advent – Hanging of the Greens/Communion

DECEMBER 11 Children's Christmas Party at 7:00 PM

DECEMBER 13 3rd Week of Advent – Children's Christmas Pageant

DECEMBER 17 Interfaith Homeless Memorial Service at 1:00 pm

DECEMBER 19 Food Pantry at 9:00 am

DECEMBER 20 4th Week of Advent – Baptism of Alexandria Thompson

DECEMBER 21 Longest Night – Service of Remembrance

DECEMBER 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00 PM

Live Nativity at 6:30 PM



**"MAKING A SPACE FOR
GRACE"**



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

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" John 3:16

DEACON'S NEWS

Christmas is 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 discounted this year. The cards are **10 cards and 10 envelopes per pack and cost \$7.00**. The cards will be on display at the coffee hours. If you would like to buy some packs please see a Deacon. Rhett Stalter said he would take care of the table selling the cards.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS - The Martin Luther King Holiday 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 Tenafly to renovate Mideast Church's community center. A group from Tenafly 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 calendar's now and plan to take part. Stay tuned for more details.

NEW WEBSITE

We have been working on updating our new website. We are happy to announce that it will be launched on December 1, 2015. Please stop by and check out our new look! If you have any photos or articles to add to the website, please contact the church office.

www.oldbergenchurch.com



SPIN CLASS- Spin class will be held December 7, 2015 at 7:30 pm in Brett Hall. 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!

GIRL SCOUTS-A Girl Scout group 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.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Children's Christmas party will be on December 11, 2015 at 7:00 pm in the Church Parlor.

THE LONGEST NIGHT-On December 21st we will have a candlelight service of remembrance at 7pm in the Sanctuary. We will light candles and offer prayers for those loved ones we miss at his time of year.



Ice Skating at Bryant Park



December Birthdays

- 1 Deron Momanyi
- 2 Constantino Buno
- 3 Francois Ibrahim
- 3 Dirk Martin Luchtenburg "Mark"
- 3 Diane Nazario Girodano
- 6 Thomas Raphael Crozier
- 8 Valessa Shivprashad
- 8 Vanessa (Shivprashad) Persaud
- 13 Mason Persaud
- 14 Jeffrey Small
- 14 Jill Pantozzi
- 14 Cameron Roberts
- 15 Jennifer King
- 16 Carlos Ennis
- 17 Rev. Jon Brown
- 18 David John Nerahoo
- 19 Ajay Nerahoo
- 19 Rebecca William
- 20 Ralph Pantozzi, Sr.
- 22 Arlene Nerahoo
- 23 Ronnie William
- 23 Mason Persaud
- 24 Jon Paul Pantozzi
- 25 Donald Folk
- 26 Steven Kishlansky
- 29 Maxwell Scott Semler (Baby) son of Jeff & Jennifer Semler
- 30 Harry Singh

HANGING OF THE GREENS-

During our Communion service on December 6, 2015 we will also hang the greens in the Sanctuary and around the church.

CHILDRENS' PAGEANT-

On Sunday, December 13, 2015 we will have our annual Christmas Pageant during service. Also during service we will decorate the Chrismon Tree.

CHRISTMAS EVE- Old Bergen Church will celebrate Christmas on Christmas Eve with a candlelight worship service. Worship will begin at 7:00 pm. There will be a live nativity on the church steps at 6:30 pm.

ICE SKATING- The junior and senior high will go ice skating next Sunday afternoon, November 29, at **Bryant** Park in Manhattan. Following lunch we will take the train into the city and return by 5:00. Cost is \$15 to rent skates.



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OFFICE HOURS M-F 9:30 AM-2:30 PM
www.oldbergenchurch.com