

# OLD BERGEN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



## *"Making a Space for Grace"*

NOVEMBER 2015

Old Bergen Church of Jersey City

1 Highland Ave.

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

<http://www.oldbergenchurch.com>

*"Do not remember the former things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." ~Isaiah 34:19*

The world is changing before our eyes. Who would have guessed 30 years ago that we would walk around with phones and miniature information systems with worldwide communication access right in the palm of our hands?! In our immediate neighborhood, we are witnessing change and growth. One of six high rises within five blocks of the church has already reached 36 of its proposed 53 stories! Within the next few years we will have thousands of new neighbors living within walking distance of our church. What are we doing to prepare for these changes?

The church is not known for its adaptation to change! We embrace eternal truths not subject to the winds of change. Yet, the even the prophet Isaiah reminds us that God is ready to do a new thing. The officers of Old Bergen are doing their best to discern the leading of God's Spirit to meet the needs of the present day. It does not benefit the church to make plans for people and a world which no longer exists. Here are a few ways that we are seeking to follow God's lead to live out the gospel of God's love:

~ *This summer we installed a new lighted sign with LED digital messaging capabilities. No longer will people say that Old Bergen is just a closed museum. We are able to promote worship, fellowship and outreach activities for all to see.*

~ *We are in the final stages of redesigning our church's website. Most new residents begin their search for a worshipping community by looking online. The redesign includes a welcome video, real time updates on the church's event calendar, and recordings of sermons.*

~ *We recognize that God has given us the gift of one of the few diminishing green spaces in our neighborhood – namely our historic cemetery. We are working to transform our cemetery into a memorial garden open to the public. Key leaders have commented on both the historical significance of our church and the impressive relevant potential of our congregation. Old Bergen is emerging as a beacon and leader in this community again!*

~ *At the same time, we realize our responsibility to care for "the least of these". We are now a charter congregation of Family Promise; an interfaith shelter for homeless families with children. We are also active in a community coalition of congregations soon to be known as Jersey City Together. This faith-based group is aimed at finding solutions to our city's most pressing needs to improve the quality of life for all its residents.*

Yes, in the midst of change God is doing a new thing! Won't you join in "Making a Space for Grace" here at Old Bergen Church!

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

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday-Sunday School,  
Communion

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday-Sunday School,  
Children's Day

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, Sunday School,  
Morning Worship

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Sunday School,  
Morning Worship

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Sunday School,  
Morning Worship, Healing  
Service

## 1 Thessalonians 5:18 -

*In everything give  
thanks: for this is the  
will of God in Christ  
Jesus concerning you.*

## Deacons' News

The deacons had a very productive meeting this past month. The Deacons have recently sent support to Church World Service for relief work among those affected by the devastating flooding. We also sent a contribution to the local Church World Service refugee resettlement program to assist with the needs of a family who recently arrived fleeing the violence in Syria. Your gifts are making an impact around the world! Plans are in the works for a social group to meet at the church. We want to thank everyone who attended the Fall Harvest Dinner on October 11 for their food donations and also financial assistance. We will be restocking the Care Notes pamphlets on various topics. We decided to support the missionaries in Sudan for another 3 years. Also, we had discussion to possibly add CWS in Jersey City to the benevolence for their work with the refugees. There is a conference for Stephens Ministers in January so if anyone is interested in this and need scholarships apply for the ones Stephens Ministers offer and then if needed the deacons can assist in the cost. The deacons will also recreate the Lay Pastoral Care to keep in touch with church members and visitors. The deacons will once again give Christmas gifts to the shut-ins. Finally, if you know of a member who needs a pastoral call please let the church office know so Pastor can take care of visiting them.

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.



## 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

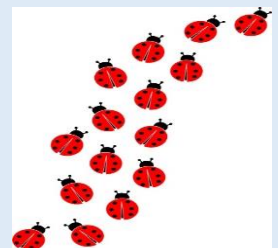
November-Sauce

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.*



### November Birthdays

1 Wendy Otieno	2 Una Rathmeyer	3 Matthias Brown
5 Gladys Narvaez	5 Nora Parbattie Singh	6 Dorothy Stalter
7 Ann O'Dell	7 Rebecca Roma Persaud	9 Indira Jamurath
9 Vernon Gibbons	10 Praitnath Samlal	10 Sarah Folk
11 Marie C. Ennis	13 Jordan Sanderlin	13 Nixon Momanyi
15 Samantha Anjali Samlal	18 Allan Boodoo	21 Richard Harry
23 Doreen Gangadin	28 Bennett Carlin	29 Charlotte Carlin 90 <sup>th</sup> !
29 Gudrun Harris	30 Jailee Jennings	

### November Anniversaries

Emily and Bennett Carlin November 27



## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Join us every Wednesday night at 7:00pm in the Chapel of Peace for our Adult Bible Study.



**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.*

*Happy Thanksgiving*



**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 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, **November 2<sup>nd</sup> 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!

**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.

**BABY NEWS-** Congratulations to Sasha (Gibbons) & Nicholas Attanasio on the birth of their baby girl, Giovanna Noel Attanasio. Giovanna came into the world on October 9, 2015. Congratulations and Blessings!



### **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

Hello to all from Old Bergen Sunday School. Wishes to our church school families for a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving.

As we give thanks for all that we have in our own lives, let us think of those less fortunate. As the Thanksgiving season approaches we ask that our students bring in non perishable food items during the next two weeks to help with the O.B.C. food pantry as we have done in the past.

Our teachers request all of their students to try their best to be in attendance for rehearsing the programs that will be presented in the coming month.

We invite parents to come and visit any of our classrooms during Sunday school time. If you haven't seen the downstairs classroom please stop in and look at the brighter atmosphere we are enjoying. O.B.C. custodian, Mario, did a wonderful paint job for us! We thank him for his work.

The upstairs junior and senior high class led by Betsy Kishlansky has an additional helper. We welcome Neil Templeton who will sit in from time to time and add to discussions.

Mr. Sam and Sandy continue their arts and craft along with bible studies next door upstairs.

Please keep your calendars set for church time activities and notices.

As always we look forward to continue teaching the Bible truths in all our classes.

Happy Thanksgiving,  
Gail Pantozzi, Sunday School Superintendent

### **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. This month we will meet on November 15<sup>th</sup>.



## **PRAYER CONCERNS**

Alberta Forst  
Charlotte Carlin  
Dorothy Wellinghorst  
Elenor Longo  
Edgar Andrada  
Franklin Rogers  
Janelle Rowland  
June Ali  
Connie Latham  
Lisa Matthews  
Margaret Carrol  
Mavis Deodat  
Sue Ann Ohman  
Morris Sutherland  
Stark Family

Dirus Singh  
Connie Lathan  
Marie Ennis  
Catherine Skipper  
Ivan Deodat  
Samantha Harriam  
Natalia Ahmad  
Rhett Stalter  
Samantha Harriam  
Angella Goolcharan  
Williams Family  
Warren Williams  
Nadia Harridam  
William Carnemola  
Oscar Gravensade

Allan Boodoo  
Shelby Jaundoo  
Kaila Martin  
Sally Aly  
Candice Buno  
Laurie Comes  
Jean Tischler  
The Weaver Boys  
Adesh Chandrasain  
Valessa Shivprashad  
Trevor McLean



## **Notes from the Consistory Session**

- The Consistory Session approved a request to baptize Mila Persaud on November 15, 2015.
- Pastor discussed the SID proposal for work in the cemetery. Don Smart is going to help to get a donation to start renovations and will link us to more donors.
- The personnel committee will be conducting staff interviews.
- The average attendance was 73.

The Consistory Session will meet again on November 18, 2015.

## **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](http://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.

## THANKSGIVING

By Susan Kornutick

*The days of spring and summer have come and gone again;  
The turkey's in the barnyard, getting fat on corn and grain.*

*The season's fast approaching for that special feasting day;  
When families get together - each thankful in their way.*

*Now this year won't be different when that special day draws 'round;  
We'll gather - friends and family - in unity be bound.*

*The turkey's guest of honor, with a lot more things to eat;  
With corn and lots of cranberry sauce, and yams that taste so sweet.*

*The family now is all seated now, with heads bowed down to pray;  
While thoughts and dreams of peaceful times are never far away.*

*"We thank You for the bounty we have before us here;  
Lord we ask you to remember this land we hold so dear.*

*We ask you guide our "teenies" through all they have to face;  
Please bring them safe and loving to a hopeful gun-free space.*

*We pray for all our soldiers as they rest their weary heads;  
And pray to you they'll soon be home, to wear civilian threads.*

*We pray to you, O Lord, our God to guide the heads of state;  
To be concerned of whom they serve, and not the polling rates.*

*We further pray you'll walk along with all the lonely souls;  
To make them all feel wanted, to seek some higher goals.*

*We ask You bless the children as you did when here on earth;  
Remove from them their hunger and fill their lives with mirth."*

*They lifted heads, with dew-filled eyes and hearts that cried out too.  
To make this world a better place, to help make dreams come true.*

*So let's all gather on this day, with family and with friends.  
Let's raise our hearts and voices for a peace that never ends!*



### **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.*

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 November 18<sup>th</sup>.

### Advent Schedule 2015

November 29<sup>th</sup>- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent- Advent Workshop and Service of Healing and Wholeness

December 6, 2015- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent-Communion, Hanging of the Greens

December 13, 2015- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent- Children's Pageant, Chrismon Tree

December 20, 2015- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent-Special Music

December 24, 2015-Live Nativity, Lessons and Carols, Candlelight Service

### Jersey City Together

A faith-based coalition of concerned citizens has organized to work together to make Jersey City a better place to live for all its residents. Last spring 200 people from 30 different congregations gathered at Old Bergen Church to report back the results of over a thousand interviews with individuals across the city regarding the most pressing needs. On **Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**, this group will launch its official beginning as a unified agent for change. The event will take place at **Monumental Baptist Church at 7:00 PM**. Make plans to attend and show your support for making a difference in our city!



### Interfaith Community Worship Service – November 24

Please join us for a shared Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday evening, November 24<sup>th</sup> at Christ United Methodist Church on Kennedy Boulevard at 7:00 PM. There will be a combined choir and special music. Leaders from a number of congregations from the Journal Square and McGinley Square neighborhoods will participate in the worship service and Father Rocco Danzi, chaplain at Saint Peter's University, will preach.

### Youth Event – November 15<sup>th</sup>

On Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> the youth of Old Bergen will join with other young people from across the Presbytery at 4:00 PM at the Presbyterian Church of Tenaflly. Information about next year's Presbyterian Youth Triennium will be shared. Please meet in the church parking lot at 3:00 to carpool to this event. We will return by 6:00 PM.



Congratulations to Pastor Jon on celebrating 5 years at Old Bergen Church!



**Philippians 4:6** - *Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*



## Church Mice

Copyright Karl A. Zorowski



### Blessing of the Animals -October 3<sup>rd</sup>



### World Communion Sunday -October 4<sup>th</sup>



### Deacons' Fall Harvest Dinner -October 11<sup>th</sup>



## SPIN CLASS



**Philippians 4:13** - I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

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](http://www.oldbergenchurch.com)