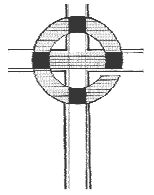




The Presbyterian of The Presbytery of Elizabeth

Volume 1, Issue 24

November 12, 2010



Message from Greg:

Dear friends,

You may be wondering how the Presbytery's Mission Study is going. I'm glad to report that two of the three parts have been completed. The demographic analysis and online survey are done, leaving only the Session Visits to finish. Those should be done by the end of this month. After that, I will be ready to combine the results into a report with some recommendations for change. My goal is to have the first draft ready for the Presbytery Council to review in January.



So what feedback are we getting so far? Based on the 350+ survey respondents, Elizabeth Presbytery is low on both Energy and Satisfaction. Although this is true of many presbyteries, it is especially true of ours. Yes, this is bad news but here's the good news – we know how to fix the problem. With God's help, the Presbytery should:

Equip Pastors and other leaders in congregations with strategies that enable them to reach new members.

Take a leadership role in working with churches that are struggling.

Cultivate a higher level of trust within the presbytery

Please keep in mind that this information is not the whole story. We still need to hear what the Sessions have to say, i.e., empirical data needs to be balanced with anecdotal. So far, however, the Session feedback seems to be confirming the online results.

Although I have been involved with several church Mission Studies, I am finding this process fascinating and am delighted to be able to do this. Never have I been involved with discerning God's will at this level. I thank you for your prayers and, in many cases, the time and energy you have contributed to the cause. Let us pray: *Holy Spirit, you have led us thus far in the process of discerning your will for Elizabeth Presbytery and we thank you. Continue to be with us as we complete this work and may all honor and glory be to the Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.*

The Rev. Greg Albert
Interim Executive Presbyter
(908) 755-3776



johnsonburg

A resource of the seven New Jersey Presbyteries, PC (USA)

The Johnsonburg Board of Trustees is in the process of setting a new direction for the camp. Pursuant to a reorganization of the senior staff of the camp, Mike Socia will be leaving Camp Johnsonburg at the end of the year. The Board wishes to thank Mike for his

dedicated service and hard work while Executive Director. We ask for prayers for Mike and his family as they begin this new chapter in their lives. The Board will be considering several possibilities as it determines new staffing configurations for Camp Johnsonburg and ask that you also keep the camp and its staff in your thoughts and prayers.

PO Box 475, 822 Rte 519, Johnsonburg, NJ 07846 <http://www.campjburg.org>



SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFE
829 SALEM ROAD, UNION, NJ
PH: (908) 686-1028

Salem Roadhouse Café Proudly presents

"Chris Preston" & "Trysette"

Saturday, November 13 at 8:00 PM

ADMISSION: \$15.00 STUDENTS: \$10.00



SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFE
829 SALEM ROAD, UNION, NJ
PH: (908) 686-1028

Comfortable seats, enjoy hot and cold snacks, gourmet coffees and beverages, and savor luscious desserts.

The Roadhouse is a classy, intimate club, with mood lighting, exciting stage lighting, and a professional sound system that can't be beat. As one patron told us, "There are no bad seats!" Website: www.roadhousecafe.org

All 2010 shows benefit The Community Food Bank of New Jersey.



WALKING IN BALANCE

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www.apcenet.org



Advent 2010

Living the Advent Story

This popular devotional resource, produced by *Presbyterians Today* magazine, contains Scripture readings, meditations and prayers for each day of the Advent season.

This year's guide measures a handy 5¼ 8¾" so it easily goes along with you in a purse or coat pocket, making it easy to grab a moment for prayerful reflection sometime during your day. \$4.00 each — \$1.25 for 150+

[Resources for Advent \(Year A\)](#)



Middlesex Presbyterian Church Will Dedicate Meditation Garden for Community Use

Middlesex Presbyterian Church is inviting community members and leaders, and area churches for a ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony of a Meditation Garden Space on the campus of the church on Sunday, November 14 at 11:15 a.m.



The Meditation Garden which pedestrians and drivers can see driving along Mountain Avenue in the borough of Middlesex is an inviting space for anyone to sit, reflect, meditate, and pray. It was designed and built under the leadership of 17-year-old Robbie Wanhouse, Jr., an Eagle Scout candidate with Troop 29 and a member of the Dunellen Presbyterian Church. Robbie, together with his father, Rob Wanhouse, Sr., an architect, met with the pastor of Middlesex Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Dr. Neal D. Presa, about developing ideas for the garden. Over the course of September, young Robbie solicited donations – not just money and garden tools—but also from local florists, masonries, and landscapers so that the cost of materials was almost entirely underwritten by donors. The design combines Zen elements with a touch of classical stone.

“Robbie and Troop 29 are to be congratulated and thanked for this project,” says the Rev. Dr. Neal D. Presa, pastor of the Middlesex Presbyterian Church. “We will do that on November 14, and we as a community will dedicate this to God for the community’s use as a place where anyone can find a few moment to rest their bodies and souls, a serene place to center our lives once more in the midst of the hectic pace which we all have. This is Middlesex Presbyterian’s gift to the community.”

All are welcome to the ribbon-cutting and dedication service on Sunday, November 14 at 11:15 a.m. on the grounds of the Meditation Garden. Refreshments will follow.

Middlesex Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and has served the community of Middlesex since 1962. The Church campus is located at 1190 Mountain Avenue in the borough of Middlesex adjacent to Borough Hall. Visit www.middlesexpresbychurch.org, or contact (732) 469-4498, mpcadmin@optonline.net



Mission Yearbooks are now available in the Presbytery office.
Call today 908-755-3776 @ \$8.50 ea

or purchase through PC(USA) <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/missionyearbook/>
Call: (800) 524-2612; Fax: (502) 569-8030; Item # 9781571530929
\$10.50 (for 1-9); \$9.25 (for 10-96); \$8.00 (97+), plus shipping.



A place for discussion and ongoing updates of decisions, thoughts, and debates within the committee as we form our budget for 2011 is the following blog: <http://presbyterybudget.blogspot.com/>

The blog will continue through the completion of the budget process in January 2011.

Blessings, Peter Hofstra, Stewardship Chair

