



# The Churchmouse

"WELCOMING PEOPLE PROCLAIMING CHRIST"

Newsletter of the Warren Point Presbyterian Church

Located at Broadway and 17th Street in Fair Lawn, New Jersey

## AN EDITORIAL

Since June is the month for Confirmation and Commissioning, I'd like to review a point that came up not too long ago at the school where I teach. One of my students said that he was making his confirmation this month. I asked him why he was being confirmed; he replied that he was now fourteen and it was time to be confirmed. My thoughts immediately went back to my days with our Warren Point Confirmation-Commissioning classes, when near the end of the semester, I would ask the members of each class, "Why are you being confirmed?"

I would receive all sorts of answers: "I'm fifteen years old," or, "This is the last year of Sunday School, and it's time to be confirmed," or, "My parents said I have to be confirmed," or any other number of answers except the one I had hoped (and still hope) to hear; I never heard anyone say, "Because I want to be Confirmed."

It's certainly reassuring to hear that young people are willing to do things they are expected to do, even if they some of those things just to please other people; but I've always figured that being confirmed is something very different from, say washing dishes or mowing the lawn or visiting a sick relative, because there is a commitment involved. It would be as if someone gets married simply because his family expects him to. I would like to think that someone is confirmed for the same reason that someone is married; in marriage, he has found the person he has found the person he can commit himself to for life; in confirmation, he has found faith and the pathway to God that he can follow and commit himself to for life.

~Rich Faust



## News from The Pews

**Volume 6**  
**Issues 4-6**

**Newsletter Date:**  
**April-May-June 2015**

### Inside this issue

Financial Snapshot	2
A Message from The Pastor	3
Bible Trivia	3
Heavenly Humor	5
Monthly Calendar	6
Inspiration	7

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## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT OF OUR CHURCH

Reported below are the annual pledges for 2015 with the anticipated and actual giving through May 31. Thank you for faithfully supporting the ministry and mission of your church through your financial giving!

	<u>Current Expenses</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>Building Fund &amp; Capital Improvements</u>
Annual Pledge	\$ 51,034	\$ 12,146	\$ 8,484
Anticipated Giving	\$ 21,264	\$ 5,061	\$ 3,535
Actual Giving	\$ 26,433	\$ 5,039	\$ 3,188

Please note:

- 2015 Local Ministry Budget is \$ 153,524
- Current Expenses annual pledge will cover only **33%**
- \$25,000 from the Rogers Estate has been added to meet 2015 Current Expenses

## BIRTHS TO CELEBRATE

Reese Katherine O'Brien, daughter of Christopher and Allison (Leininger) O'Brien, was born November 11, 2014 at Morristown Memorial Hospital.

Cricket Marie Wasek, daughter of Jason and Tennille (Kolm) Wasek, was born May 13, 2015 at Chilton Memorial Hospital.

We pray God's richest blessings on these little ones and their families!

## BLOOD DRIVE

We will be hosting a blood drive on Friday, June 26, from 3-8 pm. Volunteers are needed to "work" the blood drive. Donors are needed to donate blood. More information will be forthcoming. In the meantime, please tell your neighbors and friends. Remember: Christ gave his blood for you.





## BIBLE TRIVIA

When Jesus was brought before Herod, what did Herod expect Jesus to do?  
(Answer on p. 4)

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

With a great deal of emotion, as I was trying to come up with some way to characterize the flurry of special Sundays in the life of our congregation coming in June, did “June Is Bustin’ Out All Over” from Rogers and Hammerstein’s masterpiece *Carousel* rush to center-stage.

On Sunday, June 7, two of our young people, Kristen Little and Matthew Smits, will Reaffirm the Baptismal Covenant (be Confirmed) into which they were baptized early in the year 2000. We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. In Fellowship Hall following Morning Worship the Church School will be providing ice cream cake, traditionally enjoyed after the Children’s Day worship service...but not this year.

On that Sunday, June 14, we will be celebrating our congregation’s 90th Anniversary and Children’s Day. (The Session moved the Anniversary Sunday commemoration from the third Sunday in June to the second Sunday because of its proximity to the actual calendar date of our church’s founding, June 15, 1925.) Thus our Morning Worship will have a dual focus, but the Fellowship Hour hosted by the Session will have only one feature, a delicious cake. It is understood that the 90th Anniversary Sunday will be the “kick-off” to celebrating 90 years of ministry and mission. **Please remember that worship on that day begins at 9:30 am.**

On Sunday, June 21, during the 9:30 am Morning Worship service we will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism. Reese Katherine O’Brien, my second granddaughter, will be baptized. Again there will be a Fellowship Hour following the service. And don’t forget to thank Mrs. Kim and the choir on that day for their musical leadership, as this is the final Sunday until the Fall that the choir will share in worship leadership.

As almost all of you know, and about which you can read in my article on page 10 in this edition of your favorite newsletter, much time and attention have been devoted to recovering from the break-in that occurred in our church building late on Good Friday evening, diverting energy and resources from our New Beginnings emphasis, which, unlike June, has yet to “bust out all over.”

Nevertheless we are reaching out to the communities that surround us with the blood drive on June 26, as advertised on page 2, the first of much more to come. Please be a part of that. Our Lord Jesus Christ teaches that we should love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

I look forward to worshipping with you on these Sundays, sharing our congregation’s joy!



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## COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

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### THANK YOU FROM THE SESSION

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Thank you to everyone who worked so very, very hard both in the days before and on the day of before, during and after the meeting of our presbytery, the Presbytery of the Palisades, on March 17!

There was such a wonderful spirit of co-operation and pride in those who worked to get our buildings “spic-and-span” in order to host the meeting and a commitment expressed to finish the job well done in those parts of our buildings that were not needed for the assembly. Additionally there were numerous donations for the delicious dinner, including a generous cost from Italian Riviera of Waldwick through Ed Thomas, Jr.

A major aspect of the preparation was the upgrade of Fellowship Hall. The “new, blue” hall was a gift of Donna Frohnapfel. The curtains for the windows were donated by Janice Czelusta. The new doors for the Men’s Room, the Ladies’ Room, the Sexton’s Closet, and the Boy Scouts’ Closet were a gift of Ed Easse. The door on the closet next to the stage is a door donated brand-new years ago by Warren Nelson. The rehabilitation and re-painting of both the 17th Street stairwell leading down to Fellowship Hall and the area above the steps that lead up from the hall to the glass doors under the narthex were paid for with monies from the Building Fund/Capital Improvements account.

During Morning Worship on two Sundays the pastor thanked by name to the best of his knowledge all who shared in this great effort. The pastor received a handwritten note from the Rev. Dr. Marianne Rhebergen (Executive Presbyter) “to say ‘thank you’ to you, Nancy, and all the members of the Warren Point Church for so ably hosting...” the meeting. A formal letter thanking our church from the Assistant to the Stated Clerk, the Rev. David Baer, is printed in this edition of your favorite newsletter.



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### ANSWER TO BIBLE TRIVIA

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Herod expected Jesus to perform a miracle – Luke 23.8

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## HEAVENLY HUMOR

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One afternoon, a 7-year-old, Emily, and her brother, Tim, who was in pre-school, were doing homework. Tim, a typical 5-year-old, did not like to sit there and do it. He used every excuse possible and had a habit of saying phrases like, "I can't" or "I don't know how!"

This particular afternoon, Emily, responded with a Bible verse she had learned at Sunday school: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Tim replied, "Great, then you do it."

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## Spiritual Reflections

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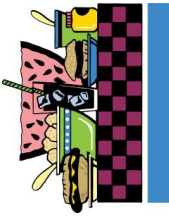
### About That Word

I have a confession to make. I enjoy reading children's and adolescent literature even though my children are fully grown and I have no grandchildren to whom I can read stories. Recently I have been reading a trio of novels by a woman named Cornelia Funke entitled *Inkheart*, *Inkspell* and *Inkdeath*. *Inkheart*, at least three of the characters suddenly materialize in his living room. At the same time his dear wife, Resa, along with their cat and possibly other creatures disappear, presumably to take their place in the novel. The rest of the books explore how Mo and his daughter manage to rescue Resa only to become intricately involved in the world of that story.

Two things come to my mind as I concern myself with this story. The first is the notion that someone can read a story out loud with such skills that the listeners become aware of nothing but the story itself, as if they had been transported into another world. We know that there are such people as there are writers, as well, whose skill is such that we can "lose ourselves" in their books. (Insert your favorite author's name here). As a preacher I can only dream of this power and imagine how wonderful it would be to have the members of the congregation hanging over every word I spoke. And what a remarkable revival would be seen in the church if the stories of our faith could be as alive as if the characters stood right before us and we felt the power of the Holy spirit surging through them and us. I, personally, have always striven to preach in such a way as to help my listeners understand more fully the passages of scripture used for that day. Of course this is exactly what I was taught to do by my seminary professors, as are most preachers and ministers of the Word that I know. Yet there is so much competition in our society for attention and persuasion has become a fine art honed by the media and advertisers and politicians and so on, that sometimes our message gets lost and people are not as convinced by mere words as they once were.

This brings me to the second thing I thought about in reaction to the story (*continued on p. 8*)

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# June 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>3</b> Property Committee 6:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 60 7:30 PM	<b>4</b> A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>5</b> A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Church School 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM Morning Worship 10:30 AM Holy Communion Confirmation	<b>8</b> Session 7:30 PM	<b>9</b> A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>10</b> Prayer Shawl 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 60 7:30 PM	<b>11</b> A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>12</b> A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Children's Day "90th Anniversary Sunday" Morning Worship 9:30 AM	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Presbytery Meeting at Elmwood Park, First 4:00 PM 7:30 PM A. A.	<b>17</b> Boy Scout Troop 60 7:30 PM	<b>18</b> A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>19</b> A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Morning Worship 9:30 AM	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>24</b> Boy Scout Troop 60 7:30 PM	<b>25</b> A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>26</b> Blood Drive 3:00-8:00 PM A. A. 7:30 PM	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Morning Worship 9:30 AM	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> A. A. 7:30 PM				

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## CELL PHONE VS THE BIBLE

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What would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone?

What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?  
What if we flipped through it several times a day?

What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?  
What if we used it to receive messages from the text?

What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?

What if we gave it to kids as gifts?  
What if we used it when we traveled?

What if we used it in case of emergency?  
This is something to think about. Where is my Bible?

Unlike our cell phone,  
we don't have to worry about our Bible being  
disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill...

AND NO DROPPED CALLS!

author unknown -



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## Spiritual Reflections *(continued from p. 5)*

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But that gospel, that good news, that Word is the light of humanity, was not without opposition. As Paul tells us, the gospel message of Christ crucified is a stumbling block to the Jews and folly to the Greeks. We know that Jewish faith has largely rejected the Christian claim of Jesus on the ground that no human deserves to be likened to God, which is exactly what John does. In a like manner the Greco-Roman world could accept that the gods would take human form from time to time, even in the guise of the Emperor, but certainly not in the form of an executed Jewish criminal named Jesus.

Nonetheless we Christians assert that the Word of God, the very will of God for human life was not merely written in Jewish Law or spoken by the great prophets, but came to life in the son of a carpenter from Nazareth. His refusal to play the power game of this world, to put his own interest first or to let the end justify the means, speaks God's will. That fact that all of his acts were directed to supporting the weak, the helpless, and abandoned individuals of society by assuring them of God's love, speaks God's will. His command to love our neighbors as much as we love ourselves, to treat others in the way we would want to be treated, speaks God's will. And most importantly his complete devotion and surrender to God's sovereignty, even came alive in Jesus is a way more powerful than any written or spoken form could. And he gave us the way to bring it alive as well by imitating him in selfless acts of love, mercy and justice, humbly submitted to God and supported by God's Holy Spirit.

— Jerry Goss

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## THANK YOU!

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Dear Warren Point Blanketeers,

Thank you so much for the lovely blankets you made for Project Linus. You are so generous to share your time and talent and you do such beautiful work. The blankets will bring comfort to the children in distress in our area.

A mom wrote "My epileptic son had to spend some time at HUMC. He was hooked up to a machine for 24 hours. The only time during our stay that I saw his face light up is when he got to choose a gift blanket to take home. It made a good memory out of a difficult time. My deepest gratitude to you and members of Project Linus. You guys rock!

Thanks again for making blankets filled with love and for helping us bring a bit of joy into a child's life. God Bless!

Liz Zawicki, Chapter Coordinator, Hudson/Bergen NJ Chapter



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*The Rev. David A. Baer, Assistant to the Stated Clerk*

March 31, 2015

The Rev. Jeffrey Leininger  
Warren Point Presbyterian Church  
Broadway & 17th Street  
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

Dear Jeff,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Presbytery of the Palisades to express our deep gratitude for the hospitality that you, your officers, and your congregation extended to us at this month's stated meeting.

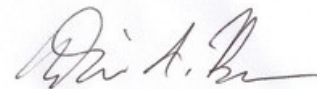
Your volunteers provided a gracious welcome to me from the moment I arrived. We were well cared for with beverages and snacks, and well directed as we navigated the building. I appreciate your arranging Internet access for those of us who feel a compulsion to be connected at all times. Your thoughtful preparation as warm and generous hosts was everywhere in evidence.

Our thanks go to you as well for a delicious meal in the fellowship hall, with abundant dessert selections as well as hearty and nutritious fare for dinner. The food gave energy to our bodies as the fellowship over dinner helped boost our spirits as we dealt with very serious and sometimes contentious business upstairs.

It was a delight to meet and worship in your sanctuary. This is a space that is as comfortable as it is beautiful and inspiring. If we were able to carry on with the business until the late hours, it was in part because of our comfort and our ability to hear one another as presenters spoke and members asked their questions. Our spirits were lifted during our brief time of worship through the musical gifts of the talented Ms. Eui Kim and Ms. Karen Thomas, who helped underscore Dave Davis's words of encouragement about the practice of stewardship.

Throughout the afternoon and evening we were made to feel at home and well provided for. We recognize that hosting a stated meeting takes significant time and energy on the part of the host congregation, and we are grateful for the enthusiasm and good cheer with which you extended hospitality to us. On behalf of the Presbytery, I wish you a joyous Easter season, and all of God's blessings in your continued witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Fair Lawn and beyond.

Sincerely,



David A. Baer  
Assistant to the Stated Clerk

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## THE BREAK-IN AND THE NEW REALITY

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On the evening of April 3, during our joint Good Friday worship service at Van Riper-Ellis Broadway Baptist Church, I offered a prayer of invocation in which I included the observation that on this holy night life was going on all around us with little attention paid to its significance. Little did I know how true my observation was.

Early the next morning, the day before Easter, I came into the dark hallway that leads to the Church Office and saw a shaft of light coming through that office door. It was then that I realized that our church had been broken into. I immediately exited and called the police.

The security cameras, installed after the last break-in, showed a single perpetrator who shattered the glass window in the door and also kicked in the Pastor's Study door, from the two offices taking keys, money, and my laptop computer, not to mention leaving debris behind.

Inspection of the church building revealed that the criminal broke one of the Fellowship Hall windows behind the tall bushes on the 17th Street side, likely after the A.A. folks had concluded their meeting.

The recovery period has come to a close, almost. The Fellowship Hall window has been replaced. There is a new key for the Sanctuary and Chancel doors. The Church Office has a new door and a new lock. The Pastor's Study has a new door and new locks. The door trims have been replaced or repaired and the hallway repainted.

And then there is the new reality. A security alarm system has been installed. When the alarm system is on, you cannot enter the hallway leading to the Church Office and the Pastor's Study unless you know the password. Please read the following carefully:

**When the alarm system is on,**

- **you cannot open the green door in the stairwell leading to the hallway**
- **you cannot open the Chancel door by where the pastor and choir sit**
  - **you cannot open the Sanctuary door leading to the hallway**

**without setting off the alarm.**

And, be aware, when the alarm system is off and you open those doors and/or enter the hallway, there is a three-note chime. *Don't be alarmed* when you hear it!



December 31, 2014

Warren Point Presbyterian Church  
The Reverend Jeffrey N. Leininger  
1-16 17th Street  
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

Dear Jeff:

On behalf of President Craig Barnes and the Princeton Seminary community, thank you to the congregation of Warren Point Presbyterian Church for your gift to the Scholarship Fund at Princeton Theological Seminary.

Your gift helps Princeton Seminary offer life-changing opportunities to students. In fact, 92% of the men and women attending Princeton Seminary receive some form of scholarship. Scholarships remove the financial barriers that stand between talented students and an extraordinary theological education, paving the way for them to reach their potential.

Thank you again for helping Princeton Seminary to continue a two hundred year tradition of preparing Christian leaders of profound and intelligent faith.

With all good wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Susannah'.

Susannah Coleman, h'73  
Director of Development, Department of Advancement  
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*Blessings for 2015!*

Department of Advancement

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**ADDRESS CORRECTION  
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