

The Congregator

First Congregational Church of River Edge, New Jersey

a congregation of the United Church of Christ

January 2017

Volume 69, Issue 1



CHURCH UN-DECORATING

The Worship Team and Education Team invite you to join us Thursday, January 5th as we take down and put away (un-decorate) the Sanctuary, Parlor and windows that were embellished for the Advent/Christmas season. The Teams will begin to work at 6:00 and should be finished in an hour. Thank you in advance!

* *

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

Welcome 2017! A new year and time to celebrate the age old Christian traditions. On Sunday, January 8th we will hear the story of Epiphany as the wise men (the Magi) met the baby Jesus.

We will partake in communion for the first time in the new year. Come and celebrate with us.

Janet Arena and
The Worship Team

* *

DATE FOR ANNUAL MEETING

Mark your calendars! Date for the Annual Meeting is Sunday, February 12, 2017.

* *

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Any decision to cancel Sunday worship service and classes due to inclement weather will be posted on our website www.fccriveredge.org by **8:30 am Sunday Mornings**. We will also update our church office voicemail greeting (201-261-1712 x100) with such a decision.



The next regular meetings of the Shawl Ministry will take place on:

Tuesday, January 10, at 7:30 pm
Thursday, January 12, at 1:00 pm

All knitters and crocheters are welcome to join us in making shawls...or bring your current yarn project and spend a relaxing afternoon in the Parlor with us. Everyone is welcome. For information, please contact Alice Rushforth at 201-265-1062.

* *

PIZZAPALOOZA Fellowship Time

Once again we will be offering *Pizzapalooza* Fellowship Times. Following worship on Sunday, January 15, 2017 pizza will be available for the members and friends of the congregation.

Hope to see you there!

Russell Van Wetering
Membership Team- Leader

* *



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to **Doris and Chet Price** who will be celebrating their **60th** Wedding Anniversary on January 12, 2017. Best wishes on this special anniversary.

* *

WEDDING BELLS

Joyce and Tom Gervasio of Succasunna, NJ, would like to announce the marriage of their daughter, Jenna Marie to Brian James Stone. Their Fairy Tale Wedding took place on October 10, 2016 at Walt Disney World in Florida. The couple reside in Alexandria, Virginia.

JANUARY 2017

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Great Gifts for Family & Friends

The Women's Fellowship has announced that there are still some bags of Pecans and *fancy* Mixed Nuts. They will be sold in one pound bags at \$12.00 each and will be available at Fellowship Time or by calling the Church Office.

CHURCH REGISTER

Memorial Service

Shirley A. Dahlstrom – March 13, 2016 (d.)
Service – December 17, 2016
Officiant – Rev. Dennis TeBeest

LEGACY OF FAITH

A meaningful way to remember/honor loved ones and friends is to make contributions to the Memorial Fund, Renovation Fund, Music & Arts Fund or the General Fund of the First Congregational Church of River Edge.

Renovation Fund

In memory of John Chatellier

Thomas, Peter and Carol Chatellier
William Hamilton

Music & Arts Fund

Pamela Weiler & Ronald
Barbara Wieboldt, in honor of her family
Pam Weiler, in honor of the
Carol and Nowell Choir members
and Kathleen Motoike, Assistant Director
Gloria & Jon Norton
Jayne Wieboldt

**

WORSHIP TEAM

COMMUNION

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on **Sunday, January 8**, during the 10:00 am. Worship Service. (The Communion bread is gluten-free.)

*

JOYS & CONCERNS LIST

Each Sunday, on the table to the right of the double doors to the Sanctuary, there is a place for you to write any prayers requests that you might want included during the service.

Janet Arena
Worship Team - Leader

CAN YOU HELP?

Can you help? Counters are needed on Sunday mornings to process the worship offering. Teams are set up on a five-week rotation. To sign up or for further information, please see Don Huggett in the Board Room on any Sunday or call him at 201-261-2273. Your help is needed and very much appreciated! Thank you!

**

ANNUAL REPORTS

Annual Reports are due in the Church Office by Wednesday, January 11. Please forward an electronic copy to the Church Office.

FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY

The first Sunday of each month is Food Pantry Sunday. We receive monetary donations to support the community food pantry through the Center for Food Action. Donation envelopes are in the bulletin each first Sunday of the month.

**

CHILD CARE AREA

There is a dedicated space for child care. Babies and toddlers up to three years of age may be brought to Pilgrim Hall on Sunday mornings. Cribs, furniture, toys and books have been selected for this area so that children will be comfortable while parents are attending worship. Ask an usher or greeter for assistance.

**

MUSIC THANK YOU!

Thank you to the many musicians whose gifts brought grace and beauty to our Advent and Christmas services of worship: Chancel Choir, Cantata Choir, Pilgrim Ringers, Carol and Nowell Choir, Soloists, Instrumentalists, and Narrators. You are very much appreciated!

**

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Monday, January 2, 2017

**

JANUARY 2017 COMMITMENT REMINDERS

Sunday, January 1, 2017 – New Year's Day

USHERS –TBA

COUNTERS – Tom Rushforth, Frank Meeks, Christine Banks, June Morris, Don Huggett

GREETER – Russell Van Wetering

LAY READER – Amy Herrick

ALTAR GUILD – Jean Babington and Dona Berg

CHILD CARE – TBA

Sunday, January 8, 2017 – Epiphany Sunday

COMMUNION TEAM/USHERS - ☩ Janet Arena, Victor Babington, Joanne Hernandez, Carole Meeks, Diane Rolfs, Jane Silane

COUNTERS – Robert Owens, Diane Lento, Russell Van Wetering, Tom Rushforth, Don Huggett

GREETER – Betty Hogan

LAY READER – Pat Canzani

ALTAR GUILD – Jean Babington and Dona Berg

CHILD CARE – Anabelle Babington, Reilly and Kelly Kobbe

FELLOWSHIP TIME – Betty Hogan

Sunday, January 15, 2017

USHERS – ☩ Wayne Placek, William Fordham, Tom Rushforth, Diane Rolfs, Barbara Placek

COUNTERS – Chet Price, Tom Rushforth, Kathy Caughlan, Bill Hamilton, Don Huggett

GREETER – *Volunteer Needed*

LAY READER – Brian Stroh

ALTAR GUILD – Jean Babington and Dona Berg

CHILD CARE – Alice Frylinck and Ronnell Kearns

FELLOWSHIP TIME – *Pizzapalozza*

Sunday, January 22, 2017

USHERS – ☩ Sara Myers, Steve Myers, Gary Schaechinger, Heather Schaechinger, Charlie Schaechinger

COUNTERS – Barry Arena, Tom Rushforth, Don Huggett

GREETER – *Volunteer Needed*

LAY READER – Bert Schmitt

ALTAR GUILD – Jean Babington and Dona Berg

CHILD CARE – Kim Shirk and Renee Froomjian

FELLOWSHIP TIME – *Winter Land Church Picnic*

Sunday, January 29, 2017

USHERS – ☩ Jenn Young, Inge Reist, Bob Owens, Susie Choi, Brian Leddy, John Hamilton

COUNTERS – Betty Hogan, Michelle Heinzinger, Terrie Clark, Tom Rushforth, Don Huggett

GREETER – *Volunteer Needed*

LAY READER – Joanne Hernandez

ALTAR GUILD – Jean Babington and Dona Berg

CHILD CARE – Nadia Orendain and Donna Frani

FELLOWSHIP TIME – *Volunteers Needed*

☩ **Team Leader**



Dear Church Family,

How can I begin to thank you for all your kindness? The beautiful cards, the phone calls, the flowers delivered by Frank and Carole, and *special* gourmet pretzels. But the best gifts of all were your prayers. I am happy to say they worked. I am feeling great and the prognosis is good.

Thank you!

With love,
Marie Herrick

*

Dear Friends,

Thanks to all of you who sent lovely, sweet, (and funny!) cards to us during our recent hospital stays and recuperation at home. It was difficult with both of us out of commission at the same time, but your cheerful greetings and get-well wishes helped us on the road to recovery, physically as well as mentally and emotionally. We are still making progress each day and looking forward to when we are back to ourselves 100%.

Fondly,
Tim and Patty Wallace

**

CONGREGATOR DEADLINE

The deadline for the February 2017 issue of the Congregator is Friday, January 17, 2017.

**

SPECIAL THANKS

We hope that you were able to see the beautiful arrangement of poinsettias on the altar for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Thank you to Carole Meeks and Joanne Hernandez for their work.

PUMPKIN PATCH UPDATE

The Pumpkin Patch Bakers' additional efforts since Halloween raised another \$1,700, bringing the total food profit to \$10,914. For the first time ever, bake sale profit surpassed pumpkin sale profit. When added to pumpkin profit of \$9,800, the total raised for the Building Renovation Fund at Pumpkin Patch 2016 now stands at \$20,714, and the 8-year total is just shy of \$120,000. An awesome team effort, and an example of how *working together* a small church can accomplish big things. The funds raised move FCCRE one small step closer to realizing a physically accessible church building.

**

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to donate altar flowers for one of our worship services, please contact our Flower Coordinator, Carole Meeks at 201-262-3020. The donation for flowers is \$25.00. Flowers can be taken home after the service or given to one of our shut-ins. The deadline for ordering altar flowers is the Sunday prior to their being placed on the Altar.

**

USHERING TEAMS

The Ushering Team is looking for volunteers. If you've ever thought about getting more involved, this is a great way to meet new folks with very little time commitment. Usher Teams have a seven-week rotation. Responsibilities include arriving 40 minutes prior to the service to prepare the sanctuary, handing out the bulletins, participating in the offering, and closing up the sanctuary after the service. Each team has a leader and 4 to 5 members. If you are interested in learning more about how you can participate, please contact Jenn Young, Jlf0721@yahoo.com, 201-906-1682.

**

STEWARDSHIP TEAM

We have reached 71% of our pledge goal. If you haven't already done so, please fill out a Pledge Card and return to the Church Office. If you have done this, 2017 envelopes are available for pick up in the Parlor. Thank you for your support!

The Stewardship Team

Director of Christian Education

Chrismon Service

Our 44th annual Chrismon Service was celebrated on December 4, 2016. As always, it was a wonderful start to the Christmas season. Many volunteers and actors made the service spectacular. Thank you.

People at the service were very generous. We collected 99 gifts, 7 winter coats, 6 outfits, and 3 hat and glove sets for the Bergen County Community Action Partnership to be distributed to the children and youth of Bergen County's neediest families. The offering of \$464 went to the Child Sponsorship Program of Global Ministries to support Angelie Adame in the Philippines. Thank you all.

New York City Trip

On December 11, 4 youth and 2 adults had a NYC Christmas outing. They went to see the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree and then visited St Patrick's Cathedral, and the Radio City Christmas Show. Thank you, Denise Cannizzaro Garcia and Laura Morgan for running this youth outing.

Visit of the Magi

On January 8 we will once again have our Visit of the Magi worship service. This tells of the Magi traveling far to see the Christ child. Children will attend service to see the performance as their lesson.

Music resumes for Church School classes

Younger children will be in the chapel for Music on January 15, the older children will meet in the library on the 22nd. For the following months the second week of the month will be for the younger children, the third week for the older children, as before. As always, I will post a sign.

Church Un-decorating

Church un-decorating will take place on Thursday, January 5. Everyone is welcomed and all help would be appreciated.

* *

EDUCATION TEAM

The Education Team had a very busy month. We helped decorate the church for Christmas and we will also clean up in January. The Chrismon Service was a success with some new and old faces. It's such a wonderful event. I want to thank all who made this possible. Thank you Hannah Garcia and Chloe and Paul DiMarco for filling in at the last minute.

On December 11th Laura Morgan and I took 4 of the Youth Group into NY City to see St Patrick's Cathedral, Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree, and The Christmas Spectacular starring the Rockettes, (the show was a last minute idea) and finished our day with a wonderful lunch and some snow. The girls had a great time. Please look on our church website to see the pictures.

December will be my last year as Team member, I will still be on the Education Team and will still help with the Youth Group. I want to wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Years

Denise Cannizzaro Garcia
Education Team - Leader

MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR

On behalf of Leadership Council, I would like to update the Congregation on the work of the Dialogue & Direction Task Force and of your Leadership Council.

At the Leadership Council meeting on Tuesday, December 20th the Dialogue & Direction Task Force (Janet Arena, Pat Canzani, Diane Lento, Gary Schaechinger & Bob Wieboldt) presented to Leadership their findings from the comprehensive work they did and which you enthusiastically participated in regarding your hopes, dreams and goals for the future of our church.

Worship & Education, Outreach, Building Renovation, Fellowship within our Community and Pastoral Direction were the main priorities in the responses by you, our members and friends.

Your Leadership Council has charged the Interim Pastor Search Team (Janet Arena, Don Huggett, Diane Lento, Ron Phillips & Russell Van Wetering) to write a job description for the settled pastor position, that job description has been written and set forth by the Search Team; it was approved by the Council at this meeting.

In the next few months Leadership Council will work to implement these priorities, these hopes, dreams and goals as we move forward into the New Year.

Any questions regarding Dialogue & Direction's findings or for the Leadership Council please feel free to contact any member of the Council.

Russell Van Wetering Moderator

Janet Arena	Diane Lento
Denise Cannizzaro-Garcia	Frank Lento
Don Huggett	Jane Silane
Chuck Keehn	
Helen Koons	

* *

MISSION TEAM

Family Promise Shelter Ministry – Hosting Tuesday, January 10th

We will be helping to host homeless families with children at St. Peter's on Tuesday, January 10th.

We need people to provide food and help serve and clean up, and people to help entertain the children. Time commitment is only from about 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Young people are very welcome. Please check the list at Fellowship Time for your opportunity to volunteer for this important community service.

*

All Wrapped Up Report

All 30 individuals whom you 'adopted' received abundant gifts, in many cases more items than were on their wish lists....and you donated a total of \$1,650 in Gift Certificates! Thank you for brightening the lives of our struggling Bergen County neighbors.

Helen Koons
for the Mission Team

PS - I received a heartfelt thank you phone call from one of the people involved with All Wrapped Up. She said, and I quote "You have such a giving church." Yes, we do, thanks to you, yes we do.

.....



WINTER LAND CHURCH PICNIC

SEVENTH ANNUAL INDOOR CHURCH PICNIC!

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF RIVER EDGE
(AFTER MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2017

FELLOWSHIP HALL PICNIC GROUNDS

FUN – GAMES – FELLOWSHIP – FOOD

SO SIGN UP AT FELLOWSHIP TIME OR CALL/E-MAIL THE CHURCH OFFICE TO TELL US YOU WILL BE THERE. BRING A POTLUCK COLD/HOT ITEM, SNACKS AND OR DESSERT TO SHARE (DROP OFF AT 9:45 AM).

HOT DOGS, HAMBURGERS AND DRINKS WILL BE SUPPLIED.

ATTIRE: WEAR YOUR BEST WINTER-WEAR



***SO, SIGN UP! FIND YOUR SNOW OUTFITS!
BUT MOST OF ALL, MARK YOUR CALENDAR TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE AT***

***FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF RIVER EDGE
109 CONTINENTAL AVENUE, RIVER EDGE, NJ 07661***

JANUARY 22, 2017

FOOD – FOOD - FOOD

CHURCH WILL SUPPLY: hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments, paper goods, soft drinks, ice tea and lemonade.

YOU SUPPLY: a side dish or dessert to share

LOTS OF GAMES: prizes – prizes

WHEN: Sunday, January 22, 2016 Fellowship Hall

CAN YOU HELP?

Saturday, January 21: 3:30 pm to set up Fellowship Hall

Sunday: Be a food runner

Set up drinks

Set up food tables

Be a game helper

Be a judge

Help clean up after the Picnic

Please *RSVP* no later than Tuesday, January 17, by returning the form below to the Church Office or call the Church Office at 201-261-1712.

CHURCH PICNIC

Name _____ Phone # _____

I can help with _____

Attending: _____

What will you bring? Side Dish _____ Dessert _____

January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <u>NEW YEAR'S DAY</u> 9:15 Chancel Choir 10:00 Worship Service/Guest Minister – The Rev. Jon Norton/ Child Care 12:00 Korean Baptist Church	2 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	3	4 7:00 AA	5 6:00 Undecorating the Church Christian Ed Meeting to follow 7:00 Chancel Choir 8:10 Pilgrim Ringers	6 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drum Rehearsal	7 8:30 KWIS 11:00 Memorial Service for Robert Egner Church Sanctuary 7:00 AA
8 <u>EPIPHANY SUNDAY</u> 9:15 Chancel Choir 9:30 Carol & Nowell Choir 10:00 Worship Service/Communion The Rev. Dennis TeBeest Church School/Child Care 11:00 Fellowship Time 11:20 Youth Group (Drop In Room) 12:30 Korean Baptist Church	9 12:00 Al-Anon 7:30 Step by Step	10 6:00 – 8:30 pm <i>Family Promise</i> Hosting at St. Peter's Church 6:15 Cub Scouts 7:30 Shawl Ministry	11 7:00 Funds Advisory Group 7:00 AA	12 1:00 Shawl Ministry 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:30 River Edge Swim Clug 8:10 Pilgrim Ringers	13 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drum Rehearsal	14 8:30 KWIS 7:00 AA
15 9:15 Chancel Choir 9:30 Carol & Nowell Choir 10:00 Worship Service/ The Rev. Dennis TeBeest Church School/Child Care 11:00 Pizzapalooza 11:20 Youth Group (Drop In Room) 12:30 Korean Baptist Church	16 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Martin Luther King Observance 12:00 Al-Anon 7:30 Step by Step	17 7:00 Leadership Council <i>Deadline for Church Picnic</i>	18 7:00 Membership Team 7:00 AA	19 7:00 Chancel Choir 8:10 Pilgrim Ringers	20 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drum Rehearsal	21 8:30 KWIS 3:30 Piano Recital 3:30 Picnic Set-up 7:00 AA
22 9:15 Chancel Choir 9:30 Carol & Nowell Choir 10:00 Worship Service/ The Rev. Dennis TeBeest Church School/Child Care 11:00 Church "Winter Land" Picnic 12:30 Korean Baptist Church	23 12:00 Al-Anon 4:00 – 6:15 – All the World's a Stage 7:30 Step by Step	24 7:00 Property Team 7:00 Mission Team	25 7:00 AA	26 7:00 Chancel Choir 8:10 Pilgrim Ringers	27 7:00 Tri-County Pipe & Drum Rehearsal	28 8:30 KWIS 7:00 AA
29 9:15 Chancel Choir 9:30 Carol & Nowell Choir 10:00 Worship Service/ The Rev. Dennis TeBeest Church School/Child Care 11:00 Fellowship Time 11:20 Pre-Confirmation Meeting (Drop In Room) 12:30 Korean Baptist Church	30 12:00 Al-Anon 4:00 – 6:15 – All the World's a Stage 7:30 Step by Step	31	<p>SAVE THE DATE</p> <p>Annual Meeting</p> <p>Sunday, February 12, 2017</p>			

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR ROBERT EGNER

Saturday, January 7, 2017 at 11:00 am

Church Sanctuary

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF RIVER EDGE

Our Mission

Our mission is to worship God, care for one another, and witness to Jesus Christ in our community and the world.

Our Vision

We seek to be a dynamic community of faith committed to spiritual growth, following Christ's example and God's Word. Respecting our past and recognizing today's challenges, we move forward with diverse worship, education, mission and compassionate care for all.

*First Congregational Church
109 Continental Avenue
River Edge, New Jersey 07661*

CHURCH OFFICE INFORMATION

Phone (201) 261-1712

Website – www.fccriveredge.org

Church Office e-mail – office@fccriveredge.org

Church Office Hours: Monday to Friday

9:00 am to 12:00 Noon and 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Church Staff

The Rev. Dennis TeBeest Pastor	dtebeest@fccriveredge.org 201-390-5548
Gloria Norton, S.M.M., Minister of Music	glorinor@aol.com
Kate Jerome Director of Christian Education	kjrecong@aol.com 201-261-1712
Theresa Wallace Administrative Assistant	office@fccriveredge.org 201-261-1712 Ext. 100