

October 2011

Come Grow With Us!

Dear Oak Tree Friends,

I hope that you all had a good celebration of Rosh Hashanah this past week! What!? You say you're not Jewish and don't celebrate Rosh Hashanah? Well, that may be, but perhaps it is time for us Christians to rediscover Rosh Hashanah and its tradition of looking back at the last year and repenting for the wrongs you have done. For Jews the new year and the following Holy Day of Yom Kippur are a time to embark upon the serious task of repentance (teshuvah). They are encouraged to make amends with anyone they have wronged and to make plans for improving during the coming year. Rosh Hashanah is all about making peace in the community and striving to be a better person. This Sunday is Peacemaking Sunday in the Presbyterian Church USA as well as World Communion Sunday. What a perfect time for a little repentance . . . for a little time of looking back and making a renewed commitment to live better and more at peace in the future.

Last week we began a sermon series call "It's Hard to Be a Christian". We will be looking at some of the challenges and some of the ways that God challenges us to do better at following His Son. It is hard to be a Christian, to be like Jesus, but it is not impossible and should always be our goal — what we are aiming for in life. So take some time this week for a little teshuvah, a little looking back at what you've done, and looking ahead to what you can do better in following the Lord in all your ways.

Rev. Jill

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned.

Isaiah 43: 1-3

OTPC - October at a glance

9—Deacons Meeting 11:15 AM
10—Session meeting 7 PM
11—Oak Tree @ FISH Clothing Room
13—Brighton Gardens 2 PM
Knit One, Pray Too 7 PM
17—Soul Feast at Ann Marie Williams' 7:30 PM
22—FREE Taco supper and Movie 6:30 PM
23—Ministry Groups meet 11:15 AM
27—Knit One, Pray Too 7 PM
30—Talk Back to your Pastor 11:15 AM
Choir — Wednesdays at 7:45 PM
Bible Study — Wednesdays at 6:30 PM and Thursdays at 10 AM



Think Fall!



Free Dinners!

The Fellowship and Outreach Ministry Group and the Board of Deacons

will hold a free taco dinner and Movie Night, on Sat., October 22nd at 6:30 p.m. Join us as we serve our community dinner. Donations of salad, desserts, beverages, and nacho chips and

salsa are welcome! We also would like several people to bring a pot of their favorite chili. Dinners are open to our members and the community. Bring your donations to the church or see Madelynne Lindsey or Florence Chukwunke to volunteer. Many hands make light work — let's work together to feed the hungry and one another this Fall. The movie isn't yet chosen, but do plan to stay after dinner for a family movie on the big screen.

PAINT PARTY!

We're looking for a few good workers to help stain the cedar shakes on the outside of our building on Saturday, October 15th at 10 a.m.

If you can help, wear your old clothes & come on over!



God's House

The Yellow Brick Sidewalk

Walking to Oak Tree Church is a little risky these days. Our sidewalk is turning to rubble and needs to be replaced. Estimates to replace the sidewalk came in at approximately \$160 per square and we need about 60 squares! Won't you consider buying one square of our much-needed walkway?

ON LINE!



Have you looked at our website lately?

oaktreechurch.org

is our web address and the site is kept up to date by Lisa Simon. Thank you, Lisa! Oak Tree is also now on FACEBOOK! Go to your own Facebook page and type in Oak Tree Presbyterian Church in

the search bar. Click on the page in the list that has our church picture and be sure to then click on "Like". This will make you a "friend" of Oak Tree and you will get our latest update alerts sent to your email. A big thank you to Laina Magnani for this new way to get with the times and keep in communication with one another!

NURTURING THE SPIRIT

FALL BIBLE STUDIES

Because we believe that we never stop learning and growing in faith, we are offering two Bible Study opportunities this fall. There will be an evening Study on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and a morning study on Thursdays at 10 a.m. Both classes will be studying the Gospel of Matthew, which is our lectionary gospel for the fall. Everyone is welcome to join us for these group discussions of God's word. No former experience or knowledge is needed, just a willing spirit and an inquiring mind!

Talk Back to your Pastor

once a month! After worship once each month you will have an opportunity to discuss and ask questions about the sermon and the topic for the day. Talk Back is usually the third Sunday of every month, but in October it is on the 30th. Bring your coffee and join us as we discuss the sermon for that day.



WORSHIP TEAM

During our summer worship services we tried some new music and different forms of worship. If you came to the Wednesday evening contemplative services, you hopefully grew in your ability to use music and silence as a way to meditate on God's word. This fall we hope to continue to try some new ways of worship and would welcome anyone interested in helping to plan and possibly lead creative or new forms of worship. If this is an interest of yours, speak with Rev. Jill about how you might help.

OAK TREE CARES

Crop Walk For over 50 years CROP Walks have been held to raise funds for international and local hunger relief. The need for relief is greater than ever. Rev Jill will be walking this year. Won't you join her on October 16th or consider sponsoring her in her walk? Donations can be made on line at www.churchworldservice.org. Or you can see Rev. Jill on Sunday!



FISH UPDATE

The FISH Clothing Room is a busy place these days. With our current economy, there is a great need for gently used clothing. Donations of new underwear and socks are also appreciated. Bring your clothing donations to Oak Tree this week! We will be going to FISH on Tuesday, October 11th, from 8:30 a.m. till noon.

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Matt. 25

FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED

Unemployment continues to grow, people all around us are living on the edge, facing foreclosure and wondering how to feed their families. Next time you go to the grocery store why not pick up some extra food to help refill our food pantry and the emergency pantry at Amandla Crossing. Non-perishables such as pasta, soup, canned fish and meat, canned fruit, peanut butter, and cereal are particularly welcome. Donations can be put in the bin in the back of the sanctuary.



HOLIDAY GIFT BOUTIQUE



Oak Tree will hold our annual Holiday Boutique & Harvest Bake Sale on Saturday, November 12th. Unique gift items from local artisans and crafters, such as jewelry, handmade crafts, toys, candles, giftware and food, will be on sale. And we have some new artists

joining us this year! We will also have a great bake sale of home-baked fall favorites! So start making your hand crafted items and save the date! Plan to come to help and to shop for unique Christmas gift items. If you would like a table to sell a craft or merchandise, please contact Mary Ellen Martin in the Church office, 732-549-4178.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Fall Gathering of the Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Elizabeth will be held Saturday, October 15th from 9 a.m. — 12:30 p.m. at Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church, 170 Watchung Ave, North Plainfield. This year's theme is "Confessing the Beatitudes". A continental breakfast will be served for \$3 per person and can be paid at the door. However, please contact Gloria Hanewald at 732-382-2092 by October 5th to make your reservation.



Caring for One Another

Welcome to the Family

We welcomed to the family of faith through baptism two new children of God. Welcome, Harper Krout, daughter of Stephanie Cupo and John Krout, great granddaughter of Virginia Ferrante; and Elianna Mussinan, daughter of Melody and Scott Mussinan, granddaughter of Nancy & Bob Sittinger.



Lifting Up in Prayer

Our prayers go out to those who have experienced loss from Hurricane Irene, to those who have not yet regained power and have lost homes and loved ones. Please continue in prayer for those who are sick and particularly all those battling against cancer. Pray for our shut-in members: Dorothy Riedinger, Faith Kerekes, Jean Hunt, Ruth Halvorson, Elsie Schneider, and Carol Trapp.



“For surely I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD, “plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”

Jeremiah 29:11

The Presbytery of Elizabeth’s Evangelism and Church Vitality Unit has invited us to join the Jeremiah Journey and our officers have decided to accept the invitation! The Jeremiah Journey is a 3-year journey of exploration where we, as a congregation, listen for what God would have us do. This is not a canned program of church growth where they tell us what to do and how to solve “our problems”. It is program where we, with the help of consult-

ants and congregational coaches, learn to listen and respond to God’s leading. It is a journey of discovery and discernment, of listening to the word of God in a new way that just might lead our congregation in a new and exciting direction. We will be selecting a team of leaders to lead Oak Tree in this journey. If you are interested in being a part of the team, speak with Rev. Jill

Equipping the Saints

Leadership Training Event

The Education & Discipleship Unit of the Elizabeth Presbytery will hold a leadership training for Elders, Deacons, Sunday School Teachers, Clerks of Session and anyone interested in furthering their ministry. The event will be held on Saturday, January 21st, 2012 (snow date Feb 11th), at Princeton Theological Seminary. Further details to follow, but mark your calendars if you would be interested in attending this event.



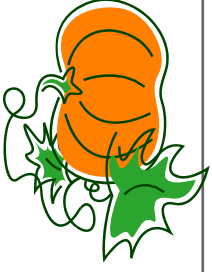
Choir is for Everyone!

We have a new Director and some new music! **Lisa Simon** joined us this week as our new interim Director of Music, and she invites everyone to join the choir!

If you have ever thought about singing with the choir, this would be a good time to join. We heard some good singers out there this summer when we sang Taize music! So come on out on Wednesday evenings at 7:45 and join us as we make a joyful noise to the Lord! No experience necessary — everyone is welcome! .



October 2011



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1
2 10:00 Worship & Church School	3 10:00 Worship & Church School	4 10:00 Bible Study	5 6:30 Bible Study 7:45 Choir	6 10:00 Bible Study	7 10:00 Bible Study	8
9 8:00 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Worship & Church School 11:15 Deacons	10 7:00 Session	11 8:00 FISH clothing room	12 6:30 Bible Study 7:45 Choir	13 10:00 Bible Study 2:00 Brighton Gardens 7:00 Knit One, Pray Too	14 10:00 Bible Study 2:00 Brighton Gardens 7:00 Knit One, Pray Too	15 10:00 Painting Party
16 10:00 Worship & Church School 12:30 CROP Walk	17 7:00 SoulFeast at Ann Marie Williams' home	18	19 6:30 Bible Study 7:45 Choir	20 10:00 Bible Study	21	22
23 10:00 Worship & Church School 11:15 Ministry Groups	24	25	26 6:30 Bible Study 7:45 Choir	27 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Knit One, Pray Too	28	29 6:30 FREE Taco Dinner & Movie Night
30 10:00 Worship & Church School 11:15 Talk Back	31 Happy Halloween		6:30 Bible Study 7:45 Choir	7:00 Knit One, Pray Too		



**OAK TREE PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
OAKTREECHURCH.ORG

FIRST CLASS MAIL — Address correction requested



Worship at Oak Tree

Prepare your Hearts

Some folks like to prepare for worship by reading the upcoming passages and reflecting on them. Here are the lectionary passages for the month of September:

Oct 2: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46.

Oct 9: Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14.

Oct 16: Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22.

Oct 23: Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46.

Oct 30: Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12.

Worship Assistants

Thank you to everyone who helps with ushering and coffee hour at Oak Tree! We appreciate all you do. We have placed the list of Usher duties on the inside door of the usher's closet. Please review the list when you arrive early on your Sunday and make certain that everything is in order for the service. After the service make sure the sanctuary is ready for the next service. Helpers for the month of September are:

Oct 4: *Communion Ushers:* Holly Weakley, Terry Landrigan, Mary Ellen Martin; *Communion Set-Up:* Florence Chukwuneke, Eleanor Ternyik; *Acolyte:* Chris Chukwuneke; *Coffee:* Holly Weakley, Mary Ellen Martin; *Nursery:* Chris Alonso.

Oct 9: *Ushers:* Andy Haug, Eleanor Ternyik, Carmello Corsello; *Acolyte:* Alexa D'Alessandro; *Nursery:* Mary Ellen Martin; *Coffee:* Steve Kitsko, Ann Marie Williams.

Oct 16: *Ushers:* Dan Kitsko, Len Mesonas, Jeff Reeves; *Acolyte:* Dan Kitsko; *Coffee:* Deacons Loretta McGue, Joyce Biegen; *Nursery:* Steve Kitsko.

Oct 23: *Ushers:* Florence & Terry Chukwuneke, Joyce Biegen; *Acolyte:* Kenneth Echie; *Coffee:* Rose McKennon, June Carroll.; *Nursery:* Eleanor Ternyik.

Oct 30: *Ushers:* Barb & Rich Lish, Ann Marie Williams; *Acolyte:* Terry Chukwuneke; *Coffee:* Terry Landrigan, Debbie Kratz; *Nursery:* Karen Wallner.

