

# Old Stone Church Newsletter



**Have a Blessed Advent  
and Happy Christmas**

## **Christmas Pageant and Carol Sing**

**10 AM - December 11  
Christmas Brunch Following in  
Fellowship Hall**



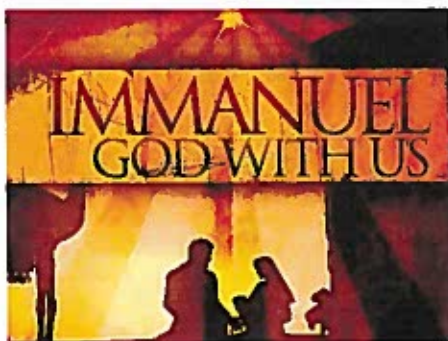
## **Christmas Eve**

**5 PM Family Worship**

**8 PM Candlelight  
Communion**

## **Christmas Day Sunday Worship** **10 AM**

*What we Celebrate:*  
**"The Living Word of  
God made Flesh"**



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### Commentary at Christmas

Pastor Bob Fretz

This time of year seems to confirm Einstein's Theory of General Relativity: the gravitational pull of all things Christmas distorts and shortens time the closer we get to Dec. 25. In other words, there's not enough time for it all.

I wonder if that is how the first Nativity was with Mary and Joseph. A man and a woman, relatively poor, forced to travel to a distant location, under the edict of a faceless... and heartless government. Not enough time to comply. Not enough time to find safe housing. Not enough time to really understand the calling from God.

Along with all the wonderful decorations and traditions that are wrapped around Christmas, we are reminded of God's intent revealed in the Isaiah scriptures on the opposite page... *the Root of Jesse, the Wonderful Counselor, the Prince of Peace, will rule with righteousness, justice, equity, compassion, faithfulness...*

And, as the letter to Titus said, Jesus "gave himself for us... (to) purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds." Many times those good

deeds are in our daily lives that help others in their lives be better, meaningful, and happy.

There are also those outsized events and opportunities when our calling as Christians is put to the test. Our congregation has a connection, 2 degrees of separation, to one of those events. Many of you remember Al Murray. Growing up in Schenectady, Al was Confirmed by Pastor Clark Poling, one of the 4 Chaplains who perished on the USS Dorchester when it was sunk by a German torpedo. The Chaplains gave up their life vests so others might survive.

The Reformed Church in Schenectady has a history of reaching beyond itself. In its colonial days, it encouraged Native Americans to become members. It was a congregation active in Civil Rights and their associate Pastor Stacy Midge is now encamped with the Water Protectors in North Dakota.

In this Christmas season time is short. But we share the call of Christ to be his "people." Make your Christmas Gift the zeal we share with our sister church in Schenectady : *Our ideal is a church of the open mind, the warm heart, the hopeful spirit, and the social vision which ever seeks to express, in all walks of life, the mind of Jesus. Amen.*

## December Lectionary

### Dec. 4 - Communion

Isaiah 11:1-10  
Psalm 72:1-7  
Romans 15:4-13  
Matthew 3:1-12  
Sermon: "Lions and Lambs"

### Dec. 11

Isaiah 35:1-10  
Psalm 146:5-10  
James 5:7-10  
Matthew 11:2-11  
"The Pageant"

### Dec. 18

Isaiah 7:10-16  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Romans 1:1-7  
Matthew 1:18-25  
Sermon "A Young Woman"

### Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7  
Psalm 96  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-20  
Sermon "What is Peace on Earth?"

### Dec. 25 – Christmas Day

Isaiah 62:6-12  
Psalm 97  
Titus 3:4-7  
Luke 2: 1-20  
Sermon "Your Stories"

## January Lectionary

### Jan. 1 – New Year's Day – Communion/ Epiphany

#### Sunday

Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14  
Ephesians 3:1-12  
Matthew 2:1-12  
Sermon "Spotlight"

### Jan. 8

Isaiah 42:1-9  
Psalm 29  
Acts 10:34-43  
Matthew 3:13-17  
Sermon "Beloved"

### Jan. 15

Isaiah 49:1-7  
Psalm 40:1-11  
I Corinthians 1:1-9  
John 1:29-42  
Sermon "Listening"

### Jan. 22 Congregational Meeting

Isaiah 9:1-4  
Psalm 27:1, 4-9  
1 Corinthians 1:10-18  
Matthew 4:12-23  
Sermon "Tipping Point"

### Jan. 29.

Micah 6:1-8  
Psalm 15  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
Matthew 5:1-12  
Sermon "Million Dollar Sermon"

## November at the Old Stone Church!



Elder Neal Strohmeyer, Arlene and Pastor Bob Fretz attending the Ridder Church Renewal Retreat in Ellenville, NY... Getting ready for 2017!



### Election Day

Top: Pastor Bob voting.

Left: Parents and Boy Scouts serving the Election Pasta Dinner



Left: The pasta guys really liked working in the new kitchen. A true tribute to Miriam and Esko Koskinen.

Top Left: Dan Hynes who earned his Eagle Award for the African American Cemetery Project.  
Right: Jack and Sylvia Papazian with their neighbor enjoying the meal.



## Dedication Sunday

Members and friends gathered around the Communion Table to dedicate our offerings, Fruit, and Gifts of the Holy Spirit for the mission of The Old Stone Church



Christmas Party for Friends To Friends Church on Saturday, Nov. 26 in OSC Fellowship Hall. Murry Baumann and Barbara Hendricks shared the joy as Holiday Express hosted the event. Holiday Express is a



group of 100 local artists and 2000 volunteers who provide over 100 holiday events for people with special needs, veterans, group homes, hospital patients, and more in NJ, NY, and PA. Over 140 people attended the event. You can contact and donate at; <http://holidayexpress.org/>



33 bags of coats (3 Little Red Truck loads) and more for the St. John's Lutheran Church Food Pantry in Jersey City. These were picked up by volunteers Dennis (left) and Robert (right).



## Church Family News

### December Birthdays

Elaine Eichmann	12/1
Jon Peet	12/1
Landon Peet	12/2
Jay Breen	12/2
Andrew Dente	12/2
Gail Wershing	12/3
Carol Ciancia	12/4
Suzanne Peters	12/6
Mildred Conklin	12/15
Fred Hampton	12/17
Larry Gorga	12/20
Jack Tudisco	12/21
Cathy Lowden	12/25
Jean Lancaster	12/26
Matt Tudisco	12/29
Nancy Peet	12/30

### *Thank You, Old Stone Church*

*From Pastor Joanne Van Sant, Friends To Friends Church, Ridgewood...*

Pastor Bob, thank you so much for the use of the building, it was perfect! Please let the Old Stone Church folks know how much we appreciated it!

Joanne

(Thank You OSC continued)

Dear Rev. Fretz;

On behalf of the Upper Saddle River Boy Scout Troop 133, I would like to extend a tremendous thank you for your support of the Boy Scout Pasta Dinner fund raiser which was held on Election Day. We are so grateful that you and your congregation were so gracious to allow us to utilize your beautiful, updated kitchen and facilities. We would not have been able to have run such an event without your help.

Once again, thank you for your continued support of the Boy Scouts and for helping to make this event such a success!

Yours truly,  
Laura Johnson  
Boy Scout Troop 133

### Condolences

Please keep in your prayers the family and friends of Louise Funke, who passed to the closer presence with God on Saturday, November 19, 2016. The family is planning a memorial service at a later date.

Please keep in your prayers the family and friends of Richard McClurg, who passed to the closer presence with God on November 30. Richard was the husband of Joyce and father of Diana Montoro.

## Calendar

**Sat. Dec. 3 - 12 AM**  
Women's Holiday  
Luncheon

**Sun. Dec. 4 - 10 AM**  
Worship - Communion

**Mon. Dec. 5 - 7 PM**  
USR Historical Society  
Lounge

**Wednesdays - 10 AM**  
Bible Study  
(no Bible Study Dec. 28)

**Sun. Dec. 11 - 10 AM**  
"The Pageant and Carols"  
Brunch following in  
Fellowship Hall

**Wed. Dec. 14 - 6 PM**  
Consistory Christmas  
Dinner

**Fri. Dec 16 - 11 AM**  
Sew'n Sews  
Lounge

## Saturday - Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

**Family Worship**  
**5:00 PM**

*Carols, Words of Hope,  
and the Dutch gifts of  
oranges and chocolate  
for our children.*

**Traditional Candlelight  
Communion**  
**8:00 PM**

**Sunday - Dec. 25**  
**Christmas Day**  
**Worship - 10:00 AM**

*"Your Stories"*  
*A service of reflection and  
thanksgiving for the gifts we  
have received from those we  
love and the blessings we  
have shared.*

**The Church Office will  
be closed from  
Wednesday, December  
21 to Wednesday,  
December 28.**

**To contact Pastor Bob  
for pastoral care or  
visitation please call his  
cell phone:  
201-788-6601**

**Saddle River Reformed Church**

Church Office

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Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458

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**Web Site**

[www.OldStoneChurchOnline.org](http://www.OldStoneChurchOnline.org)

**December  
2016**



*Time Dated Material Enclosed*

