

Proclaiming the Word

“THE GOOD NEWS”

Dr. Victor Aloyo, Jr. Pastor
Al Tate, Clerk of Session

The
United Presbyterian
Church
of Plainfield, NJ
525 E. Front Street
Bimonthly Newsletter
Spring 2018
908-756-2666
[Http://www.upcplainfield.org/](http://www.upcplainfield.org/)

It's back!!!!

After a few years absence.

The Good News

is again being published to provide inspiration, news, information, and direction to the congregation and the community. Should this new version of the Good News have a fraction of the success of the past publications it would bring big smiles to our faces.

Easter Services at United Presbyterian

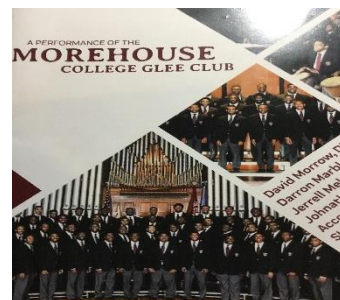


We thank the Rev. Dr. Victor Aloyo for providing such a moving sermon (Are You Looking for a New Day!) at the Resurrection of the Lord-Easter Sunday Service, as well as his leadership at the Sunrise Service and ancillary programs throughout the day. As usual, Mr. Ronn Daniels' music made the

Easter Day service feel special with such expert execution of the musical selections, including “I Know My Redeemer Lives” at the start of the Sunday Service. Visually, with the stained glass, ribbons, and candles, the sanctuary was again one of the more beautiful rooms in the New Jersey. Video copies of the Easter Service are available.

Morehouse Glee Club Concert performed at United Presbyterian

On Sunday, March 18, the Plainfield community was treated to a musical concert that will remain in the minds of attendees for



years to come. We thank our own Morehouse Glee Club alumnus, Emory Dawson, for arranging the concert. The performance in Plainfield, was one of several for the Glee Club on its Spring 2018 Tour schedule which included stops in Boston, Chicago, and New York City. United was pleased with the support it received from the

Plainfield community and surroundings, as the sanctuary was nearly filled to capacity. It is noteworthy to mention that we saw many of our friends from community churches as well as attendees who just appreciate superior musical performances. Committee members included Pat Dawson, Jean Scott, Zorina Bowers, George Hansen, and Yolanda Braswell.

United Presbyterian Church of Plainfield

- Dr. Victor Aloyo, Jr. – Pastor and Head of Staff**
- Rev. Dottie Morris – Associate Pastor**
- Mr. Ronn Daniels – Director of Music**
- Ms. Pat Perry – Executive Assistant**
- Mr. Pete Hansen – Sexton**
- Mr. Al Tate – Clerk of Session**

Member Spotlight– in an effort to become more familiar with lives of members of the congregation this column will highlight some of the members.

The inaugural spotlight is on a dynamic couple who have



volunteered many hours of work for the United Presbyterian Church, Virginia and George Hansen. Virginia has not been an official member of United for very long. However, for years she has served as a volunteer deacon, kitchen helper, and stewardship counter. Whenever there is a support need, one can count on “Ginni” to help. Ginni has become a very special friend to Barbara Hyney, who ironically for decades was the member who volunteered to support others with rides, food, and service. As the chairman of the Administrative Committee, George is often involved with the day to day functioning of the church, as he oversees the Building and Grounds, Stewardship, Finance, and Personnel Committees. Given the physical issues of such a large building and the cost associated with repairs, maintenance, and programming George spends many hours each week at the church. In addition to the critical functions of those committees, George took on the leadership in the Technology advances of the church. The videotaping of special events, as well as the taping of Sunday services are all done by George. Many of the on going programs at the church can depend of George to volunteer to take a leadership role, when needed, such as the Pastor Celebration program, and Sunday Bible Study lessons

Birthdays

April

- 5- Ebere Awobue, Zorina Bowers
- 8- Charles Sass
- 18- Jean Scott, Mark Mettle
- 20- Kevin Scott, Ronn Daniels, Janet Platt

May

- 9- Jeffrey Barnes
- 10- MaryAnna Evans Pfeifer
- 11- Barbara Goodwin
- 16- Eunice Sadler
- 21- DJ Hemans
- 24- David Billman
- 28- Mobolaji Falowo
- 29- Robert Dawson
Maggie Anglin

June

- 4- Sharon Stemple
- 5- Byron Pelen
- 10- Daniel Bofah
- 11- Kabanja Semambya
- 12- Sue Terry
- 17 – Morena White
- 21 – Emory Dawson

Drinking From the Saucer

by John Paul Moore

I've never made a fortune
And I'll never make one now
But it really doesn't matter
'Cause I'm happy anyhow

As I go along my journey
I'm reaping better than I sowed
I'm drinking from the saucer
'Cause my cup has overflowed

I don't have a lot of riches
And sometimes the going's been tough
But with kin and friends to love me
I think I'm rich enough

I thank GOD for the blessings
That HIS mercy has bestowed
I'm drinking from the saucer
'Cause my cup has overflowed

He gives me strength and courage
When the way grows steep and rough
I'll not ask for other blessings for
I'm already blessed enough

May we never be too busy
To help bear another's load
Then we'll all be drinking from the saucer
When our cups have overflowed

Submitted by Helen Foerster for the Board of Deacons

Board of Deacons and Volunteer Deacons

Helen Foerster - Chair
Maggie Anglin
Daniel Bofah
Thelma Fleming
Kayode Falowo
Virginia Hansen
Barbara Hyney
Rev. Dottie Morris
Jim Plummer -Session rep
Neekah Hinds (in training)
Desirae Hemans (in training)
Tania Hemans (in training)

Please contact any of the deacons should you need help of any type. Call the church office at 908-756-2666 to get the telephone number of an available Deacon .

HELPFUL COUNTY CONNECTIONS

UNION COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES- The Union County Department of Human Services seeks to deliver quality, cost effective programs and services that recognize and respond to the quality of life needs of residents.

- Division of Aging and Disability Resources

Phone 908-527-4869 Director- Frances A. Benson

This office plans, implements, and coordinates services for residents aged 60 or older. **The Division arranges for an array of services including, but not limited to, home delivered meals, legal services, home health care, house-keeping, housing assistance, transportation, adult day care, volunteer services, residential maintenance, and caregiver services.** Members who live in North Plainfield, should contact the Somerset County Board of Social Services. Members who live in Piscataway, and South Plainfield, should contact the Middlesex County Board of Social Services.

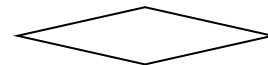
- Outreach and Advocacy

Phone 908-527-4811 Director -Maureen Segale-Glenn

The mission of this office is to raise the awareness among residents of Union County's government's existing services and programs. This is a good place to start if you are not sure what office can help you,

- Freeholder LINDA CARTER

Linda Carter is a Plainfield resident, who is serving her third term on the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders. You can reach her at lcarter@ucnj.org and 908-527-4117



LOCAL TAXI NUMBERS:

United – 908-548-0141
Liberty – 908-755-8800
Yellow – 908-412-9955

Summer Jobs for Plainfield Youth

Beginning April 9, 2018, Summer Youth Employment Program applications will be available and distributed at the Plainfield Action Services 510 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield. (next to YMCA, across from City Hall), The deadline for returning the application is May 25, 2018.

The Program is open to boys and girls that are 14 to 21. Students will work 25 hours a week, from July 9 to August 17. The pay is \$8.60 per hour.

Students residing in other towns should check with their City Hall for job opportunities.

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Masaya Shipment – May 12th, 2018

Please clear your schedule to assist with loading of the tractor trailer between 8:30 am to 8 p.m. This is our annual mission activity to send needed goods to our sisters and brothers in Masaya, Nicaragua

Help is needed to:

- a. Pack small plastic grocery bags
- b. Help sort and pack
- c. Help prepare meals for workers

We're also accepting donations of school supplies, and sporting goods.

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Boy Scout Troop #5-Italian Night Supper

April 28, 2018, 4-7 pm in Friendship Hall

The meal will include beef, turkey, or vegetable lasagna, spaghetti, plus salad, dessert and drink. Tickets for the meal are \$12 for adults, \$9 for seniors, and \$8 for children under ten. Tickets can be purchased at the door or from any scout. For more information, contact Carl Foerster.

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The Upper Room- Prayer and Devotionals

Current and last month's copies of the Upper Room Devotional Magazines are available in the Narthex. Pocket and Large sizes are available. Donations are being accepted to defray costs at the church office.

Bingo Prizes Needed

Boy Scout Troop #5 is in need of prizes that can be given to residents at Bingo Night at the Arista Care at Norwood Terrace. Jewelry, lotions, shampoo, razors, or any other small gifts would be welcomed. There is a box in the church Narthex or you may contact Ms. Pat Perry at the Church Office 908-756-2666

Flea Market

Please contact Pat Perry in the Church Office (908-756-2666) if you wish to participate or willing to support a Flea Market on our front lawn. We will determine a date once we establish the level of support we can expect.

PRAYER LISTS:

Please check the Sunday Church Programs for current list of:

1. Sick and Shut-ins
2. Students
3. Military and families
4. Persons and families enduring hardships

Celebrate Earth Day

Sunday, April 22, 2018

Session Committees & Chairs

Worship- Marcia Marsh-Hinds

Education – Al Tate

Youth – Pat Dawson

Administration-George Hansen

Personnel-Jean Scott

Stewardship-Ginni Hansen

Finance- Emory Dawson

Building and Grounds – Pat Perry

Outreach- Jim Plummer

Nomination – suspended for a year

2017 Highlight 192nd Church Anniversary



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](#)

Close to one hundred friends and family joined us on July 22, 2017 to celebrate the 192nd Anniversary of the founding of the First Presbyterian Church of Plainfield, the forerunner of the United Presbyterian Church of Plainfield in 1951. Of special significance was the return of former members of the First Presbyterian Church and the Grant Avenue Presbyterian Church. Practically all of our many partner church and organizations attended the event on a warm July afternoon.

The Institute of Music for Children

Along with the Masaya Shipment, another special “mission” of United is our support of the Institute of Music for Children, headquartered in Elizabeth New Jersey. Pat Dawson arranged for 2017 to be the first full year of individual and group instruction of music and drama for children in our church building.



Children from the area were now able to get instruction in our building on Thursdays, rather than traveling to Elizabeth. The hard work by the children culminated with a well attended Spring concert and play.

Pastoral Celebrations – October xxxx, 2017

We had a fabulous afternoon event, celebrating the work anniversaries of our two wonderful pastors, Dr. Victor Aloyo and Rev. Dottie Morris. More than 100 members, family and friends attended the program and meal held in Friendship Hall. Elder George Hansen was the Master of Ceremony, while Sue Terry was the highlight of the afternoon by doing a 15 minute stage spoof of Dr. Aloyo’s life at United Presbyterian. The event was planned and implemented by the Outreach Committee led by Avril Lecky and Jean Scott.



Vacation Bible School

The children of United experienced another very successful summer of educational and social activities at our July Vacation Bible School run in conjunction with Nuevas Fronteras staff and children. We’re especially proud that several of our former VBS students took on leadership roles as counselors.

Videos of the 192nd Church Anniversary the Pastoral Celebrations, and past Sunday sermons from 2017-2018 can be viewed at:

[Http://www.upcplainfield.org](http://www.upcplainfield.org)

NEW FOR 2018

Goodbye to Rev. Dottie Morris

Jim and Dottie are moving to Lancaster, Pennsylvania at the end of this month. Thus we urge everyone to visit the church website to hear Rev. Dottie's last sermon as our Associate Pastor. Her many years of visiting the sick, conducting weekday Bible Study, providing the Sunday Prayer's of the People and mentoring to the Deacons will end but not forgotten. www.upcplainfield.org



Please contact the church office at 908-756-2666 to get Dottie's new address and telephone number

Additional Activities for Children

At this year's Annual Meeting the congregation agreed to emphasize connections and programs with children. Please keep in touch as we provide new and expand old services.

Mothers Day Extra!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The Outreach Committee is encouraging all mothers to bring their children to our May 13, 2018 Sunday Service. We know you get visits on this day. Just ask the children to come early to enjoy the service and took take special pictures afterwards.

The Good News- a publication of the Outreach Committee

Editors (Copy & Layout)
Neekah Hines, Thelma Barnes,
Desirae Hemans

Production & Circulation Director
Pat Perry

Publisher
James Plummer

Message from Pastor Aloyo

Detach this page, and post it in a familiar place so it can be read and thought about throughout the month.

TO THE LEAST OF THESE . . .”

Matthew 25:31-46

Many of the church’s yearly celebrations have gone on for centuries, with over a millennium of tradition and history enriching them. They mark the events of Jesus’ life: his birth, his journey to the cross, his death, his resurrection, his ascension, and his sending of the Holy Spirit to remain with us. We tell these stories in our church calendar, year after year. They shape us in a multitude of ways as we become part of the stories—and they become part of us.

Reaching out in love to the presence of Christ in others, especially in both “the least of these” and in those closest to us, this is quite often a great big pain. It takes a lot of time, and there’s almost never any indication that anything of lasting benefit has happened.

What’s more, “the least of these” are usually at least partially responsible for whatever problems and needs make them the least. And most of the time they don’t look or act or smell the way we imagine Jesus should.

One would think that actually serving Christ shouldn’t be as hard, and as disheartening, as it often is. But there we are. After all, just because we’re doing something for religious reasons doesn’t mean that, all by itself, whatever we’re doing will look or feel religious or that it will effect us in a particularly religious way.

Cleaning the kitchen in the church, or anywhere else for that matter, is still cleaning a kitchen. Being nice to a difficult person because you are convinced that Jesus wants you to, is still being nice to a difficult person. Spending time or money or energy out of Christian conviction still means that you no longer have that time or that money or that energy.

The Lord calls us to serve him, in our neighbors, in our brothers and sisters, in the least of these, and – often the most challenging – in those closest to us. That call is real; there are no excuses. But the Lord also calls us to see him in the face of our neighbors, and of our brother and sister, and – we can’t forget – in the least of these. This is a spiritual call, a call to discernment as much as it is a call to action and to service.

The Rev. Dr. Victor Aloyo, Jr