

## **WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES**

### **SUNDAYS**

11:00 am – Service of the Lord’s Day

Children’s Sunday School directly after worship

### **MONDAYS**

7:30 pm – Bible Study in the Parish House

### **TUESDAYS**

11:00 am – Bible Study at Berkshire Valley

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## **MEETINGS & SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN CHURCH LIFE**

\*\*The Fourth Friday of each month, Oak Ridge and Berkshire Valley Presbyterian churches have been providing the labor to serve our brothers and sisters in need at Manna House at First Presbyterian Church, Newton. For information on serving or just how to get involved, please call Carol Mullen who would love to hear from you!

You can call her at 973-697-3409



## ***PRES NOTES***

### ***THE NEWS AND PRAYER LETTER OF OAK RIDGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH***

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Fall 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Well believe it not, here we are in a new season. As I look out my window here in the Parish House office, I see the leaves falling from the trees and take a deep sigh at the thoughts of winter coming. I know that winter has its beauty too, and I know that there are some folks who love winter more than any other season, but alas, I cannot count myself as one of them. However, I do look forward to Advent and Christmas and the reminders that come with that season of how much we truly have been blessed by a God that loves us as his children and is clearly willing to do whatever is needed to be in relationship with us. Remember from a recent sermon, “We are God’s teenagers. We act like it, and yet God still loves us anyway.”

We’ve had an extremely busy summer that we’re just coming out of. Beside the long list of work that has been completed at the Parish House, we’ve also had some wonderful opportunities of fellowship that has really pulled us together as a family. On June 30<sup>th</sup> we did have our joint service with our brothers and sisters at Berkshire Valley. We had a very well attended and heartfelt service in the outdoor chapel, but then this year instead of having our picnic together at the Ed Building, we went to the back field instead. We set up tables and chairs under the trees, set up tents where the food was served, not to mention plentiful. We had a live band playing throughout for everyone’s listening enjoyment, and then had the joy of a crochet tournament as well. I know that that’s going to be a tradition now!

We also continue to have our bible studies that have folks from both congregations

joining in, as well as group mission efforts like Manna House, Hearts For Honduras, Strengthen Our Sisters and the New Hope Food Pantry. These congregations may be small, but they are mighty, especially when coming together! Oak Ridge folks also had a wonderful Progressive Dinner, thanks to the Elams, Riggs and Flynns for hosting!!! AND, who can forget our annual golf outing that is always a high light!

In regard to our renovation projects, I really have to encourage folks to come and see what has been done, if you have not! Beside the new walls in the Panel Room, which now folks seem to be referring to as the Blue Room, there is also new flooring, the fire place has been restored, new furniture is coming in, pictures are being hung on the walls, and the entrance to the Blue Room which has also been completely renovated, is soon to be the official My School entrance. We're just waiting for the security system to be installed, which will be within the next couple of weeks. The Large Fellowship Hall has also completed its face lift with new carpeting to match the new paint job that we did in house. And, to top it all off, both the Blue Room and Large Fellowship Hall have been installed with air conditioning units so that these spaces can be used year-round as never before. Our next big project is going to be ramp access at the front entrance of the Parish House. If the church space is not accessible to all, access is simply not good enough!

We are making great progress and are forming plans for next steps, new forms of outreach and programming, such as a Saturday evening service, dinner church and community forums that will go a long way to putting ORPC back onto the community map, are being thought out. There's no reason why we shouldn't be excited for what the future holds when approached the Spirit that lives within all of us.

We will be having an open house for the Parish House soon, we're simply waiting to have that event once the old spaces are completely new. Invitations for that will go out and the gathering will be joyous. We'll see you there!

In Christ's Service,  
Pastor Chris

## **WORSHIP NEWS**

Communion dates over the next few months are as follows:

October 6<sup>th</sup>, November 3<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, December 29<sup>th</sup>

The first two celebrations are following the tradition of the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month, while the second two celebrations will be Christ The King and our End of the Year Joint Service with Berkshire Valley. October 6<sup>th</sup> and December 29<sup>th</sup> services are both being held at the Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church Parish House.

**\*\*Of special note:** If anyone would like to try their hand at preaching, have a talk with Pastor Chris, he'll help you through the process to present the message that God has seeded within all of us. Consider how God uses you, and can further use you, for the glory of His church!

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## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

### **Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast Fall Gathering**

Theme: WOMEN MOVE MOUNTAINS

*Matthew 17:20 If you have faith as small as a mustard seed you can say to this mountain "move from here to there" and it will be done.*

#### **OCTOBER 18-19 at Stony Point Center – New York**

Coordinating Team meets at 2pm, business meeting 3-4pm Friday, ends 3 pm Sat

Community building with Workshops and Worship for ALL women at any level PWSNE covers room costs for Presbytery Moderators, Coordinating Team and Presenters. ALL PAY registration: early by 10/4 - \$25, regular - \$45; registration deadline Oct 11. Shared room is \$150 each (will assign roommate if none requested) solo room \$ 210. Commuters - registration fee (no meals), plus (1/2 day & 1 meal) \$32.50, both days \$45

*(To Learn More About PW, Look Them Up On Line At: [www.presbyterianwomen.org](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org))*

## **A NOTE ON CHURCH SUPPORT**

As most folks know, as a pastor in the Presbyterian Church, we are also required to take part in the leadership of the presbytery. That means not just going to presbytery meetings, but being on committees for the presbytery, which really is how the presbytery functions, which really is something that we on the parish level really rely on and need if we aren't to be independent churches with loose rules and standards.

We are Presbyterian, and therefore, just a tiny part of something far bigger than ourselves, we are a Connectional Church.

The way that our presbytery, and the General Assembly, are able to do the work they do is by way of our system of Apportionment or Per Capita. It's essentially an amount that each church needs to pay into a larger pool so that the governing bodies can function. Right now, many churches are struggling to pay this amount, or just simply do not pay it. Sometimes it's because of budgetary shortfalls and sometimes it's because it's not seen as important, either way the end result is the same. Our presbytery is running on a deficit budget and has been for some time now. If folks don't start paying their Apportionment, or Per Capita, our presbytery will cease to be able to do all of the things that they do for us. And trust me, that really is a great amount.

So, I am asking the folks of our congregations, both Oak Ridge & Berkshire Valley, as your pastor, PLEASE PAY YOUR PER CAPITA AMOUNT TO THE CHURCH! The amount is currently \$38 per member, the money is paid to the local church – be sure to mark it as 'Apportionment or Per Capita' – and then the local church forwards the amount on to the presbytery. I know that many people have thought of this amount as a tax in the past, and that many people believe it can simply be taken out of your pledge or regular giving. The problem with that is that it becomes difficult for a local church to pay out that amount to the Presbytery and General Assembly, because that then comes out of funds that would be otherwise designated something else needed by the congregation. Apportionment or Per Capita really is, and needs to be, known as A One Time Church Support Over And Above Regular Giving. Any questions, please don't hesitate to touch base with me.

## **MISSION & NURTURE COMMITTEE**

**Lots and lots and lots of things continue to be planned out and happening with the Mission and Nurture Committee. For this Fall though, we want to focus on just a couple of things that we are really hoping will be wonderful opportunities for us all to show how we actively engage with living the Gospel message!**

- 1. Crop Walk – Crop Walk is coming up pretty quick this fall, it's scheduled for October 20<sup>th</sup>. So, mark your calendars and get on your walking shoes and join us to educate about and fight hunger. This is an initiative of the West Milford Ministerial Group and will take place directly after worship. The route will be from Newfoundland Methodist Church to Holy Faith Lutheran. AND REMEMBER!!!! If you can't get out and walk with us, you are greatly encouraged to financially contribute to those who will be.**
- 2. Faith In Action Fall – We've not before participated with Faith in Action Fall, we always take part in this 'get out into the community' program in the spring. However, we'd like to take part this fall too. The big day will be on Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. The day starts with breakfast at the Echo Lake Baptist Church, and then teams will go out and do yard work type projects wherever they may be. Once the work is done, we go home and put our feet up. For more information, or to sign up to take part, see Sue Elam or Pastor Chris.**
- 3. Hearts For Honduras – Hearts for Honduras is project of Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church. It's a school that was begun twenty years ago in the community of La Entrada and does wonders in transforming this poor community. The first class had 23 students in 1<sup>st</sup> grade, they now have 190 students through 6<sup>th</sup> grade and are readying the school to add another grade level. Your Mission and Nurture Committee has decided that we together as a congregation will sponsor one student, which costs \$400 per year. We're asking folks to add a dollar or two to the new jar in the narthex each time you leave the sanctuary. The money goes toward books, uniforms and supplies, as well as a nutritious daily meal, vitamins, health check-ups and teacher/staff salaries.**
- 4. The Prayer Shawl Ministry – We've been busy making the world's best potholders (seriously!) and we are selling them to folks for \$10 per pair. They make great stocking stuffers or gifts for all occasions, or for your own kitchen. There are lots of colors to choose from, and the proceeds will go towards local mission work.**
- 5. Consecration Sunday – Consecration Sunday will be on November 24<sup>th</sup> this year. Pledge cards will be available in early November. And remember, it's by pledges that our finance folks are able to put together our budget for the**

**following year. Without the information, it becomes very difficult to do the necessary planning that needs to take place.**

## Sometimes, God is silent

**Faith & Worship** October 1, 2019

Select Language

### And often, that’s a helpful strategy for us, too

*by Paul Seebeck | Presbyterian News Service*

AUSTIN, Texas — The [Just Worship](#) event began at [Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary](#) Monday with a rousing worship service punctuated by passionate message on justice from the [Rev. Dr. Paul T. Roberts](#). Those gathered in the Texas capital are exploring the essential connection between how we worship and how we work for justice. Before they heard from Roberts, who is president of [Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary](#), worshipers recalled through song, story, Scripture and prayer how God came into the world in Jesus as a refugee in the time of empire. They also remembered the saving death of Jesus, his life and his love.

With that as a lead-in, Roberts began addressing the struggle for justice in our culture beginning with Job. “Lord Tennyson once described (the Book of Job) as ‘the greatest poem of both ancient and modern time,’” Roberts said. “Actually, it is an investigation into the problem of divine justice.” A prosperous man who has everything, family, fortune and friends, Job loses it all due to no fault of his own. Crushed, confused and searching for answers, Job finally [speaks](#) of his frustration:

*“God has no right to treat me like this —it isn’t fair! If I knew where on Earth to find him, I’d go straight to him. I’d lay my case before him face-to-face, give him all my arguments firsthand. I’d find out exactly what he’s thinking, discover what’s going on in his head. Do you think he’d dismiss me or bully me? No, he’d take me seriously. He’d see a straight-living man standing before him; my Judge would acquit me for good of all charges.” — Job 23: 2-7 (The Message)*

But God is silent.

“Some of us today know what it’s like,” Roberts said, “to cry out to the heavens wondering what we’ve done to incur divine disfavor. Straining for good news but hearing none.” Noting that even Jesus, on the night before his crucifixion, asked God to remove his burdens but received no response, Roberts asked, “Could it be that in the

kingdom of God — the reindom of God — sometimes the greatest way of saying something is to say nothing at all?”

Recently, Roberts watched an interview with African American activist [Ruby Sales](#). In 1965, after Sales was released from jail in Lowndes County, Alabama, for picketing a whites-only store, a special county deputy pointed a shotgun at her. Seeing this, [Jonathan Daniels](#), a white Episcopal seminarian, pushed Sales, 17, out of the way. Daniels died instantly. Traumatized, Sales spoke hardly a word for the next seven months. Then, despite death threats, she testified against Daniels’ murderer.

“But a bunch of old cronies, 12 white men, acquitted him,” Roberts said.

During that interview, Roberts heard Sales say that her friend’s sacrificial act revealed the depth of his character and his commitment — without the utterance of a single word. “Maybe the greatest way of saying something,” Roberts said, “is to say nothing at all.” But having worked with words all of his professional life — first as an ad man in New York, and then in ministry for 20 years — Roberts has seen the power of words to comfort and heal and inspire. He said he knows there is a time to speak. Comparing “the clanging cymbal, noisy gong, media-obsessed tweet types” with the power of language “to move the chains of injustice and to set the oppressed free,” he said, “We know that talk is cheap and faith without works is dead.”

It is in the aftermath of these life-giving words found in Isaiah 58:7, “to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house,” that the prophet makes a rather confounding statement relative to the examples of God’s silence with Job and Jesus, according to Roberts. Isaiah seems to say that “once you have done these things,” Roberts said, “[then your light will break forth like the dawn](#). You will call and the Lord will answer, you will cry for help, and God will say, ‘Here I am.’”

“In the midst of it all, as we utilize our time,” Roberts said, “maybe we should just shut the hell up and listen.”

*Just Worship is a cooperative effort among Austin and Johnson C. Smith seminaries, the PC(USA) [Office of Theology and Worship](#) and the [Presbyterian Association of Musicians](#).*



## **THE DEACON'S OF ORPC**

Our Deacons are busy at work doing all of the usual things that deacons do. Our Board of Deacons is made up of Carol Flynn, Chuck Flynn, Rich Barry, Tom Stephens, Cindy Riggs, Ruth Breckenridge, Nancy Harm and Nancy Schipper.

AND they can always use our help!!!

Our Deacons have started with a new way to remind us of the needs of the New Hope Food Pantry that we contribute as a congregation to. The deacons of Berkshire Valley and Oak Ridge had shopping bags made with the name of the churches and a nice saying that helps us to be reminded of Jesus' directive to feed the poor. The plan is that folks will take their bag on the last Sunday of the month and then bring it back the following Sunday with items that are needed by the food pantry. We're sure that this will serve as a great way to remind folks that being involved with their deacons is not just a duty, but a privilege. New Hope Food Pantry is currently providing assistance to over 100 families. It take a village! This month the focus of our supplies are as follows:

-Toilet paper, individually wrapped, easily gotten at a Dollar Store

-Toothpaste and tooth brushes

-Bar bathing soap, as well as soft soap

-Laundry Detergent

-Shampoo and Conditioner

-Deodorant & Anti-Perspirant

-Feminine Hygiene Products

-Dish soap is good too! Often there are smaller bottles of dish soap that can be gotten on sale for a dollar. Those are great and always greatly appreciated!

In addition to the Deacon's work with the New Hope Food Pantry, the Deacon Board also voted to support one student for the Hearts For Honduras program that is also

becoming a focus of our Mission & Nurture Committee. The amount to sponsor the student from the Deacons will come directly from the Deacon's Fund.

Also, we discussed taking part in a Stephen Ministry Introductory Workshop which is being held on October 19 at the First Presbyterian Church of Mendham. Two Deacons are interested in attending that half-day long workshop with the Deacon's Fund covering the cost of the registration for ORPC participants.

And last, but not least, the Deacons have discussed various ideas that we could implement, once per year, to do a fundraising effort for the Deacon Board and the work we do. We currently have enough funds to do the things that we want to do and to help the occasional request for assistance, however, replenishment of funds is always something that is never far from our minds, as it should be. Look for further information in the near future as to this topic, and if you have any great fundraising ideas, by all means, let us know!

\*\*\*Special Note : If you would like a Deacon or Pastoral visit, please be in touch with a deacon and we will gladly make that happen. You can always telephone Carol Flynn, our Deacon Chairwoman, with such a request: 973-697-6471, directly to Pastor Chris: 856-345-3261.



## **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

### **OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2019**

#### **OCTOBER**

**RAY & LAURA WOODY – OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>**

**JUDY SABATINO – OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup>**

**JOSH & DEBBIE KALISH – OCTOBER 27<sup>TH</sup>**

**STEVE & JUDY SABATINO – OCTOBER 30<sup>TH</sup>**

#### **NOVEMBER**

**NO ONE REALLY?**

#### **DECEMBER**

**LAURA WOODY – DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>**

**HARRISON RIGGS – DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>**

**JOHN & JANE FREDERICKS – DECEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>**

**EVELYN RIGGS – DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>**

**JOE & CINDY RIGGS – DECEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>**



## **\*\*NEWS FROM MY SCHOOL\*\***

Our school year has begun and we have welcomed three new staff members – Ms. Anna, Ms. Marilyn & Ms. Wilma – with a total of 23 children, eight of those are in the nursery, so our nursery is quite hopping! We also now have three separate classrooms for our students, with Ms. Ashley with four year-olds – preparing them for kindergarten next year, Ms. Jeanne with the three year-olds who are busily working on learning their letters and numbers and shapes and how to interact in a school environment. Ms. Marilyn is with our two year-olds, and they are beginning to do things like learning how to hold a crayon and a pencil, how hold focus on tasks, as well as how to play appropriately with a group of friends.

Each month we are doing a special event. In September, we had Pajama Day, in October we're all going pumpkin picking with a Halloween party, November will see us focus on Thanksgiving with December having our obvious focus on Christmas which will include a visit from Santa Claus.

I would also like to put out a thank you to several folks who have donated some wonderful things for My School kids to play with. We thank the Flynns, Janet Breckenridge, the Elams, the Parrs, the Schippers, the Woodys AND our staff who have brought in a number of things for their students to use in their learning journey.

We also need to put out a big thank you to Troop 151 who came out on a Saturday morning about a month ago and rebuilt our sandbox in our playground behind the Parish House. Just as big a thank you also goes out to the Riggs for donating the new sand to fill the new sandbox.



## **To Keep In Your Prayers**

**Here at ORPC we lift-up in our prayers each Sunday morning a whole host of issues that we are carrying in our hearts. There is power in prayer and the more we lift-up those concerns, the more we can feel confident that the prayers will be answered in a way that God knows will always be best. Keep the following concerns in your prayers as you speak with God, and let us know what to add to our list.**

**Bob and Lois Wells**

**Don Foth**

**Dick and Bernice Greenwood**

**Val, Karen, Ray, Anita, Sam, Dotty & Robert**

**Joan and Jim DeYoung**

**Dale Dunn**

**Safety in our schools and on our streets**

**Prayers for our country, that we come together**

**Prayers for the ministry of My School**

**Peace in the trouble spots of our world, especially for**

**The Holy Land**

**The Bahamas**

**Puerto Rico**

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### **USHERS**

October 6<sup>th</sup> – Chuck Flynn & Rich Schipper, October 13<sup>th</sup> – Sue & Jeff Elam,

October 20<sup>th</sup> – John & Martha Scheri, October 27<sup>th</sup> – Bill & Nancy Walter,

November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Rich & Nancy Schipper, November 10<sup>th</sup> – Mary Parr & Laura Woody,

November 17<sup>th</sup> – Joe & Cindy Riggs, November 24<sup>th</sup> – Don & Jane Sommer,  
December 1<sup>st</sup> – Sue & Jeff Elam, December 8<sup>th</sup> – Steve & Judy Sabatino,  
December 15<sup>th</sup> – John & Martha Scheri, December 22<sup>nd</sup> – Bill & Nancy Walter,  
December 24<sup>th</sup> – Rich & Nancy Schipper, December 29<sup>th</sup> – Mary Parr & Laura Woody

## **The Financial Picture of ORPC**

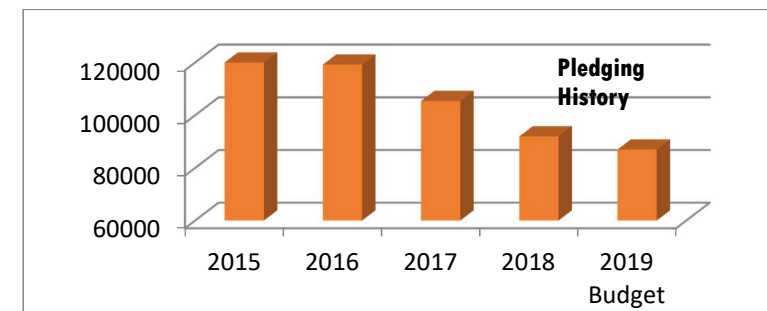
### **General**

Year to date, our operating deficit is \$21,800, that is now down from where it was at the beginning of the summer. That is good news, however, we are still running a deficit, which is never good news. Clearly the way that we can meet this shortfall is by having those who can, increase their pledge to the church so that we don't run into a very constraining financial problem in the future. Proceeds from the Golf Outing over the summer have come in at just about where they usually are, which is just about \$20,000.

Another piece of good news for us is that My School is stabilizing financially and therefore, they are not in any need of aid from the church. With the renovations nearly complete, the hope is that My School will become even more appealing to families in need of day care.

So far, the renovations that have been completed have used \$145,268 of the \$200,000 bank loan we took from Lake Land Bank. We still need families who are able to pledge to the Capital Campaign so that the repayment schedule of the loan does not become a massive burden on the regular budge and cause us to have to make austere cutbacks to regular expenses.

This following was included in the last newsletter, but I wanted to include this here again to reinforce this information which is helpful for all of us in understanding the financial position of ORPC



What can be done? Our non-pledging members need to pledge. And, we need to push ourselves to increase our membership. Ten new families pledging just \$25 per week would increase our income by \$13,000 per year, or about fifteen percent. Not to mention the new energy and involvement they'd bring.

### **ORPC CEMETERY REPORT - FALL 2019**

The Cemetery Committee is extremely grateful to Joan and Jim DeYoung for their many years of service running and overseeing the needs of the cemetery. Joan and Jim retired this year as Joan has had knee and back surgery. We wish Joan a speedy recovery and a healthy, happy retirement for both. The Committee and Session are researching new ways to oversee the daily operations of the cemetery. Rich Schipper will cover daily operations, however, a team effort will be needed until a dedicated Cemetery Director can be hired.

Burials and site sales have been very low this year. There have been other years like this in the past and then suddenly things get busier. Please communicate to friends and neighbors that our cemetery is open to all and not just Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church members.

The Cemetery will need a new columbarium soon and we are researching different types and styles that will blend into our landscape. We would also like to computerize the records and update our website.

Please inform the Cemetery Committee if you know of anyone who would be interested in the Cemetery Director position or if you would like to be involved in any way.

Richard Schipper  
ORCA Chairman

### ***A NOTE ON BIBLE STUDY***

At the end of July, we completed our journey through the Book of Acts. We then spent the month of August looking at the Mission of the Church. Each week we had a mission focus; local, regional, national and international. Clearly, our Scriptures and the Holy Spirit leads us to know that we are responsible to and for one another. How we do that, is by way of the mission of the church.

THEN, at the beginning of September, we began a new series, this time looking at Paul's letter to the Roman Church. We're not going chapter by chapter, but instead looking at the 'big' subjects that Paul brings up and teaches the Roman Church about. It's an important letter to understand, because unlike Paul's other letters that are addressing specific issues and occurrences, Romans give us our theological foundation.

And, of course, everyone is encouraged to come and be a part of the bible study conversations! You'd be surprised with how much those who come enjoy the gatherings that we have on most every Monday evening at the Oak Ridge Parish House at 7:30, or Tuesday morning at the Berkshire Valley Ed Building at 11:00am. And for those who attend, it's not just a great time of fellowship and conversation, but it also provides participants with a much greater understanding of the Scripture and Message on Sunday morning. Come and be a part of the learning!

....AND THE CONVERSATION!!! You'll be glad you did....

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## Generation X & The Church....

When I first began my call as a pastor in the Presbyterian Church USA in 2008, I would look from the pulpit and see few people my age. It took me a while to start asking why it was this way, even though it was an immediate concern, but I did quickly learn that this is the way it is everywhere.

I was born in 1969, right smack in the middle of what is known as Generation X (also known as Gen X - the generation born after that of the baby boomers - roughly from the early 1960s to late 1970s). I grew-up in the church, as did the majority of my generational co-hort. Regular church attendance, Sunday School and youth group were all a normal part of the picture. So, if so many of us were raised in the church, why and when did we stop attending?

In the 1980's, when Generation X was at what many would consider its most impressionable age, the world was changing in ways we hadn't seen before. Technology was growing in directions that became all-consuming. Globalization kicked into high gear; many people in the US could suddenly have almost anything they wanted because it was cheaper than before. At least a certain segment of society began to develop around the closest mall, and cable television became standard and made the world much smaller. And, within the US churches there was something of a revolution taking place too, with much of it was playing out on our televisions. The rise of the Pentecostal televangelists like Jim Bakker, Jerry Falwell, Oral Roberts, Pat Robertson and a handful of others, and the scandals that came along with them, gave rise to a very conservative and narrow viewpoint of faith and the church. It also gave a new life to

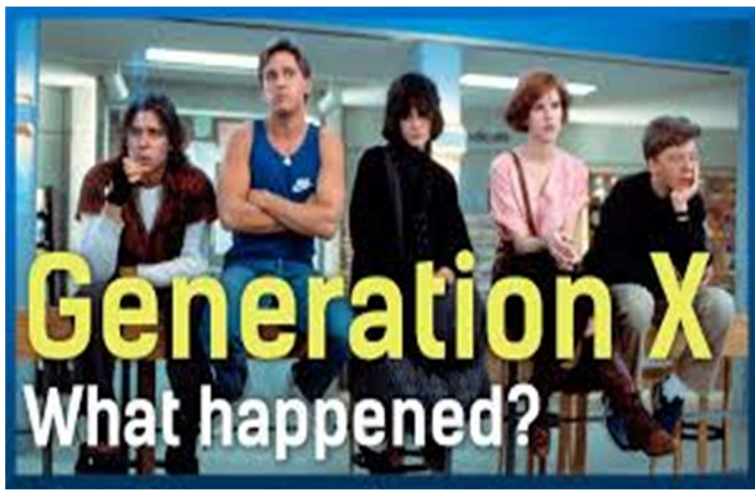
the sense that the church was simply a corrupt institution that was after your money, especially after seeing some of those named above using the money that was coming in to build religious theme parks and to finance conservative organizations that were vying to control Washington, D.C. My generation growing-up at that time saw this happening and collectively said, "Who wants to be a part of that? Not me...."

Granted, the topic is a very deep and wide one, but we Gen Xers who are still in the church need to start talking about all of this so that we can reach out to those of us who

may just be the solution to the future of the church. This is what I am focusing on for my DMin. Dissertation project. Below is a link to an anonymous survey that asks about this subject. If you were born between 1965 and 1975, I would really appreciate you taking the ten minutes or so and filling it out. If you are not Gen X, but know someone that is, I'd appreciate you begging them to help me out by answering the survey. This is not only for folks who are church active or even 'churched' on some level. It's for all people who were born between 1965 and 1975 and grew-up or live-in the Northern or Southern tri-state areas of New Jersey.

This is a conversation that needs to start and be taken seriously for the future of the church, and for Gen X's spiritual health.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZN3989G>



10. Trimmed all shrubs around the Parish House
11. Cut down and removed several trees from the area behind the Parish House
12. Removed old basketball hoop and debris from playground
13. Cleaned and painted the downstairs hallway
14. Painted walls in three classrooms downstairs
15. Painted both the women's and men's bathrooms downstairs
16. Repaired two cribs for the nursery
17. Removed air conditioning units in the nursery and repaired the walls where there had been damage due to the previous air conditioners.
18. Installed hvac air conditioning unit in the nursery
19. Installed new sandbox in the playground (the Boy Scouts)
20. Demolished and removed the old shed behind the Parish House

\*\*This may just not be a complete list, there's just been that much work being done in and around the Parish House.

## **Some Upcoming Events**

### Operations Project List

There has been so much happening here at Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church this year that it can seem really difficult to keep track of it all. It has been a long time in coming, but the Parish House has finally gotten the attention that it has been needing for so long. The following are a list of the projects that have been completed this year.

1. New paint job in large fellowship hall
2. New carpeting in large fellowship hall
3. Cleaning of stage and stage curtains in large fellowship hall
4. Replacing very soon the windows in the large fellowship hall
5. Installation of new hvac air conditioning units
6. Replaced stained ceiling tiles in the kitchen
7. Repaired kitchen center island and drawers
8. Cleaned the church mailbox area and removed items to the attic
9. Complete renovation of the former Panel Room – this includes new walls, new insulation in the walls, new doors, closet and cabinet spaces built and installed, new front door with completed masonry work of new front entrance, removal and cleaning of ceiling tiles, painting of tile grid, replacing of ceiling insulation and tiles, re-pointing of fire place, purchase of new furnishings, installation of hvac air conditioning and heating units.

- 1. October 13<sup>th</sup>, Mine Hill Presbyterian Church, “The Pictures Of Jesus in The Four Gospels” presented by Deborah Thompson Pierce**
- 2. October 18<sup>th</sup>, West Side Methodist is showing “Pilgrim’s Progress’ at 7 pm. Free refreshments.**
- 3. October 19<sup>th</sup>, ‘A Tea For All Seasons’ at the West Milford Presbyterian Church, \$10 donation, 2-4 pm**
- 4. October 19<sup>th</sup>, Fall Harvest Vendor Fair @ First Presbyterian Church of Newton**
- 5. October 20<sup>th</sup>, Crop Walk as organized by the West Milford Ministerium**
- 6. November 2<sup>nd</sup>, Faith In Action Autumn, gathering at the Echo Lake Baptist Church at 9 am for breakfast.**

- 7. November 2<sup>nd</sup>, Berkshire Valley Presbyterian Church  
Craft Fair, 10-4 pm, organized by the Presb. Women.**
- 8. November 9<sup>th</sup>, AARP Smart Driver Course at the  
Berkshire Valley Presbyterian Church, 9 – 3:30 pm**
- 9. November 9<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Craft Faith at St. Jude's  
Catholic Church, Hopatcong**
- 10. November 12<sup>th</sup>, Presbytery Meeting at Blairstown  
Presbyterian Church, 1-5 pm**
- 11. November 24<sup>th</sup>, 'The Music Man', at Sparta  
Presbyterian Church, call for tickets.**