

*First Congregational Church of River Edge
River Edge, New Jersey*

**A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD
*Epiphany of the Lord***

January 8, 2012

10:00 am

**Those who are able please stand*

SILENCE *God beyond our knowing, grant us today new glimpses of who you are and what you intend for us to be. You draw us irresistibly toward the light. We are attracted to your revelation. Come, Holy Mystery, to reveal as much of your truth as we can stretch to understand and receive into our lives. Amen.*

WELCOME

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Pumpkin Patch 2012

Russell Van Wetering

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

*During the Prelude, we invite you to take time to quiet your heart
and discover anew God's presence in your life.*

PRELUDE

The Kings

Cornelius/Pearce

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: In a new year—
 the same God who called
 Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
 and who called
 Peter, Priscilla and Paul...

People: **Also calls us!**

Pastor: To receive God's grace,

People: **And to be a light and a witness in our world.**

Pastor: Let us worship God.

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

CALL TO CONFESSION (seated)

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION (seated)

Forgiving Lord, our promises have sometimes outrun our performances. We have good intentions, but do not follow through. We have faltered in our commitments. We have been haphazard in our service. We have sometimes served reluctantly and half-heartedly. Forgive us, we pray, for our lukewarm loyalty, and help us, in this new year, to serve you with more intensity. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Prayer for Mercy (Kyrie)
The Chancel Choir

John Weaver

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD AND ONE ANOTHER

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*CONGREGATIONAL CHORAL RESPONSE (standing)

**Glory to the Creator,
the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three – in – One;
as it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
world without end, Amen. Amen.**

*PEACE OF CHRIST (standing)

Pastor: As we are forgiven in Jesus Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us extend to one another the peace of Christ...

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

Jayne Wieboldt

(Church School children, youth and staff may leave for their classes)

SCRIPTURE READING

Joanne Hernandez, *Lay Reader*

Matthew 2:1-23

NT. pg. 2

Lay Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

*HYMN

What Child Is This

#148

DIALOGUE SERMON

Setting the Record Straight

The Rev. Charles F. Holm & James Berrie

"In the time of King Herod..."

(Matthew 2:1)

ORGAN RESPONSE

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

SHARING OUR TITHES, OUR GIFTS, OFFERINGS

Offertory Invitation

Offertory Anthem

Star in the East
The Chancel Choir

arr. David Ashley White

*Doxology

*Unison Prayer of Dedication (standing)

**Loving God, may we who have heard the Good News
now become the Good News People, showing by the
lives we live, the words we say, and the gifts we share
that we, too, have knelt at the manger and have
received the Good News of great joy. Amen.**

CALL TO PRAYER

“O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word”
(sing three times)

Ruth Duck



O ra - diant Christ, in - car - nate Word, e - ter - nal love re - vealed in time:



Come, make your home with - in our hearts, that we may dwell in light sub - lime.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts and debtors)

CHORAL RESPONSE

*HYMN

Arise, Your Light Is Come

#164

*BENEDICTION

This is a time for reflection and prayer, and we invite you to remain seated in silence until the postlude is ended.

POSTLUDE

How Brightly Shines the Morning Star

Johann Pachelbel



DEACON /USHERS: ☩ Carole Meeks, Steve Carmody, Vic Babington, Jr., Jeff Keehn,
Ernest Myhren, Nate Mello, Frank Meeks

☩ Head Usher

COUNTERS: Art Caughlan, Roger Hall, Chester Price, Michelle Heinzinger

GREETERS: Rylie, Ronnell and Robert Kearns

LAY READER: Joanne Hernandez

ALTAR GUILD: Diane Lento and Noreen Van Wetering

CHILD CARE: Renee Froonjian and Alice Frylinck

FELLOWSHIP TIME: Board of Christian Service

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Please turn off or silence all electronics before worship.

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WELCOME, if you are a guest or visitor with us this morning! You are invited to sign our guest book in the Narthex, or fill out one of the visitor cards found in your pew. Cards can be placed in the plate as the offering is received.

*

NURSERY AND CHILD CARE – is provided during Sunday worship for infants and toddlers in the Nursery on the lower level. Ask an usher or greeter for assistance.

*

BOXES OF OFFERING ENVELOPES for 2012 are available in the Parlor. Please pick up yours today.

*

LARGE PRINT HYMNS may be obtained from an usher.

*

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 the 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.

*

PRAYER CHAIN – You are welcome to put the name of a loved one, friend or neighbor on the Prayer List weekly. Call the church office at 201-261-1712, if you would like to add someone to the list. The Prayer List can be found in the bulletin. A Prayer List request form can be found in the Narthex each Sunday morning. Prayers DO make a difference.

*

DEVOTIONAL PAMPHLETS, “Care Notes,” and devotional guides, “The Upper Room,” are available in the church narthex. The rack is refreshed regularly. Please take these for your own use or for friends.

*

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY SUNDAY will be observed on Sunday, January 15, 2012, during the 10:00 AM Service and at the after-worship Fellowship Time. This will be an opportunity for us to celebrate and provide our members with more information about this unique ministry within our congregation!

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THE ALTAR FLOWERS which enrich our worship today are provided by the church’s Flower Fund.

*

WINE, BEER AND CHEESE TASTING to benefit the church’s Capital Fund will take place on Saturday, February 11, 2012, 6:30 pm at Nelson Patterson Insurance Agency, 746 River Road, New Milford, NJ. Tickets are available at Fellowship Time or by contacting Tom Rushforth at 201-265-1062.

*

SECOND SUNDAY DONATIONS NEEDED – Donations for the Second Sunday’s program are needed. If you would like to help, please see Anna Lou Kuenzler during Fellowship Time. Second Sunday is our congregation’s ministry to our developmentally challenged friends of our church and community.

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CHAIR LIFT TO FELLOWSHIP HALL – The Chair Lift is located in the hallway at the exit by the pulpit. Please let one of the ushers know you will need assistance.

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PLEDGE CARDS – A solid financial commitment from our members and friends helps First Congregational Church of River Edge grow and thrive. Please remember to return your 2012 pledge card to the church as soon as possible. Pledge cards are on the table in the Narthex.

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SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Church Council has called a Special Meeting of the Congregation for Sunday, January 8, 2012, immediately following the morning service, to hear the report of the Vision Team as they present a proposed new Church Constitution and By-Laws.

Alice Rushforth
Church Clerk

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COPIES OF PROPOSED NEW CHURCH CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AVAILABLE

Copies of the proposed new Church Constitution and Bylaws are now available on the narthex table or from the Church Office. The congregation will be asked to vote on the document at the Annual Meeting scheduled for Sunday, February 5, 2012.

The Life of Our Church This Week

Sunday, January 8, 2012

- 9:15 am – Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 9:30 am – Carol/Nowell Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 am – Worship/Church School/Child Care
- 10:00 am – Confirmation Class
- 11:15 am – Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)
- Fellowship Time following meeting
- 12:30 pm – Korean Baptist Church
- 4:30 pm – Second Sunday Program

Monday, January 9, 2012

Congregator Deadline

- 12:00 Noon – Al-Anon
- 5:30 pm – Daisy Girl Scouts
- 7:00 pm – Vision Team (Board Room)
- 7:30 pm – Women’s Fellowship Executive Board (Parlor)

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

- 3:15 pm – Girl Scout Troop #110
- 7:00 pm – Building Renovation Team

Wednesday, January 11, 2012

- 7:00 pm – AA
- 7:30 pm – Board of Deacons

Thursday, January 12, 2012

- 7:00 pm - Bell Choir
- 7:30 pm – River Edge Swim Club
- 8:10 pm - Chancel Choir

Friday, January 13, 2012

- 7:00 pm – Tri-County Pipe & Drum Rehearsal

Saturday, January 14, 2012

- 8:30 am - KWIS
- 7:00 pm – AA

Sunday, January 15, 2011

Prayer Shawl Ministry Sunday

- 8:45 am – Adult Study (Library)
- 9:15 am – Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 9:30 am – Carol/Nowell Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 am – Worship Service/Church School/Child Care
- 10:00 am – Confirmation Class
- 11:00 am – Fellowship Time
- 11:15 am – Pumpkin Patch Planning (Library)
- 12:30 pm – Korean Baptist Church

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 Noon and 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm*

Church Staff

The Rev. Charles F. Holm Pastor	cfhcfhrev@aol.com 201-483-8717 (home)
Gloria Norton, S.M.M. Director of Music	glorinor@aol.com
Theresa Wallace Administrative Assistant	office@fccriveredge.org



PUMPKIN PATCH 2012 PLANNING MEETING SET!

An important Meeting --- to begin the planning for this October's **Pumpkin Patch** --- will be held on Sunday, January 15, 11:30 AM, in the Church Library (lower level). Those wanting to know more about 'the patch', and perhaps to be a part of this year's patch coordination and planning are urged to attend. Your support is needed! For more information, contact Pam Weiler or Ron Phillips, 201-261-3895.

STAR IN THE EAST

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining,
Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.

Shall we then yield him, in clostly devotion,
Odors of Edom, and offerings divine,
Gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest, and gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would his favor secure,
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best.....

text by Reginald Heber (1783-1826)

