

December  
2023



One Spring Street, P O Box 185, Harrington Park  
NJ 07640

## Community Church in Harrington Park

# The Courier

Dear Friends,

It's worth thinking about the people brought together in the two different birth/early life stories we think about at Christmas. In Luke's story, we have angels coming to a bunch of shepherds out in the pasture lands. Shepherds were working class folks. Shepherding wasn't a glamorous profession, but it was crucial to the economic fabric of Israel.

In Matthew's story, we have Magi coming from the east to see the toddler Jesus. The Magi were readers of the heavens. It seems kind of primitive to us, but they were probably sort of upper middle class, educated folks for their times. They were foreigners.

It's ironic that Luke, who writes more to non-Jewish folk, talks of Jewish shepherds, and Matthew, who writes to Jews, talks about Magi coming from outside Israel. Anyway, there's a mix of folks here, witnessing the birth of Jesus, and then His "toddlerhood." It reminds us of what Paul says to the Galatians: "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

We in the church are supposed to be one. There isn't supposed to be black or white. Neither educated or not-as-much educated. Or upper middle class or working class. Or, especially in our situation, English-speaking and Korean. We're supposed to be together... and we are, right from the very birth of Jesus.

One of the great challenges of the church in our area is to figure out how to be brothers and sisters with our Korean... brothers and sisters. We should be in one congregation with Korean Christians. But, if we can't do that - and admittedly it's hard - how do we cooperate with the Korean church? How do we spend time with them? How do we engage in mission with them? How do we learn from them? How do we take something away from their fervent and passionate belief and following?

This is a really important question. It's hard to work out in practice. But it's really important and one of the challenges that Scripture lays out to modern Christians. It's a privilege to serve Him with you

Fondly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Steve Sayer".

### Next Small Group Sessions Tackle Anxiety

The world is a strange place right now. Anxiety may be as much of an epidemic as COVID 19 was. Our next set of small group sessions will have a look at anxiety. We'll use a five-week video curriculum from Max Lucado called *Anxious for Nothing*. It will run from Sunday, January 7 (and the week after) until the week after Sunday, February 4. Sessions will be held on both Sunday mornings after worship at about 11:15, and Wednesday evenings by zoom at 7:15. We learn and grow by being together in small groups. We hope you'll be part of this opportunity.



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the Community Church in  
Harrington Park  
The Rev. Steve Sayer, Pastor,  
Office--201-768-2457;  
Cell--570-656-1412;  
Home--201-768-2474  
Community Church email:  
[cchp@verizon.net](mailto:cchp@verizon.net)  
The Rev. Charles P. Johnson,  
Pastor Emeritus  
The Rev. George V. Kaden,  
Pastor Emeritus

## Reaching People through the Christmas Story

Every time we do the Live Nativity, a couple hundred people from our area come to be part of it. The Live Nativity happens this Sunday, December 17 at 12:30. The performance begins at 1 PM. YOU are a huge part of the Nativity. There's always a lot of setup and carrying to do. But the most important thing we can do that Sunday afternoon is to greet folks and welcome them to our church. This is one of a couple days that we put our best face before the community, so that they can see we're the church in the heart of the community, with the community in its heart.

Sunday is also the Musicale. We have sent out a mailing that invites people to both the Musicale and the Nativity. After the Musicale, we'll hold a light lunch in Founders' Hall to make it easy for everyone to stay for the Nativity. Please come to worship dressed casually and warmly, have lunch, and then welcome folks to the festivities. We pray that through these events, we're planting seeds that may lead folks to a deeper relationship with Christ through our church.

## Christmas Concert in Westwood for the Benefit of the Hungry

Parkside Community Church will be putting on a Christmas Concert on Saturday, December 16 at 7 PM. The proceeds from the concert will support our partner in the food ministry throughout the region. Please consider registering. You will not be disappointed with the amazing talent we've gathered for this concert! Register at [parksidechurch.net](http://parksidechurch.net).

## Reformed Church Sponsors Trip to Oman

We support the Bode family in the ministry in Oman. We've been fortunate to have them visit a couple of times over the last few years. The Reformed Church in America is sponsoring a trip to Oman so that folks can get a better idea of what our work in that country entails. If you'd like some info on that trip, you can find it here: [https://reformedchurch.my.salesforce-sites.com/eventlisting/CnP\\_PaaS\\_EVT\\_ExternalRegistrationPage?event\\_id=a368X000000GddFQAS](https://reformedchurch.my.salesforce-sites.com/eventlisting/CnP_PaaS_EVT_ExternalRegistrationPage?event_id=a368X000000GddFQAS)



**Worship Committee**

Please join us for all of our Advent and Christmas services as we gather in worship to celebrate the birth of Jesus. December 17 is the third Sunday in Advent and the outstanding Musicale worship service with the Chancel, Bell and Alleluia Choirs and a brass quintet. On December 24, we will have three worship services beginning in the morning at 10 AM with the fourth Sunday in Advent, followed by the evening 7:00 PM and 11:00 PM Christmas Eve candlelight services. Because we'll worship later that evening, our morning worship will be a wee bit abbreviated.

Weather permitting, we will have the outside luminary display on Christmas Eve. After the morning worship service at 11:15 AM, we need volunteers to help put out the luminary buckets and candles. Also two volunteers are needed to light the candles at 6:00 PM and several volunteers are needed to take in the luminaries after the 11:00 PM service. If you can help at any of these times, please tell Sanae or Chris. The luminaries are a lovely tradition that we hope to continue in this, our 125th year. Does anyone know the first year we had a luminary display? That's just one of many historical facts we need to archive.

Thank you to all of our "behind the scenes" elves who decorated the church for Christmas including the sanctuary tree, pews, windows, poinsettias and the displays in the Johnson Chapel. A special thank you to our Sunday School children for decorating the tree in the chapel.



## **THE LIVE NATIVITY**

**Sunday, December 17th from 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM**

Mark your calendars for the Live Nativity program on Sunday, December 17, 2023, following our Musicale worship service. There will be a light lunch and then we need "all hands on deck" to help with set-up for the program which begins at 1:00 PM on the Dean Street side lawn.

Please invite your friends and family to this very special Christmas afternoon celebrating the birth of Jesus. The Christmas Story narration begins at 1:00 PM. All children are invited to participate as an angel or shepherd and should arrive by 12:30 PM for costuming. The whole family will have fun at the petting zoo - including a cow, sheep, goat, donkey and even a camel. Join in singing carols and enjoy a cup of hot cocoa and cookies while sharing meaningful moments together at our Live Nativity.

## **125th Anniversary Worship Service and Program**

On November 19, we celebrated 125 years of Christian growth in Harrington Park that began with a group of eight adults meeting for Sunday School in 1898. The worship service included reflections from our Pastors Emeriti, Chuck Johnson and George Kaden, a message, "Then and Now" from our pastor, Steve Sayer and congratulations from RCA representative, Rev. Elizabeth Testa. Just like "old times", Chuck and Donna Johnson sang and Janet Kaden played the piano.

Following worship, we had a celebration brunch and program in Founders' Hall led by first vice president of consistory, Barry Wood. During the program we recognized 13 people for having 50 years or more of membership in the church. (See below). We heard memories from Dorothy Nelson and our pastors: Steve, Chuck, George and Mel Van Hattem who has served as our classis supervisor and interim pastor. Many in attendance wrote a memory and we are including one in the Courier each month.

On the church website, you can watch the anniversary worship service, program and a video with over 300 pictures of people and church activities over the years. Clara Eckerson wrote a detailed church history beginning in 1898 with stories through 1993. Copies are available in the office; it's a great read. We want to continue this historical record and are looking for a group of people to write about CCHP from 1993 to the present. Please contact the office and let Lori know if you are interested in working on this project.

Thank you to the 125th Anniversary committee members: Lori Anders, Jean Greenlaw, Joan Hoerauf, Dennis & Chris Novak and Sanae Tomita. Also thank you to Tracy Ciavaglia and the Guild for the fruit and desserts and everyone who helped go through pictures, set-up, serve and clean-up. It was a very special event in the life of our church. Praise God from whom all blessing flow for the past members who had such faith and foresight to establish a church in Harrington Park and the present members of CCHP who continue to worship Him and work for His glory.

**50 + Year Members:** Dorothy Nelson, Marilyn Clark, Gail Keating, Curtis Stock, Marge Louis, Anene Seymour-Jones, Anne McBride, Lois Parma, Charles Moorman, Sue & Barry Wood, Jeff Parma, Sharon Brahs



## *Guild for Christian Service*

Flower envelopes are in the pews if you'd like to contribute to our Christmas poinsettia display.

Also, the 2024 flower calendar is on the bulletin board at the top of the stairs. If you'd like to honor a special date or memorialize a special person, please sign your name on one space only, fill out a slip, and make your check for \$25 payable to Guild for Christian Service. Place it in the offering plate or leave it on Lori's desk in the church office.

**Tracy Ciavaglia & Chris Novak**



Our next Women's Breakfast Ministry event will be on Saturday, January 6th in Founders' Hall. The time is 9:30. We will begin with a delicious breakfast, followed by a speaker who will share her journey of faith with us. We hope you can join us! And we invite you to bring your friends, co-workers, and neighbors with you! As you know, we have women from several different churches who attend these breakfasts and, what means so much to all of us, is coming together as sisters in Christ.

### **Caring and Sharing Committee**

Operation Christmas Child 2023 was a huge success! Our church collected 46 boxes! Community Church had the second highest donation number amongst local churches in our area! Thank you to all who participated in this wonderful ministry! Thank you also to all those who donated online as well!

The Caring and Sharing Committee works hard behind the scenes to send out cards to our members! They also deliver plants and cards for Easter and Christmas. If you would like to be a part of this ministry all you need is a caring heart and a pen!! For more information please contact June Anton at [janton228@aol.com](mailto:janton228@aol.com) or Allison Campbell at [ccampxali@aol.com](mailto:ccampxali@aol.com)



The puppeteers did an amazing skit on Sunday Dec 10 – Where's God? I'm so very proud of them. We will resume puppets again on Sunday, January 7 at 10:00 AM

Attention coffee lovers! We are always looking for volunteers to make coffee and provide snacks for coffee hour after church. This is a time to meet new people and fellowship with each other and of course enjoy delicious coffee! When I first started attending CCHP I was a bit shy, but wanted to volunteer for something. I was not sure how the coffee hour even worked, which is what stopped me from volunteering for the first time! It is actually super easy and fun! If you do volunteer I will be happy to meet you and walk you through it! Sign up sheet is in Founders Hall, but feel free to reach out to me as well! [Jocelynbrueck@gmail.com](mailto:Jocelynbrueck@gmail.com).



Did you know that we have a team of members at CCHP that visit our members at their homes, hospital, or nursing home? If this is something you may be interested in please contact Sharon Brahs at [s.brahs@icloud.com](mailto:s.brahs@icloud.com).

**Feed Our Souls** delivered 23 delicious meals in November! This is a wonderful ministry that truly touches people's lives in more ways than one. Jesus tells us to love and care for one another and to meet a need if we are able to—and this ministry truly exemplifies these teachings. If you would like to be a part of Feed Our Souls or would like to know more about it please contact Sue Wood at [sue\\_barry\\_wood@msn.com](mailto:sue_barry_wood@msn.com).



The Search Committee is at the point where we will be reviewing the resumes we have and setting up interviews with the various candidates. We will definitely keep you posted on our progress. If you should have any questions, concerns, feel free to reach out to any member of the search committee. Bob Carr and Jeff Pond – Co-chairman, Jill Cox, Jane Marshall, Justin Johnson, Chris Novak, Joan Hoerauf and our representative from RCA Jodie Wu.



## Allenwood School

Educational Services  
Professional of the year

*Ms. Janet Kaden*

Congratulations to Janet Kaden, for receiving the  
Governor's Educator of the Year Award.

for

Educational Services Professional of the Year

at Allenwood School in Wall Township!

### Directory Update!

Please email [cchp@verizon.net](mailto:cchp@verizon.net) if any of your contact information has changed. We will be printing new directories in the next week or so, and we'd love to have all listings current.

Marge Louis has relocated to live with her son. Her new address is:

Marge Louis  
c/o Jeff Louis  
4310 East Silverwood Drive  
Phoenix, AZ 85048

### A letter from one of our Pastors Emeritus:

*Dear Pastor Steve, Lori, and Congregation,*

*Our hearts are overflowing with joy from our presence and participation in your 125-year celebration. We praise God for its significance and the privilege of being a part of it.*

*Thank you for all the arrangements for us personally. It all worked out so well.*

*God bless you as you go forward.*

*"Blest be the tie that binds . . . "*

*Much love in Christ,  
Chuck and Donna*



### **PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

Anonymous; Lynn Baker; DeAnna and Roger Carman; Ernie Hepperle; Janet Kosack; Nancy Lanzalotto; Marge Louis; Ed Serrano; Craig Terjanian, the Search Committee.



### A letter from a former parishioner:

*Dear Steve,*

*I am writing to congratulate you and the church community on the 125-year anniversary of the church spreading God's Word. I am so sorry that I will not be able to join the congregation in celebration, but I do want to extend my thanks for a wonderful church experience when I lived in Harrington Park.*

*The Community Church was always open to all who needed a meeting place, and I was always proud to be a member of such a welcoming church. My best wishes for a continued 125 years of giving, serving, and sharing God's Word.*

*Fondly,  
Penny Kaliski*

# The Community Church

## December/January, 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>Dec. 13</i> <i>Feed Our Souls</i> 9:00 Courier Assembly 7:00 Search Committee	<i>14</i> <i>Feed Our Souls</i> 7:30 Chancel Choir	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>17</i> 9:00 Choir 10:00 Musicate 11:15 Lunch 12:30 Live Nativity 4:00 Caroling at Brookside Village	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> 7:00 Property Committee	<i>21</i> 7:30 Chancel Choir	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>24</i> 9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship, Puppets & SS 7 & 11 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i> 7:30 Ramsey Wind Symphony, FH	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>31</i> 10:00 Worship	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> 7:30 Consistory	<i>3</i> 10:00 Publicity Mtg. 7:30 Ramsey Wind Symphony, FH	<i>4</i> 7:30 Chancel Choir	<i>5</i> <b>Courier Deadline</b>	<i>6</i> 9:30 Women's Breakfast
<i>7</i> 9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship, Puppets & SS 11:15 Alleluia Choir 11:15 Small Group	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> 7:00 Outreach 7:30 Deborah Circle	<i>10</i> 9:00 Courier Assembly 7:15 Zoom Small Group 7:30 Ramsey Wind Symphony, FH	<i>11</i> 7:30 Chancel Choir	<i>12</i> 11-3:00 Club 60 in Founders' Hall	<i>13</i> 8:30 Men's Group

SS=Sunday School; FH=Founders' Hall; HPBOE=Harrington Park Board of Education



### I remember....

**Luminaries** - The first year we folded newsprint to make the bags! We advanced to white lunch bags and now use plastic buckets. It makes it easier to keep the candles lit. It's a blessing - it's still a tradition.

**Children's Worship** - Led by Colleen Wiessner and a host of storytellers, this program taught and instilled in the youngest members of the congregation countless Bible stories. (Our daughter, Rebecca, having experienced this program, has implemented it in her church in Williamsburg, VA.)

Paul & Ellen Nelson

I loved meeting **Rev. Johnson** in his office to study for the Bible Quiz. I was approximately 12 - 13 years old. We studied the book of John. Our church, represented by me, opposed two other local "Bible Quiz" churches in a Jeopardy-style tournament. Rev. Johnson instructed me to prepare for the tournament.

Lynn Baker

Our family moved into Harrington Park in 1948. I was four years old going to Sunday School in the church on Columbus Avenue. Class was downstairs (basement), narrow hall, cement-covered walls and the furnace pumping away. It was scary!

Gail C. Keating

Going into NYC to bring food and clothing to the homeless with Rachel Minaya, her brother James and others. A wonderful ministry!

Steve Baumann



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