

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MANASQUAN'S



"I believe the children are our future; teach them well and let them lead the way..." O.K., maybe that is not exactly a biblical quote, and to be quite honest with you, I am not in the habit of quoting Whitney Houston, but every now and then some fairly powerful words can come from unlikely sources. The truth is that the children are our future, and that cannot be denied. As parents, it is our obligation to teach them with the best of our ability to be humble, respectful, loving, caring, accepting,



responsible adults, with integrity and a strong sense of the Christian values that we hold so dear. Unfortunately, with every passing day it is getting harder and harder to raise our children to be humble Christ Followers. The outside world, with all of its lies and deception, is blurring the lines every day, making it that much harder for us to keep our children on the straight and narrow, much less keeping them focused on remaining in Christ's light. Many of us understand that we cannot do it alone and realize that we must rely on the help of our church family, and the dedicated members of our Christian Ed Commission, our Sunday School teachers and all of the hard working volunteers that help guide our youth and children.



"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it" Proverbs 22:6

We are blessed in this church to have a great paid staff, but also some truly gifted



volunteers that have helped us prepare our children for the challenging road ahead. Our Sunday school teachers are a vital part of our children's lives, and bring to our children many of the same lessons that we adults learn each week from Pastor Jim, but on a level that they can understand. This is a tough job, and it has



been handled very gracefully and professionally by our talented teachers, under the leadership of our Youth Director, Paul Baker, and C.E. Elders, Derek Ferwerda, and Lou Anne Nelson. Over the past few months, while bringing my fifteen year old son to youth group, and spending some time with Paul and our youth, I have witnessed first hand not only the relationship that Paul has built with our youth, which is very special, in my opinion, but also the relationship that our youth has built with each other. There is not a doubt in my mind that our church, it's mission, our community, and the world is in very good hands, and we must credit the work of our Christian Ed leadership and amazing Sunday school teachers for teaching and connecting with our children on a level that will help shape their futures and guide them through many of life's difficult decisions.

*"When you teach a child writing, you hold its hand while it forms the letters: that is, it forms the letters because you are forming them. We love and reason because God loves and reasons and holds our hand while we do it."
C.S. Lewis ~ Mere Christianity*

Now for the hard part. Paul Baker already has a full time career, and can no longer work at the pace that he has so graciously worked for our youth. We are in need of a full time Youth Director / Children's pastor to continue the truly great work being done with our children here at FPCOM. They need further guidance before we can let go of their hands, and allow them to face the world. Unfortunately, as many of you already know, we, like many churches these days, have a little bit of a finance problem. In 2013 we came up far short of our pledged contributions, and although we are doing better in 2014, we are still slightly behind. To offset this problem, Session has asked the Stewardship Commission to oversee a few fundraising events. Next Saturday, June 21, we will be sponsoring a Bruce Springsteen tribute concert featuring the band, "Blood Brothers". Stewardship is aware that there are



some members who are uncomfortable holding a rock and roll show in our Fellowship Hall. We are also aware that not everyone is a fan of Springsteen (even here on the Jersey shore), but I think we can all agree that we are fans of our youth, and since this concert is to support them, it is not such a bad thing, and let's face it; it's a lot better than holding a Lady Gaga tribute concert! ... Well, OK, that will never happen as long as I am on the Stewardship team, but I think you get the idea. We will also be sponsoring an auction in September, which will be run by John Weaver, with the help of Stewardship and other members of our church, and a musical production featuring some inspirational / Christian based Broadway music in the fall!



These fundraisers should help offset some of our church's financial shortfall, but as always, Stewardship is mainly concerned with the spiritual growth of our church family. We believe that our growth in Christ is directly linked to the giving of our time, talents, and treasures, and humbly ask that our church members remember to fulfill their pledges, in hopes of growing in

Christ's love, taking our church's mission out into the community and the world, and avoiding future financial problems.

For those of you wishing to support our youth by attending the concert, please visit the "[Blood Brothers - Springsteen Tribute Show](#)" to purchase tickets. You may also purchase tickets at the door.

If you cannot attend the concert but would like to support our Youth and Family Ministries, please visit the [donation page](#). Your support is greatly appreciated and will go a long way in ensuring the continued success of our Christian Ed and Youth programs.

Thank you for your support.

Blessings,
Rob Petillo
Elder / Stewardship

Stewardship would like to thank Cindy Tufts for the beautiful photos.

THE STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION
Cherie Matthews

Anyone interested in sharing a

Dick Stern Susan Tritsch Elder Bob Cardin Elder Rob Petillo	testimonial about how FPCOM has helped bring Christ's love into your life please contact Rob Petillo at (347) 432-7550 or email .
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