

Church Announcements...

2010 MEN'S RETREAT

April 23-25, 2010

CALLING ALL MEN! The 2010 Men's retreat weekend has been set for April 23-25, 2010 and will once again be held at Keswick. This weekend is open to all men who are members or friends of MUMC. Registration cost of \$160 includes meals and room. The theme this year will center on "Connectedness (to God and each other)." The Signup sheet will be posted in the Narthex. Mark your calendar and be prepared for a weekend of discussions, fellowship, and fun. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Men's Retreat organizers, Dave Moore (732 796-7373, [wdavidmoore@verizon.net](mailto:w davidmoore@verizon.net)), Phil Welch, Jr. (732 747-5032, p2twelch@verizon.net), Russ Cline (732-530-8453, rcline@optonline.net), or Bill Smith (732-530-4002, wgsmithusa@comcast.net).

FAMILY PROMISE VOLUNTEERS

RECEPTION - March 28, 2010

The Monmouth Reform Temple (at the end of Hance Avenue in Tinton Falls) will host a reception for Family Promise volunteers from all congregations on Sunday, March 28, from 3 to 5 PM. Here's a chance to compare notes with volunteers from other congregations and meet Shanna Goldstein, our current director. Even better, we may have one of our recent graduates there to talk about her experiences as a guest and how her life has turned. (Do you remember Noemi? She's been visiting congregations to say thank you.) If you have any questions or need more information, please contact George Lavigne. Thank you!

Dear Coordinators & Friends of Family Promise,

I understand that our supporters are looking to hear more from the Board of Trustees so I've decided to put out a monthly letter to keep you better informed of what's going on. Most of you know that we have been struggling financially and that continues to be the case as we enter 2010. We seem to be just able to pay our bills; a situation that is frustrating and stressful for all of us. In the best of all worlds we would like to hire a Development Director whose sole responsibility would be to raise the funds necessary to keep us not just barely operational but thriving. Shanna would still run the agency but she would have the time to build relationships in the community and get our second network launched. I continue to be hopeful that we may someday do just that. Getting my head out of the clouds and back to today, we are getting excited about

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about Cardboard Box City—our major fundraising event set for this fall. You can go to our website and get the particulars but this event promises to be one that not only raises a substantial amount of money for Family Promise, but also raises awareness in the community about homelessness and the issues faced by homeless families. You will start to hear more about it over the next few months as we reach out to youth groups in Monmouth County to engage them in this event.

I should also mention that I have sent a letter to Pastors/ Rabbis of both host and support congregations asking for help with Board recruiting. We are now down to 6 board members when we should be at 10 or 12. I also intend to reach out to those congregations outside of our network to see if we might find some board members among them. Filling board positions has become a top priority for me. We have so much to do this year; I worry that remaining board members will get crushed under the load. As you can appreciate, sharing a job or a responsibility makes it fun and certainly less stressful. Please continue to keep listening for someone who might be willing to serve.

I hope you will take the time out to attend our Volunteer Appreciation event sponsored by the Board of Trustees on Sunday, March 21 from 3-5 pm at Monmouth Reformed Temple in Lincroft. You can reach me at any time at email address carol@familypromisemc.org. I'd love to hear from you! Thank you for all you do for our families. Please continue to keep our families, our agency and our board in your prayers.

*Carol Barnett
Board President*

OUR DAILY PRAYER CONCERNS:

- * Bruce & Robert Babcock * Mary Frances Hooper *
- * Rougeau Family * Amy Davis * Clarice Fontaine *
- * Tim Waters * Harold Lucassen * Philip Meyer *
- * John Sarkissian, Sr. & Family * Liz Hill *
- * Donna Waters Fantasia's Niece Robin *
- * Irene Leonard * Patricia Vaspory *
- * The people of Haiti, Rescue Volunteers *
- * The Families of those serving in the Military *
- * Our Brothers & Sisters serving in the Military *