

THE MISSION

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A PUBLICATION OF THE ELIZABETHPORT PRESBYTERIAN CENTER
SPONSORED BY THE PRESBYTERY OF ELIZABETH

Issue #6 Fall 2009

The Center and the Churches

Many of the churches in the Presbytery celebrate Mission Sunday during the year, in which they highlight particular missions supported by their congregations. This fall, Central Presbyterian Church in Summit and Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church focused on the Elizabethport Presbyterian Center.

Four Decades of Tutoring

On Sunday, October 11th, Central Presbyterian Church in Summit, NJ and the Center celebrated over four decades of their tutoring program. At the 9:45 AM Service, Pastor John Illian, Center Executive Director Rod Spearman, and Center Board member Valencia Garlic-Coleman told how the church's continuing commitment to mission, and the Center's continuing commitment to serving the youth of the Port community had combined to form this lasting partnership.

In 1968 Central Presbyterian Church began the Elizabethport Tutorial Program. That Fall, 25 high school students and adults began traveling to the Center every Tuesday night to work one-on-one with high school students who lived in the Port section of Elizabeth. The Program has evolved as the needs of the students and community have changed but the emphasis remains on reading, mathematics and developing close relationships between student and tutor. The Program currently has 48 students ranging in age from 6-12 years and 90 tutors.



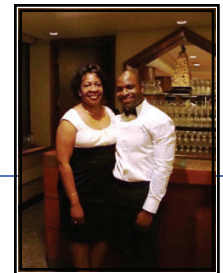
Ms. Garlic-Coleman was one of the original students in the program. As part of the Service, she told of her journey from a student in the program who needed tutoring in math, to college and then on to career in social services. From the tutoring program and other programs at the Center, Ms. Garlic-Coleman learned that if one receives, then one must give back. She has returned to the Center and is currently Vice President of the Board of Directors. Rod Spearman told how the Center is a focal point of the Port where people can come and feel safe, talk out their problems and receive support and loving help. He explained that the tutoring program not only helps the students do better in school, but also builds a lasting relationship between the student and tutor. Pastor Illian summarized this four decade program as God guiding individuals to 'do the right thing' without concern for personal gain.

Basking Ridge Mission Fair

Kathy Carter and Troy Hudson were guests at Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church on Sunday, October 18th. After regular Sunday services, the congregation braved rain showers to view displays about the Center and speak with Kathy and Troy. New Board President Tom Eicher welcomed them to his home church and shared his ideas about the Center with his community. The Church and the Center are working to forge a new partnership through youth programs.



Gala guests, see p. 2



Updates

Board News

In October, the Board of Directors of the Elizabethport Presbyterian Center held its Annual Meeting and elected officers. Tom Eicher is the new President, Valencia Garlic-Coleman is the new Vice President and Bill Reed, Secretary and Alan Ford, Treasurer will continue for another year in their current roles. The Board is looking forward to a challenging but rewarding future.

Building

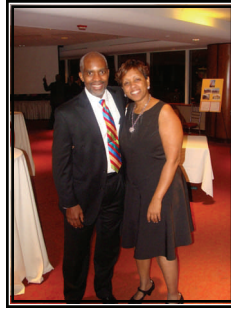
Despite weather problems and other delays, work continues on our new building, with occupancy now projected for September 2010. We appreciate the support and concern of all of you in the past and hope that you will continue to support this valuable community asset and Christian mission in the coming year.

www.eportcenter.org

If you would prefer to receive The Mission by email, please send us a message at newsletter@eportcenter.org

A GALA CELEBRATION

It was a reception that brought together friends and families. It was a gala evening featuring good food and music. It was a celebration of the Elizabethport Presbyterian Center, its history, its staff and its supporters. The first Angels Reception, held at the Newark Club, was a resounding success!



Inspired by the need to raise funds to cover salary cuts, staff members Shawn McClain, Kathy Carter, Barbara Lewis, John Ford, Darryl Hall, James Carey, Jessica Mejias, Donna Scott, Rod Spearman and Georgina Williams and Board Member Deborah Dixon formed a committee which developed a plan which became a party. Through donations, sponsorships and ticket sales the gala raised enough to almost fully restore the earlier salary cuts.

Special recognition was given to PSE&G, Elizabeth Development Company and Central Presbyterian Church for their continued support of the Center.



THEY COULD BE IN PICTURES

PRISM (Presbyterian Renewing in Spirits and Mission) is offering a new program for Elizabeth youths beginning in November. Many of our Center students are expected to participate in Filmmaking 4 Teens. In this 18-week program, students will learn the basics of video production in a hands-on environment. The goal of this after-school and evening program is for them to develop strong skills including video camera operation, camera framing and shooting and production lighting and editing. In the second semester, they will work on storyboarding and creating an original production. The program will conclude with a screening of their creations for family and friends.



Students will develop creativity, imagination and community appreciation along with building self-esteem and pride in their accomplishments.

~ Youth Director Shawn McClain

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