

# Parish Resource Center<sup>®</sup>

of Long Island-West, Inc.

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Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Rockville Centre NY  
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## Our New Hours

Tuesdays and Thursdays – 10am to 7pm  
Wednesdays and Fridays – 10am to 4pm  
Saturdays – 10am to 2pm  
Sundays and Mondays - Closed  
Other Hours By Appointment

Return Service Requested



The Parish Resource Centers of Long Island in Valley Stream and Rocky Point are excited to offer new learning opportunities over the internet. Now you can participate in Virtual Round Table events and webinars from the comfort of your own home or office. See page 2 of this newsletter for additional information on upcoming events.

## WE SERVE

Pastors  
Youth Leaders  
Retreat Designers  
Committee Chairs  
Teachers  
Pre-school Staff  
Deacons  
Elders  
Trustees  
Choir Directors  
Organists  
Worship Teams  
Program Planners  
Church Members  
You!



***Will your congregation be planning a special Harvest or Thanksgiving Celebration?***

*If so, now is the time to contact the Parish Resource Center for creative ideas for your special celebration. (...and don't forget to reserve banners before it is too late.)*



As the staff and the board of directors of the Parish Resource Center of Long Island West wrap up the end of this fiscal year, we are reminded of the graphic above. The generous gifts from individuals (like you!), congregations (like yours!!), and organizations (supported by you!!!) have made the consultations, workshops, and resources that we provide possible. **Thank you for your support.**

We look forward to the upcoming year and the challenges that we are sure it will bring. We hope and pray that we will be able to count on your support once again. We ask that you might consider one or more of the following:

- Making a gift or increasing your gift
- Visiting our used book sale and boutique
- Giving a gift or buying a banner in honor or memory of someone
- Checking to see if there is a matching gift program that you can utilize
- Be a PRC Angel by donating an angel gift
- Bringing a friend to the center to show them around
- Volunteering at the center
- Advocating for the center within your local congregation and/or denomination
- Serving on our board of directors

**Thanks again for all of your support!**

### Ongoing Events

Every Tuesday from 9am to 10am, a group of local clergy gather at the Parish Resource Center for discussion of the lectionary texts for the coming Sunday. If you are interested in participating in this group, please contact the center at 516-285-0919.



**Do we have your current contact information? Be sure to share your new email, phone number and address with us so we can stay in touch.**

## New Resources Available

*Be Still: Designing and Leading Contemplative Retreats* by Jane E. Vennard, The Alban Institute. Vennard provides a practical guide to spirituality-awakening retreats. She also offers much wisdom about illuminating the nature and value of silence, contemplative prayer, compassionate listening, spiritual friendship, home retreats, and spiritually energizing guided meditations.

*Stewardship For Vital Congregations* by Anthony B. Robinson, Pilgrim Press. The definitive resource for lay leaders, clergypersons, and members of your congregation's stewardship program.

*52 Ways To Ignite Your Congregation...Generous Giving* by William C. Green, Pilgrim Press. This book provides clergy and church leaders with 52 practical ideas that will motivate discipleship in their congregations.

*Nooma DVDs* by Rob Bell, Zondervan. The Parish Resource Center has investing in the entire series of DVDs. These popular resources are great for adult discussion groups.

*Re:Form Ancestors – Old Testament* Spark House Publishing curriculum for teens covering Old Testament characters in an interesting and engaging way.

*The Unofficial Handbook of the United Church of Christ* by Quinn G. Caldwell and Curtis J. Preston, United Church Press. This lighthearted, humorous look at the UCC is for all "UCCers," but youth, teens, and anyone who wants to learn more about the denomination will find the book particularly appealing.

*More Presbyterian Questions, More Presbyterian Answers: Exploring Christian Faith* by Donald K. McKim, Geneva Press. Popular Presbyterian author and editor Don McKim returns with this study-friendly guide articulates the basic tenets of the faith and answers some of the most frequently asked questions about being a Presbyterian.

*The Will Of God In An Unwilling World* by J. Ellsworth Kalas, WJKBooks. This book by world-renowned preacher, author, and teacher J. Ellsworth Kalas coaxes us to a deeper relationship with Christ, who taught us to pray, "not my will but thine be done."

**High Impact Community Ministry Webinar Series  
Led By Joy Skjegstad**

**Outreach Isn't Optional: Why Community Ministry  
is Essential to Your Congregation's Future  
September 27, 7:00 pm**

Community ministry and outreach are critical to the future of your congregation. They will be an essential reason that many new members are drawn in, as well as a central reason your congregation will remain relevant to those who are active members. Rather than providing just another in a long list of "church programs," community ministry efforts can be one of the most productive "engines" driving your church forward.

This webinar is designed to help you understand why community ministry is essential to the very future of your congregation and how to go about getting more involved in it. Learn how community ministry can play an essential role in: Helping your church to become more "missional".

Bringing focus and building relationships within your congregation.

Drawing young adults and the "unchurched" through your doors.

Making your approach to all aspects of the church more relevant to a diverse and ever-changing world.

**Meet the Neighbors: Ten Easy Ways to Get to Know  
the Community Around your Church  
October 4, 7:00 pm**

Does your church want to connect more deeply with the community that surrounds you? Where do you start? Learn about the kinds of places, people, and events in your neighborhood that can help you develop relevant and successful community ministry programs.

This one-hour web seminar provides 10 easy steps for church-staff or lay-leaders to use to begin building lasting relationships in your community (a pre-cursor to all of your efforts and programs in community ministry)

**Designing your Community Ministry Program:  
Seven Creative Models  
October 11, 7:00 pm**

A focus on community ministry and outreach is vital for the future success of any church, and this focus can take many different forms.

Learn about creative models for community ministry, from mobilizing volunteers to developing a full-fledged program or nonprofit on-site at your church (and a number of options in-between).

**Out of the Pew, Into the Community: Getting Church Members  
Engaged in Community Ministry  
October 25, 7:00 pm**

Your church claims that community ministry is a top priority, but it's hard to get church members involved. Sound familiar? Help is on the way!

This webinar features practical steps to getting your church members out of the building and down the street, based on the unique needs and interests of your congregation. We will cover assessing interests and skills of your church members, developing partnerships and volunteer opportunities, and recruiting and training church members.

Sessions will be recorded and available for 60 days after the webinar in case you are not able to participate at the scheduled time.

**Starting / Re-Starting / Re-Thinking Ministries  
A New Series Of Workshops Beginning In October**

This new series of workshops is designed for clergy and lay leaders involved with starting, re-starting, or re-thinking specific ministries. Each month the center will host a discussion on things to think about, issues, concerns, questions, and resources for the ministry of the month. We hope you will join us whether you are just starting out or looking for fresh ideas.

**Stewardship Ministry – October 8 at 9:30am**

Stewardship is more than just the annual pledge drive. Join us for a discussion of Stewardship as a ministry of the congregation.

Discussion Leader: Karla McKenzie, PRC LI West, Executive Director

**Prayer Ministry – November 12 at 9:30am**

Prayer Ministry is critical to the life of any congregation. Join us for a discussion of prayer in the church.

Discussion Leader: Stephanie Maddalone, PRC LI West, Board Member

**Visitation Ministry – December 3 at 9:30am**

Visitation Ministry is central to the fellowship of any congregation, especially during holiday seasons and the winter months. Join us to learn of ways of reaching out during a season that may be a lonely time for many in our midst.

Discussion Leader: Patricia Simons, PRC LI West, Staff Consultant

**Cost Per Session: \$10 per person.**

**Congregational Leadership Training**

**Trustee Training – November 19 at 10am**

Both new and seasoned trustees will benefit from this review of the roles and responsibilities of church trustees. Discussion will include practical advice, resources, and best practices for trustees.

Discussion Leader: Heidi Hofmann, PRC LI West, Staff Consultant

**Cost: \$10 per person**

**The Art Of Teaching Spiritual Practices  
Led By Guest Speaker Rev. Jane E. Vennard  
Saturday, October 22 from 8:30am to 3:00pm  
at Hicksville United Methodist Church**

Many people in our congregations are looking for ways to deepen their spiritual lives. They are longing for a stronger, more intimate relationship with God and they are looking to church leaders for guidance. This practical workshop will present the fundamentals of teaching spiritual practice in small groups and with the whole congregation. We will explore the full range of spiritual practices and find ways to make these practices come alive. In addition to presentations, our day together will offer time for practice, reflection, sharing and prayer.

**Cost of \$50 per person includes breakfast, lunch, and afternoon tea.  
Call the Parish Resource Center for discounts for groups of 3 or more.**

**Workshop Registration**

**Complete the information at the bottom of the page and mail with your check to Parish Resource Center of LI West, 919 Elmont Road, Valley Stream, NY 11580.**

**You may also register through our website at [www.ParishResourceCenter.org/liwest/workshops](http://www.ParishResourceCenter.org/liwest/workshops)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation / Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Event Name / Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

# Parish Resource Center®

Fall 2011 Edition

“Dynamic churches with high attendance, growth and engagement tend to have inspirational topical preaching, lots of small groups including programs for children and youth, and a mix of both traditional and contemporary worship services including contemporary music and multi-media in contemporary services. Other factors include effective lay leaders, rotating lay leadership, pastors who work at developing and mentoring lay leaders, and length of pastoral appointment.”

New Study Identifies Key Factors Impacting Vital Congregations  
United Methodist Communications

This new study from the United Methodist Church is consistent with studies conducted by other mainline protestant denominations. However, for many of the churches on Long Island that first statement “churches with high attendance” is not the reality. How can we have programming for children and youth when we have 5 children in Sunday school, and no youth group? How do we rotate lay leadership when we have fewer than 50 people in the congregation? How do we change our worship style? And like the book title, how can we be “Reaching People Under 40 While Keeping People Over 60?” And of course, doing this all with a limited budget. Even congregations that are experiencing growth share a frustration of feeling they could be doing more or better.

So how do churches move forward on the ambitious undertaking of helping their congregations grow? Hints on strategies can be gleaned from many sources including *Unbinding Your Church: Pastor's and Leaders' Guide to the Real Life Evangelism Series* by Martha Grace Reese. Most sources agree that the starting point is with prayer. Congregations interested in growth need a group who prays for the church! From there, the congregation needs to understand the mission field and ways to connect the congregation to their community. Finally, the congregation needs a plan.

Long before the United Methodist Church released its recent “Call to Action” to address these issues, the Parish Resource Center of Long Island had set its Fall workshop schedule addressing the priorities of clergy and lay leaders in our area based on feedback from a number of focus groups. The workshops highlighted on page two of this newsletter address these priorities: teaching spiritual practices to your congregation, reaching out to the community, and lay leadership training.

Once the workshops are completed, the Parish Resource Center is here to work with you and your congregation as you design and implement a plan unique to your setting. As our tagline says: Everyone has a calling. Ours is helping you! We are looking forward to working with you.

Karla S. McKenzie  
Executive Director

**Registration Form and Information may be found on Page 2 of this newsletter.**

**Joy Skjegstad**, author of [Winning Grants to Strengthen Your Ministry](#) (Alban Institute 2007) and [Starting A Nonprofit At Your Church](#) (Alban Institute 2002), is a national speaker and consultant on nonprofit management and ministry development. She has more than 20 years of experience starting and growing nonprofit organizations, including serving as the Executive Director of the Park Avenue Foundation at Park Avenue United Methodist Church and as the founder of the Institute for Ministry Leaders, a university-based training program that builds the management capacity of churches and other ministry organizations. She also served as the President of Sanctuary Community Development Corporation and has held a variety of other leadership positions with nonprofits in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area.



**Jane E. Vennard** is ordained to a special ministry of teaching and spiritual direction in the United Church of Christ. She is senior adjunct faculty of prayer and spirituality at the Iliff School of Theology. In addition, Jane is a spiritual director in private practice, teaches classes in a variety of ecumenical settings, and leads retreats nationally. She is the author of numerous articles and five books: [Praying for Friends and Enemies](#) (1995), [Praying with Body and Soul](#) (1998), [Be Still: Designing and Leading Contemplative Retreats](#) (2000), [Embracing the World: Praying for Justice and Peace](#) (2003), winner of the Colorado Book Award, and [A Praying Congregation: The Art of Teaching Spiritual Practice](#) (2005).

