

The Pipe Organ

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
New Vernon, NJ

VOL. 70 NO. 3

March 2019

Bill's Reflections

Jesus took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me." —Mark 9:36-37

Over the last two years, we have been very intentional about growing our ministry to children and families. This has been a big undertaking, including everything from an overhaul of the nursery in Fellowship Hall, to the introduction of Toddler Time (first in partnership with Kemmerer Library and now hosted here at FPCNV), to hosting Messy Church events on Saturday afternoons, to further developing our Sunday morning programs for young children.

As we grow this ministry, we have also been very intentional about providing opportunities for people of all ages to come together for both worship and service. We now hold monthly all-age worship services. Our children and family programs contribute to service projects like the Mental Health Association Dinner, Thanksgiving Food Drive, and Christmas Gift Collection. And we have hosted a number of events like Ready Steady Christmas and a Family Film Day that bring together people of all ages for fun and fellowship.

As I look back on all that we have accomplished so far, I am grateful for the generosity of our members, the hard work of our Youth Education Committee, and the creativity and energy of the children and young people in our church family who bring so much to our life together. As we continue to integrate children and young people into the life of our church, there is more to come on the

horizon. One initiative we are especially excited about is introducing acolytes into morning worship services. Further details will be published in the near future. A brief outline of the program is below.

What is an acolyte?

FPCNV is delighted to be introducing an acolyte program on Sunday mornings during worship. The word "acolyte" is derived from the Greek word *akolouthos*, meaning companion,

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FPCNV Staff

Rev. William H. Stone, III
Pastor

Dr. Martin Sedek
Music Director

Jany Izaguirre
Accompanist

Debbie Hennessey
*Office Administrator and
Manager of Accounting*

Darlene Cappel
Financial Secretary

Tony Rodriguez
Church Custodian

Session

Jonathan Shelby, *Clerk*

Martha Coy

Tom Ewig

Roger Greenway

Jenn McCann

James Muchmore

Scott Noyes

Don Richardson

Eileen Urban

Carol Conger Vellekamp

Christin Willis

Keith Wood

Deacons

Jane Coyle, *Moderator*

Ellie Burd

Lisa Chapman

Andrea Di Ruggiero

Sandy Finlayson

Susan Fischer

Beth Gibson

Barbara Gill

Margaret Greenway

Russ MacAusland

Michael McCann

Karen Pennett

Ben Thompson

Faith Winow

Continued from page 1

attendant, or helper. The role of the acolyte dates back to the Old Testament and is a meaningful part of worship.

Why do we have acolytes?

Jesus said: "*I am the light of the world*" (John 8:12).

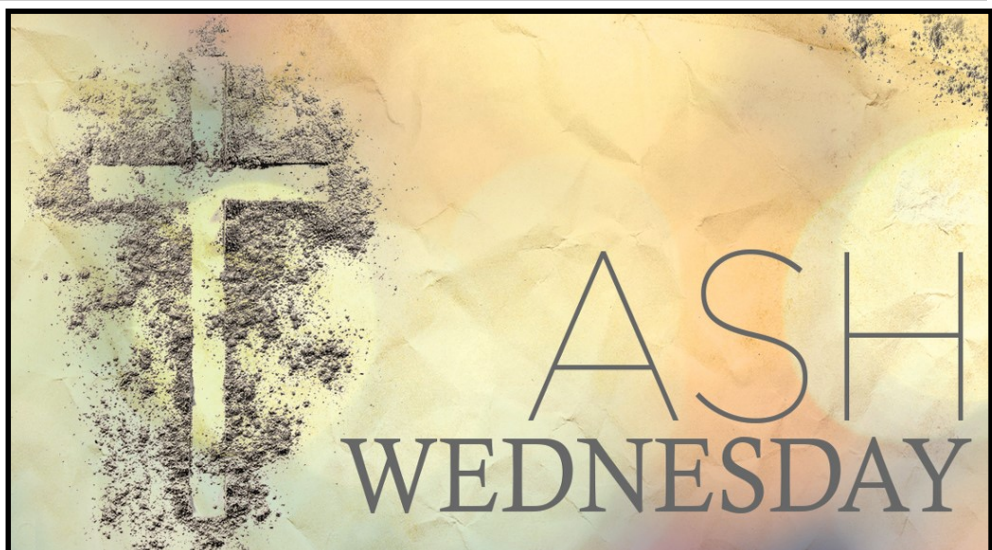


Since ancient times, light and fire have reminded us that God is here with us. Acolytes have the responsibility of bringing the light into the service as we gather, as well as taking the light out of the service when we leave. By doing this, acolytes remind us how God is not only with us in our worship, but in all places—home, school, work—wherever we may be. Our call as Christians is to remember that God's light goes with us, and to share the light of Christ with everyone we meet.

Can you help sponsor our acolyte program?

We are looking for sponsors to help us launch this important ministry. Can you make a donation to assist us in purchasing the supplies we need (e.g. children's robes, crosses, candles)? The overall cost for our program is \$500, and any donation would be welcome. Please contact Hayley if your child would like to be involved and/or to make a donation.

(oconorhe@gmail.com)



Everyone is invited to join us for a contemplative service for Ash Wednesday on March 6th at 7pm. This will be a service of prayers, music and silence that centers around the imposition of ashes—marking the beginning of Lent.



DECEMBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

February 19th Meeting



The meeting began with Carol Conger-Vellekamp leading devotions.

Pastor's report:

- Will be running a new member's course in March (3, 10, 17, 24) and requesting elders meet candidates for membership at breakfast on the 24th. Inviting 25 people to participate.
 - Baptisms- Ben and Courtney Thompson's son Campbell on April 28th and Christine and Matt Taranto's daughter on May 19th.
 - Requesting two periods of leave- Friday, March 29 to Monday, April 1 to attend Bill Stone Sr. last Sunday in New Wilmington and Monday, April 29 to Sunday, May 5 to visit Hayley's family in Tennessee.
 - Funerals- officiated at the funeral of Judy Raas on April 9. Wayne Boulton's memorial service will be held here on April 14th at 1:30pm. His funeral will be held at 2nd Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis on March 14th.
 - Rev. Stone then asked that we dispense with usual committee reports, except for Finance and Membership, to brainstorm on some questions he had prepared. Session broke into groups of four and worked on their answers to the following:
 - What excites you most in the life of this church? What is going well?
 - What are you longing for in church/spiritual life that you are not finding here?
 - What are your thoughts on priorities?
- Rev. Stone compiled the responses for future discussion and planning.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (Keith Wood):

- Two recommendations for session- first to approve budget for 2019. Deficit for 2018 was approx. \$56k, due primarily to shortfall of current year pledges. Short on revenue by \$19k. Building and Grounds expenses were \$18k above budget. Net was about \$100k drain on cash. Result is a liquidity issue going forward. Immediate action was necessary. Goal was set to find \$56k in expense savings and committee chairs met to achieve this. Result so far is \$43k in savings. Motion to approve budget for 2019. *MSC*
- Second recommendation- to approve moving all Sure Foundation funds remaining from the Sanctuary Project (\$97k approx.) to the Capital Improvement Fund- approved by acclamation.

Membership (Scott Noyes):

- Will be organizing dinners with members and potential members to meet with Bill and Hayley and to connect with the church. Also looking to reach former members who have drifted away from us in recent years. Will have a calling campaign every few months to reconnect.

Adjourned with prayer by Bill Stone at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jonathan Shelby, Clerk of Session

Holy Week Schedule



Palm Sunday: April 14 at 10:00 am

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week as we celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Our Sunday morning service will include a parade of palms and special music.

Maundy Thursday: April 18 at 7:00 pm

Join us for an evening of reflection and music as we revisit the story of Holy Week together and share the sacrament of communion .



Easter Sunday, April 21:



Sunrise Service at Bayne Park: 6:30 am

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb. -Luke 24:1-2a

Start your Easter with this Sunrise Celebration of our Risen Lord.

New for 2019: One Worship Service at 10:00 am

There will be one Worship Service on Easter Morning. Everyone is invited to join us for a morning of celebration and song!



Easter Morning Breakfast: 11:00 am

The Session invites all members of the congregation to join them for Easter breakfast at 11 am.

Children's Egg Hunt: 11:00 am

In our traditional Egg Hunt, bright eggs will be hidden throughout the grounds for your children to find. The egg is a symbol of the rebirth of the earth in celebration of spring and was adopted by early Christians as a symbol of the resurrection of Jesus.

Children, bring your basket or bag to hold your eggs!



Sunday Speaker Series 2019

11:15 am to 12:15 pm

Mary Bodenstein: *Relieving Stress*

March 10



We are constantly told that emotional stress affects our health. Are you ever bothered by headaches, stiff neck, worry, caregiver or child-raising challenges; do you suffer from insomnia? How about a dose of...CALM? Experience for yourself simple stress reduction strategies to help relieve both physical and emotional tension. You will leave feeling more relaxed and empowered, enjoying enhanced problem-solving skills after experiencing a mind-body-spirit wellness connection. Mary Bodenstein, LCSW, a graduate of Rice University with a Master's in Social Work from Kean, is an Accredited Certified EFT (Emotional Freedom Techniques) Practitioner by AAMET (Association for the Advancement of Meridian Energy Techniques), the largest professional EFT Association worldwide. She has been implementing mind-body-spirit wellness practices for 25 years. Founder of Stress Relief NOW, Mary is always seeking effective stress management techniques and particularly enjoys sharing them.

Nathan Stuckey: *Farminary: Calling Stewards of the Earth*

April 7



The Farminary Project at Princeton Theological Seminary integrates theological education with small-scale sustainable agriculture. Located at the Seminary's 21-acre farm, it is a garden of innovation and an incubator for leadership. Issues of agrarian thought and practice—ecology, sustainability, food justice—require our faithful attention as stewards of the earth and its bounty. **Nathan Stucky**, who serves as Director of the Project, grew up on a farm in Kansas where his love for agriculture first took root. He spent six years doing ecumenical youth ministry on the eastern shore of Maryland and two years farming back in Kansas. Nathan earned M.Div. and Ph.D. degrees from Princeton Theological Seminary. His scholarship explores the integration of theological education and agrarianism, and he sees Farminary as a locus for enacting that integration.

Easter Dedications



If you would like to make a donation in memory or in honor of a loved one, please complete the following form and send in your donation by Monday, April 10.

Please select your preference:

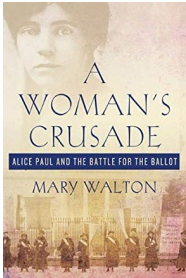
- In memory In honor of

Dedication from:

Dedication to:

FPCNV Book Club Schedule

A Woman's Crusade: Alice Paul and the Battle for the Ballot by Mary Walton



Alice Paul began her life as a studious girl from a strict Quaker family in New Jersey. In 1907, a scholarship took her to England, where she developed a passionate devotion to the suffrage movement. Upon her return to the United States, Alice became the leader of the militant wing of the American suffrage movement. Calling themselves "Silent Sentinels," she and her followers were the first protestors to picket the White House. Arrested and jailed, they went on hunger strikes and were force-fed and brutalized. Years before Gandhi's campaign of nonviolent resistance, and decades before civil rights demonstrations, Alice Paul practiced peaceful civil disobedience in the pursuit of equal rights for women. With her daring and unconventional tactics, Alice Paul eventually succeeded in forcing President Woodrow Wilson and a reluctant U.S. Congress to pass the Nineteenth Amendment, granting women the right to vote. Here at last is the inspiring story of the young woman whose dedication to women's rights made that long-held dream a reality.

Meeting Dates and Book Selections

Where: Library When: 7:30 pm

MAR 12 *A Woman's Crusade: Alice Paul and the Battle for the Ballot* by Mary Walton

APR 9 *Munich: a novel* by Robert Harris

MAY 7 *Radio Girl* by Sarah-Jane Stratford

JUN 11 TBA

About the Author

Mary Walton is a veteran journalist who wrote for the *Philadelphia Inquirer* for 20 years. The acclaimed author of several books including *For Love of Money* and *Car: A Drama of the American Workplace*, she lives in Ocean Grove, NJ. million times. She is married to her American husband Brian Gleason and currently lives in South Korea.



Men's Breakfast

Wednesday,
March 27 @ 7:30 am
La Di Da Café

All men of the Church
and their guests
are welcome.

Spring Forward



Daylight
Savings
Time
begins
Sunday

March 10, 2019

let's do lunch

Senior Luncheon
Wednesday,
March 27th at 12 pm

This month's special luncheon for our Seniors, their friends, and care-givers will be on Wednesday, February 20th at 12:00 pm. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by January 21st to Debbie in the Church Office at:

officeadmin@pcnv.org or
973-538-8394.

All-Age Worship



On Sunday, February 10th, the congregation enjoyed an All-Age worship service. We learned all about love from Paul's letter to the Corinthians. Our worship included readings by several young people, Minute to Win It challenges led by Tyler Carifa, and a reflective time for prayer that created the heart shaped bunting currently hanging in Fellowship Hall.



Join our worship services from home, abroad or anywhere!

We currently stream all of our worship services live over YouTube. You can view them on your computer, tablet, or even a smartphone.

We would be very happy to help you join us digitally! Contact the church office for help setting up your device.



Calendar of Events 2019

MARCH

WED 03/06 Toddler Time @1:30-3:30 pm
Ash Wednesday Service @ 7 pm

SUN 03/10 First Sunday in Lent
Adult Education @ 11:15 am,
Mary Bodenstein, *Relieving Stress*

WED 03/13 Toddler Time @1:30-3:30 pm

SUN 03/17 St Patrick's Coffee Hour

MON 03/18 Finance Committee @ 7:00 pm

TUES 3/19 Session Meeting, 7:00 pm

WED 03/20 Toddler Time @1:30-3:30 pm

WED 03/27 Men's Breakfast @ 7:30 am
Senior Luncheon @ 12 pm
Toddler Time @1:30-3:30 pm

APRIL

WED 04/03 Toddler Time @ 1:30-3:30 pm

SUN 04/7 Adult Education @11:15 am,
Nathan Stuckey, *Farminary*

MON 04/8 Finance Committee @ 7:00 pm

TUES 04/9 Session Meeting @ 7:00 pm

WED 04/10 Toddler Time @ 1:30-3:30 pm

SUN 04/14 Palm Sunday

WED 04/17 Men's Breakfast @ 7:30 am

THU 04/18 Maundy Thursday Service @ 7 pm

FRI 04/19 Good Friday (Office Closed)

SUN 04/21 Easter Sunday

WED 04/24 Men's Breakfast @ 7:30 am
Senior Luncheon @ 12 pm
Toddler Time @ 1:30-3:30 pm

MAY

WED 05/01 Toddler Time @ 1:30-3:30 pm

SUN 05/05 Cinco de Mayo Coffee Hour

WED 05/08 Toddler Time @ 1:30-3:30 pm

SUN 05/12 Mothers' Day

WED 05/15 Toddler Time @ 1:30-3:30 pm

MON 05/20 Finance Committee @ 7:00 pm

TUES 05/21 Session Meeting @ 7:00 pm

WED 05/22 Men's Breakfast @ 7:30 am
Senior Luncheon @ 12 pm
Toddler Time @ 1:30-3:30 pm

MON 05/27 Memorial Day (Office Closed)

WED 05/29 Toddler Time @ 1:30-3:30 pm

JUNE

SUN 06/02 Communion

SUN 06/09 Church Picnic

SUN 06/16 Fathers' Day

MON 06/17 Finance Committee @ 7:00 pm

TUES 06/18 Session Meeting @ 7:00 pm

WED 06/19 Men's Breakfast @ 7:30 am

WED 06/26 Senior Luncheon @ 12 pm

JOIN US FOR TODDLER TIME!



Are you at home with little ones?

Are you looking for a place to connect with other parents or caregivers in the community?

First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon (FPCNV) is excited to host **TODDLER TIME**, a play group for children (under 5) and the adults who care for them.

We'll meet every Wednesday at FPCNV in Fellowship Hall 1:30 - 3:30pm (drop-in).

Cost is FREE and no church connection is needed.

WHERE:

**First Presbyterian
Church New Vernon**

WHEN:

**Wednesdays
1:30-3:30pm**

**For more information contact
Hayley Stone
oconnorhe@gmail.com**

Save the Date

Save April 7th

For a special event

for children and families!

Hymn of the Month

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

Author: Claudia F. I. Hernaman (1838-1898)

First Published: The Child's Book of Praise
(London, 1873)

As an expression of the teaching function of a hymn for children, this text is careful to draw parallels, especially between the forty days of Christ's Temptation and fast and the forty days of Lent. There are also a number of ways that his example should guide our actions: his fasting and prayer should lead us to mourn our sins and stay close to Christ; his struggle with and victory over Satan becomes a model for our perseverance and conquering of sin. Although the whole hymn is cast as a prayer addressed to Christ, the final two stanzas center on the petition for Christ to abide with us, not only in this season of penitence but throughout our lives. This theme is emphasized by the anadiplosis that connects the end of the third stanza with the beginning of the fourth.

*Lord, who through-out these forty days
for us did fast and pray,
teach us with you to mourn our sins
and close by you to stay.*

*As you with Satan did contend
and did the victory win,
O give us strength to persevere,
in you to conquer sin.*

*And through these days of penitence,
and through this Passion tide,
yes, evermore in life and death,
O Lord, with us abide.*

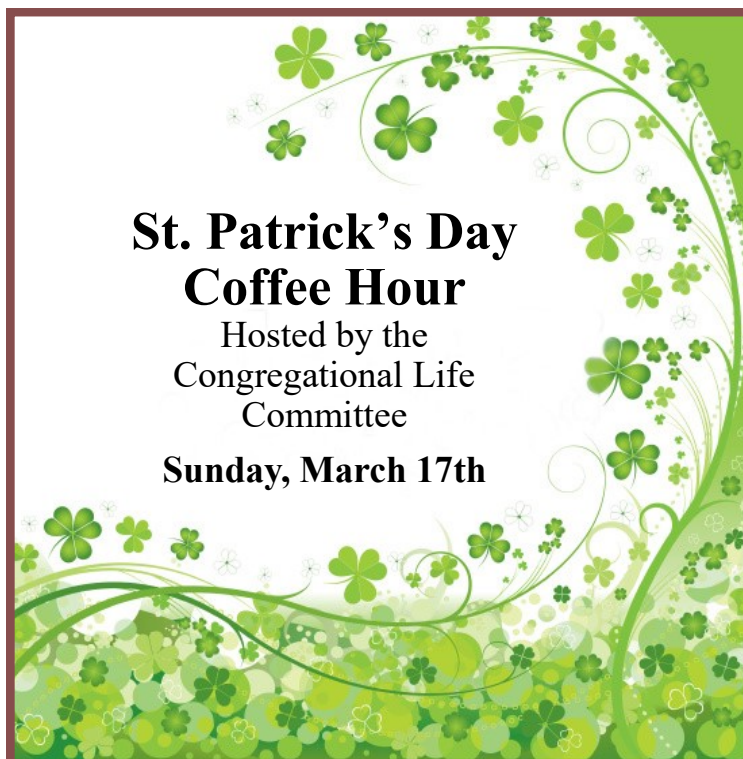
*Abide with us, till when this life
of suffering shall be past,
an Easter of unending joy
we may attain at last.*

Because this text rhymes only alternate lines (*abcb*), this hymn seems more spacious than it might if it had a more rigid rhyme scheme. The frequent use of monosyllables also helps to convey a sense of room for movement.

St. Patrick's Day Coffee Hour

Hosted by the
Congregational Life
Committee

Sunday, March 17th



March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 AA Meeting noon	2
3 Communion Worship Service 10 am	4	5	6 Toddler Time! 1:30-3 pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm	7 Bible Study 1:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	8 AA Meeting noon	9
10 Worship Service 10 am Adult Education Mary Bodenstein <i>Relieving Stress@</i> 11:15 am	11 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	12 Women's AA Step Meeting Noon Deacons' Mtg 7:00 pm Book Club 7:30 pm Library	13 Toddler Time! 1:30-3 pm	14 Bible Study 1:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	15 AA Meeting noon	16
17 Worship Service 10 am	18 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am Finance Comm. 7:00 pm	19 Women's AA Step Meeting noon Session Mtg. 7:00 pm	20 Toddler Time! 1:30-3 pm	21 Bible Study 1:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	22 AA Meeting noon	23
24 Worship Service 10 am	25 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	26 Women's AA Step Meeting noon	27 Men's Breakfast La Di Da Café 7:30 am Senior Luncheon 12 pm Toddler Time! 1:30-3 pm	28 Bible Study 1:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	29	30
31 Worship Service 10 am						

MARCH WORSHIP PLANS

Sunday, March 3

Transfiguration of the Lord

Preacher: Rev. William H. Stone, III

Sunday, March 10

First Sunday in Lent

Preacher: Rev. William H. Stone, III

Sunday, March 17

Second Sunday in Lent

Preacher: Rev. William H. Stone, III

Sunday, March 24

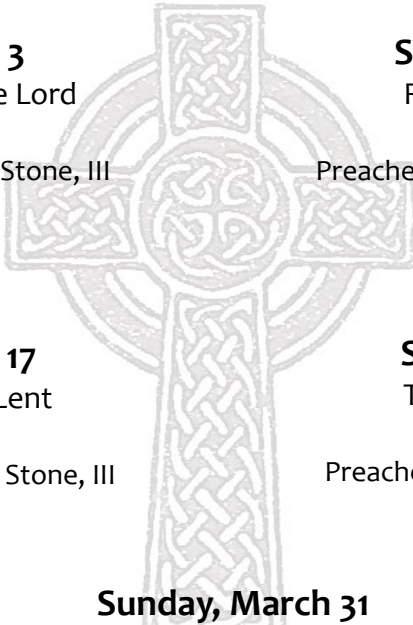
Third Sunday in Lent

Preacher: Rev. William H. Stone, III

Sunday, March 31

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Preacher: Rev. Nicola Whyte



WORSHIP
volunteer
OPPORTUNITIES



We Need Your Help!

LITURGISTS



USHERS



To volunteer to serve as a Liturgist or an Usher,
please contact the Church Office at:

973-538-8394 or officeadmin@pcnv.org

The Pipe Organ

First Presbyterian Church
2 Lee's Hill Road, PO Box 218
New Vernon, NJ 07976-0218

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Toddler Time!
Every Wednesday
1:30 to 3:00 pm

Ash Wednesday Contemplative Service
Wednesday, March 6
7:00 pm

Sunday Speaker Series
Sunday, March 10
Mary Bodenstein: Relieving Stress @ 11:15 am

Men's Breakfast
Wednesday, March 27
7:30 am @ LaDiDa Café

Senior Luncheon
Wednesday, March 27
12 pm @ Fellowship Hall

E-mail Addresses

The Church Office is still collecting and correcting e-mail addresses from our members. If you would like to be included in various e-mail mailings, please e-mail officeadmin@pcnv.org or call 973-538-8394.

CHURCH OFFICE

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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