

# The Pipe Organ

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
New Vernon, NJ

VOL. 67 NO. 2

January - February 2017

## *Bill's Reflections*

As we enter a new year, most of us will be doing some planning for 2017. We think about what we'd like to accomplish, how we would like to improve ourselves, and where the new year might take us. It's a time of year that feels full of potential, and in this season of new beginnings I often reflect on the story of Saint Columba who left his homeland in Ireland to begin a new life on the Isle of Iona in Scotland.

Columba was from a noble Irish family. As a young man he trained for the priesthood, and in his first few years became successful and well known. But through a series of unfortunate events involving one of the earliest recorded cases of copyright infringement, Columba became embroiled in a bitter war between his own and a neighboring clan.

In the aftermath of this bloodshed, Columba was distraught and chose to leave his home in Ireland in penance for his role in the violence. Legend says that in the year 563 he and several monks boarded a small wicker boat and set sail, vowing to travel until they found a place from which they could no longer see Ireland. Eventually they landed on the small Scottish Isle of Iona, and when they climbed the island's highest peak they saw nothing but open seas to the south. With this, they knew they had found their new home.

Columba established a monastery on Iona and spent the rest of his life ministering to the people of Scotland. In the years that followed, Iona became a hive of missionary activity for Scotland. Columba's monks established churches and schools throughout the west coast. They trained priests who went on to establish ecclesiastical centers like Lindisfarne. And even today Iona remains a sacred place that draws travelers from around the world to its quiet shores.

Sacred journeys like those made by Columba and his fellow monks have had a profound impact on the Christian faith, and today pilgrimage to places like Iona is becoming increasingly popular. Traveling on pilgrimage

is different than what we usually do on vacation. Its purpose is spiritual, and its pace is markedly slower. Pilgrimage, made with this slower pace and spiritual intention, can have a healing and transforming impact on our lives. It is often said that the outward journey of a pilgrimage mirrors a deeper inward journey.

In her book, *The Celtic Way of Prayer*, Esther DeWaal writes that the Celtic saints thought of life as a pilgrimage: "a journey that includes elements of seeking, quest, adventure, wandering, and exile." And the purpose of this journey, its destination, is the place of resurrection—the place where one's true self in Christ is born.

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**FPCNV Staff**

Rev. William H. Stone, III (Bill)  
Pastor

Martin Sedek, *Music Director*

Amanda Napolitano,  
*Minister of Music/Organist*

Debbie Hennessey,  
*Office Administrator and  
Manager of Accounting*

Darlene Cappel,  
*Financial Secretary*

Tony Rodriguez, *Custodian*

**Elders & Deacons****Elders**

Tom MacCowatt, *Clerk of Session*

Julia Buteux

Todd Claytor

Tom Ewig

Caroline Ford

Kerra French

Jane O'Keefe

Meg Richardson

Peter Saulnier

Jonathan Shelby

Carol Conger Vellekamp

Keith Wood

**Deacons**

Barbara Gill, *Moderator*

Aimee Bloom

Robyn Brown

Janet Bruns

Fenton Chaney

Lisa Chapman

Andrea Di Ruggiero

Olin Friant

Dave Mitchell

Sue Mitchell

Suzie Morris

Judith Shelton

*Continued from page 1*

As we consider what challenges and blessings 2017 holds for us, I hope we might all make 2017 a year of pilgrimage. A year in which we are intentional about noticing where God is at work in our lives and in our world, and also where we see that there is work still to be done. Where are we being invited to grow? What are we being invited to leave behind?

An ancient Irish proverb reminds us that our pilgrimage, whether it is a trip to Rome or simply a struggle to get through next week, will not magically bring us to Christ. Christ is already there—walking alongside us. Our challenge as Christians on pilgrimage is to see Christ and to discover the healing and transforming power his presence can have. May we all be startled into this new way of seeing!

To go to Rome  
Is much of trouble, little of profit;  
The King whom thou seeks there,  
Unless thou bring Him with thee, thou wilt not find.

**W**e want to take a moment to express our appreciation to our outgoing members of Session and the Board of Deacons. They have given a great deal of their time and effort to move our church forward in the last few years.

**OUTGOING MEMBERS OF SESSION**

Caroline Ford, Kerra French, Meg Richardson

**OUTGOING MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DEACONS**

Janet Bruns and Fenton Chaney

THANK  
*You*

**G**od is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help him.

*Hebrews 6:10*



## DECEMBER SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



The following highlights are from the December 20, 2016 Session meeting.  
The meeting began with Bill Stone leading devotions.

### COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

#### Adult Education (Julia Buteux):

- Hosted successful Margaret Ng event to help raise money for a dog for her autistic son.

#### Youth Education (Kerra French):

- Dinner held in Fellowship Hall on Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Nine children and couples attended. Susan Fisher and Nathaniel helped with the children while the others had dinner. Don Richardson and Jeff French cooked.
- Christmas pageant was enthusiastically received.

**Congregational Life (Meg Richardson):** Christmas luncheon was well attended.

#### Finance (Keith Wood):

- Projecting \$26.2K surplus for the year, assuming pledge receivables come in.
- Adjusted budgeted pledges for current year (2016) is \$380K.
- Preliminary budgeted pledges for new year (2017) is \$395K.
- Expense level on buildings and grounds up, and personnel will be higher in 2017.
- Preliminary projected deficit of \$22.7K for 2017. However, over the last four years, we have had both surpluses and deficits but have netted a small surplus. We are putting the church resources to work in most effective way we can in a given year. It is fine to operate close to even over the long term.

#### Administration/Communication (Caroline Ford):

- Reviewing financial and member database software to consider if an integrated system might better serve us.

#### Buildings & Grounds (Tom Ewig):

- Provided a detailed preliminary budget for capital projects through 2019.

#### Membership (Jane O’Keeffe):

- A special effort was made this year to reach out to all members to clean up the rolls, particularly with regard to families who had moved and adult children, so the drop year over year is larger than usual.
- Membership changes for 2016:
  - ◇ New members – 3
  - ◇ Confirmands – 3
  - ◇ Removed by death – 6
  - ◇ Letter of transfer/moved away (includes adult children) – 33
  - ◇ Adult children of current members moved away/no longer members – 17
  - ◇ Membership:
    - YE 2013 – 384
    - YE 2014 – 367
    - YE 2015 – 350
    - YE 2016 – 300
  - ◇ Membership changes approved. *Moved, seconded, and carried.*

#### Mission & Outreach (Jonathan Shelby):

- Cornerstone Family program will receive the Christmas offering.
- Meeting in January to distribute charitable donations once final numbers are in.

*Continued on top of page 4*

*Continued from page 3*

**Nominating (Tom MacCOWATT):**

- Congregational meeting to vote on new slate on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.

**New Elders** – 3-year terms:

Jenn McCann

Eileen Urban

Don Richardson

Keith Wood (returning)

**New Deacons** – 3-year terms (propose expanding to 15 from 13):

Andrea Di Ruggiero (returning)

Beth Gibson

Faith Winow

Olin Friant (returning)

Karen Pennett

**New Auditor:**

Russ MacAusland – 3-year term

Approved expanding Deacons to 15 from 13. *Moved, seconded, and carried.*

**Personnel (Carol Vellekamp):** Personnel evaluation reports are going out.

**Worship and Music (Peter Saulnier):**

- Martin Sedek has been hired as Music Director. He will be responsible for recruiting an accompanist to replace Amanda.

**Clerk's Report:** New usher instructions were discussed, and revisions recommended and finalized.

**Pastor's Report:**

- Attended a luncheon of the Harding Township Seniors on December 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Led "Comfort and Joy" service on December 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Have been invited to serve as chaplain to the New Vernon VFD.
- Have been doing home communion visits with Deacons for the homebound.
- Thank-you note received from Margaret Ng. Raised \$3,000 through events here for a service dog for her son.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- The next meeting of Session will be Tues, January 17 at 7:00 pm. Claytor will provide refreshments, French will lead devotions, and Shelby/O'Keefe are responsible for usher recruitment in January. Communion will be served on Sunday, JANUARY 8, by \*French, Saulnier, Vellekamp, and Shelby. \*Team Leader

Respectfully Submitted, Tom MacCOWATT, Clerk of Session

## Deacons' Valentine's Day

### Pantry Sale

Sunday, February 12 At Coffee Hour

The Deacons will hold a Pantry Sale on SUNDAY, February 12th, featuring soups, stews, salads, salad dressings, homemade bread, cookies, candies, and other baked goods. All proceeds will benefit the PIN Fund.





## NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR, MARTIN SEDEK



The First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon is thrilled to announce the hiring of our new Music Director, effective January 1, 2017. Martin Sedek, Composer and Conductor, is an award-winning voice in the world of choral and orchestral music, educated at

Berklee College of Music in Boston, Montclair State University, and Rutgers University. Martin is Director of Choral Art Society of NJ and Associate Conductor for The Masterwork Chorus, where he conducts the Masterwork Camerata Chamber Choir. He is Composer-in-Residence at Harmonium Choral Society & The Baldwin Festival Chorus of NYC. As a member of the choral and theory faculties at Montclair State University's Cali School of Music, Martin is Assistant Conductor for the MSU Chorale and Visiting Professor of Music Theory.

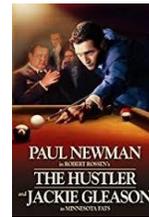
Composition awards include Yale Glee Club Emerging Composer Competition, NoteNova Publishing Composition Competition, Boston's Kalistos Ensemble, Ithaca College School of Music Choral Composition Contest, and Society of Composers International. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate in composition at Rutgers University's Mason Gross School of the Arts.

Martin has received commissions from Harmonium Choral Society, The Baldwin Festival Chorus, ACDA, Palisades Virtuosi, Cleveland Flute Society, Highland Park Community Chorus, The Masterwork Chorus, and more. Please join us in making Martin feel welcome and consider working with him by joining the choir! Choir practice is held each Thursday evening at 7:30 in Fellowship Hall.

## *The Session Is Calling* The Annual Meeting Of the Congregation

Sunday, February 26  
Immediately following Worship

The Annual Report will be available in the Narthex and on the website one week before.



**Next Movie Night**  
**Tuesday, Feb 7**  
**7:00 pm**  
**At the Chaney's'**

Movie Selection:  
***The Hustler***

Paul Newman scores as pool shark "Fast Eddie" Felson, who tours the country hustling games—even challenging reigning champion Minnesota Fats (Jackie Gleason)—in this brooding drama that explores the synergies between good and evil, love and desperation.

## Men's BREAKFAST

### Next Men's Breakfast

**Wednesday,**  
**February 8**  
**7:30 am**  
**Nautilus Diner**

*All men of the Church  
and their guests are welcome.*

## FPCNV Book Club Schedule



### February Book Selection: *The Golden Notebook* By Doris Lessing

Anna is a writer, author of one very successful novel, who now keeps four notebooks. In one, with a black cover, she reviews the African experience of her earlier years. In a red one, she records her political life, her disillusionment with communism. In a yellow one, she writes a novel in which the heroine relives part of her own experience. And in a blue one, she keeps a personal diary. Finally, in love with an American writer and threatened with insanity, Anna resolves to bring the threads of all four books together in a golden notebook. Doris Lessing's best-known and most influential novel, *The Golden Notebook*, retains its extraordinary power and relevance decades after its initial publication. - Amazon.com

### Meeting Dates and Book Selections

Where: Library      When: 7:30 pm

JAN 10	<i>The Golden Notebook</i> by Doris Lessing
FEB 14	<i>D-Day</i> by Stephen Ambrose
MAR 14	<i>The Blackwater Lightship</i> -Colm Tobin
APR 11	<i>The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace</i> by Jeff Hobb
MAY 9	<i>The Round House</i> by Louise Erdrich
JUN 13	<i>A Confederacy of Dunces</i> by John Kennedy Toole

New Members are Welcome



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Saturday, April 22nd**  
**4 pm-6 pm**

Messy Church is a fun new way for children and their families to experience church. It runs from 4 to 6 pm and includes crafts and activities based on a story from the Bible; a time of interactive family friendly worship; and a simple dinner. Children of all ages are welcome to come along, but must be accompanied by an adult.

**We hope you will join us!**

# Christmas Pageant 2016



This year's Christmas Pageant was different. Children and Congregation participated in an interactive version of *The Sounds of Christmas*, and there were many smiles, much laughter, and a great deal of fun for all.



Photos submitted by Tom Ewig

# Christmas Dinner Highlights



# Christmas Dinner Highlights



Photos Submitted by Andrea Di Ruggiero

# Thank You

## Thank You to Our Sunday Flower Donors

### SEPTEMBER

Ann Talcott  
Tricia Tiensch  
Bobbi and Mike Phillips  
Barbara Gill

### NOVEMBER

Marion Hoffman  
Ann and Tom Ewig  
Suzie Morris

### OCTOBER

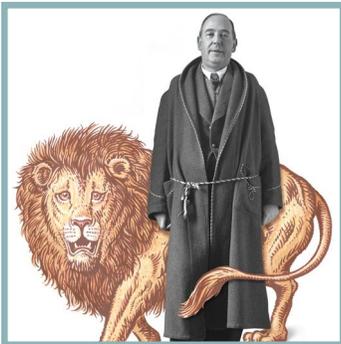
Janet & Ted Bruns  
Jane Coyle  
Isabel Broshek  
The Brown Family  
The Shelby Family

### DECEMBER

The Di Ruggiero Family  
Ann Talcott  
Caroline Ford  
All who contributed on  
Christmas Eve

## Thursday Morning Bible Study *The Book of Luke*

Beginning on Thursday, January 19 from 9-10 a.m., the class will begin a study of the New Testament gospel according to *Luke*. After an introduction to the material by course leader, Dr. Kevin Newburg, we will start at the fourth chapter with the temptations of Christ. The sessions are always lively, informative, challenging, and fun. We meet in Fellowship Hall library and welcome newcomers. Open to all!



## Monday Women's Bible Study *The Life and Writing of C.S. Lewis*

"What is it about British literary scholar and author C. S. Lewis—the Oxbridge don and self-described "very ordinary layman of the Church of England"—that touches millions of readers so deeply, making him the most widely read Christian spokesman of our time? In these lectures you will cover Lewis's spiritual autobiography and other creative works, as well as his scholarly writings that reflect on pain and grief, love and friendship, prophecy and miracles, and education and mythology." (From the *Great Courses* course description)

On January 9, the Monday Morning Women's Bible Study began a new study of writer, teacher, and theologian, C.S. Lewis. The group will be starting with a Great Courses lecture series on Lewis and adding discussion of some of his books. Lewis's *Mere Christianity*, *The Screwtape Letters*, and his children's fantasy series, *The Narnia Chronicles*, will be included. Toward the end of the series, the group will also watch the movie, *Shadowlands*, about Lewis and his wife, Joy.

The women of the church (and their friends) are welcome to join the group which meets 9:30 – 11 on Monday mornings. Leading the class is the Rev. Barbara Aspinall, Pastor at Meyersville Presbyterian Church. And coffee is served!

**FAITH IN A DIVIDED WORLD****February 26**

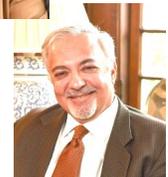
Rev. Larissa Kwong Abazia, Director of Church Relations at Princeton Theological Seminary, will lead a lively conversation exploring ways people of faith struggle to live in the world, but not of it. The challenges before us seem to grow daily: racism, war, prejudice, violence, and divisions among people—us versus them. What is the Church's place in reducing this confusion? How can faith inform ways that we engage in the important work of transforming the world around us? Larissa is a member of the Committee on Representation for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and recently served as Vice Moderator of the 221st General Assembly.

**UNDERSTANDING THE MIDDLE EAST****March 26**

Dr. Brid Nicholson, an engaging and informative associate professor of history at Kean University with a particular interest in social and cultural history, will consider the latest political and military developments in the middle East. Be it Syria, Israel, or Egypt, she will place these events in their historical context and offer insights into what lies behind the various and escalating conflicts. A native of Ireland, Nicholson received her Ph. D. from Drew and now teaches Irish, American, and Middle Eastern history at Kean.

**RAISING CHILDREN, PART II: IT'S NOT ROCKET SCIENCE, IT'S HARDER!****April 2**

Popular speakers, Catherine Morrisett and Nunzio Gubitosa of Grace Counseling Center in Madison, will teach listeners how to use their gut instincts to get new, essential information in unpredictable family moments. Unlike consistent rocket science, family relationships are volatile and can change 180 degrees from one minute to the next. See your parenting style in a new light and get answers you need to raise confident children. Nunzio Gubitosa is certified in individual, family, and group psychotherapy, specializing in work with adolescents. Dr. Morrisett, as a therapist, specializes in individual, marital, and family therapy. Childcare will be provided.

**GOOD HEALTH BEGINS AT THE END OF YOUR FORK****Tuesday, April 25 11:30 am to 1:30 pm**

Bring a friend and join us for a special Workshop and Cooking Demonstration with Living Plate! A Registered Dietician Nutritionist will demonstrate evidence-based techniques and tips to help you and your family eat healthier and without mealtime stress. Proper nutrition today can affect not only physical health but mood as well.

Scientists have found it can also affect the health of future generations in your family. Call Barbara Coe at 973-425-4088 or email her at waffcoe@aol.com to reserve a spot.

**SHARING THE WEALTH: GIVING TRENDS IN NEW JERSEY****May 7**

Hans Dekker, president of the Community Foundation of New Jersey since 2003, will discuss the interaction of NJ estate/income taxes and their impact on charitable giving in New Jersey. During Mr. Dekker's tenure, the Foundation's donor and legacy funds have made over \$348 million in grants to charitable causes in our communities. Highlights of the Community Foundation's work in New Jersey include human trafficking awareness, juvenile justice reform, and public media. Mr. Dekker is a past chair of the Council of New Jersey Grantmakers and a trustee of the Hyde and Watson and the OHI Foundations.





## Special Pin Fund

Reverend Stone and Tom Ewig, Chairman of Buildings & Grounds, are seen presenting financial assistance to newly appointed Church Custodian, Tony Rodriguez. This award was made possible through generous donations by individual members of the Congregation to assist Tony, who was deprived of income from a former employer during Tony's convalescence from knee surgery. The full cost of the surgery itself and related medical care has been fully covered by the Church's insurance.

Tony extends his sincere thanks to all who contributed to this effort and to the Congregation at-large for all of its consideration and the kindness it has displayed at this difficult time for him. It is greatly appreciated.

## A Lenten Pilgrimage to Paris with the Shalem Institute March 21 - 30

Paris is one of the most magnificent cities in the world. Its architecture and landmarks, artistic treasures, and centuries of history are a gift. A Lenten contemplative pilgrimage to Paris allows us to slow down and savor the presence of the Holy One in the midst of its vibrant life. It offers time to experience Lent in the historic churches and cathedrals, find quiet places in the busy city, pray with local contemplative communities, and begin to know the soul of Paris through its beauty, art, and people.

The pilgrimage schedule includes daily meditations and reflections related to Lent and this pilgrimage journey, visits to sites of historic beauty and artistic treasure, contemplative worship with communities in Paris, the joy of sharing with fellow pilgrims, and ample time to explore on your own. Throughout this Lenten experience, our intent is to be a prayerful presence in the city, embracing the life of Paris with a pilgrim heart. Lent is a journey that leads to resurrection, to one's truest, most authentic self. Our prayer is that the spiritual treasures of Paris and this Lenten pilgrimage will open our eyes to see more of God's presence in the world and more of God's purpose and design for our lives.

For more information, speak with Rev. Stone and visit  
<http://shalem.org/programs/pilgrimages/paris-pilgrimage/>





### Note from Jane And Bob Asdal

Bob and I are now permanent residents of North Carolina. While we really miss all our people in NJ, we are absolutely loving the life and surrounds here in this beautiful and gentle place...

Their new addresses:

10 Walnut Creek Rd,  
Pinehurst, NC 28374  
janeasdal@gmail.com  
kasdal@gmail.com

### Note From Jack Dugan

Barbara and I are grateful to the members of the congregation, especially Pastor Bill, the Deacons, and members of the Thursday Morning Bible Study class for all the kind visits, calls, cards, candies, cookies, and other niceties that cheered me during my recent hospital stay with a broken hip. I am progressing slowly but surely. One does not recoup as fast at the age of 95 as 35!

Thank you all, Jack Dugan



### To the Congregation

Thank you for the generous donations made to the inmates at the Morris County Correctional Facility at Christmas. The gifts mean a great deal to the inmates, and they truly appreciate knowing that there are people on the

outside who are thinking about them and care for them.

The support also means a great deal to the people on the Board of the Prison Chaplaincy. We know how many charities approach the churches for support during Christmas, and we are truly thankful to everyone for including the Prison Ministry in their Christmas donations. The people of the Congregation are our Christmas angels. Thank you on behalf of the inmates and the Prison Chaplaincy of the MCCF.

Nancy Barrett

## Ordination & Installation

### Sunday, February 5

The installation and ordination of new officers will take place during morning worship on Sunday, February 5th.

#### Elders for 3-year term

Jenn McCann  
Don Richardson  
Eileen Urban

\*Keith Wood, (returning)

#### Deacons for 3-year term

Andrea Di Ruggiero (returning)  
Olin Friant (returning)  
Beth Gibson  
Karen Pennett  
Faith Winow

#### Auditor

Russ MacAusland

# February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Bible Study 9:00-10:00 am  Choir 7:30 pm	3  AA Meeting noon	4
5 Communion Worship Service 10 am Ordain & Install Elders & Deacons	6 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	7 Adult Ed 5 pm  Book Club 7:30 p Library	8 Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:30 am Nautilus Diner	9 Bible Study 9:00-10:00 am  Choir 7:30 pm	10  AA Meeting noon	11
12 Worship Service 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am Deacons' Pantry Sale At Coffee Hour Gershwin Auditions 12-4 pm	13 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	14  Women's AA Step Meeting Noon  Deacons' Mtg 7:00 pm	15	16 Bible Study 9:00-10:00 am  Finance Mtg. 7:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm	17  AA Meeting noon	18
19 Worship Service 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am	20 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am  Presidents' Day Church Office Closed	21  Women's AA Step Meeting noon  Session Mtg. 7 pm	22	23 Bible Study 9:00-10:00 am  Membership 5:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	24  AA Meeting noon	25
26 Worship Service 10 am Annual Meeting of the Congregation 11 am Coffee Hour 11 am Sunday Speaker Series 11:15 am	27 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	28  Women's AA Step Meeting noon				

## FEBRUARY WORSHIP PLANS

**Sunday, February 5**

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Preacher: Rev. William H. Stone, III  
Liturgist: Jane Kendall

**Sunday, February 12**

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Preacher: Rev. William H. Stone, III  
Liturgist: Ann Talcott

**Sunday, February 19**

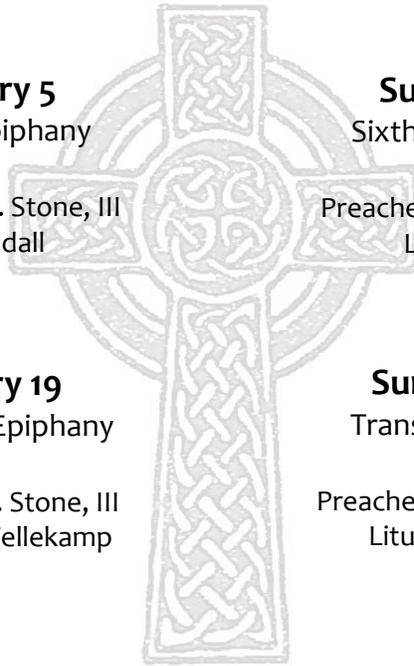
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Preacher: Rev. William H. Stone, III  
Liturgist: Carol Conger Vellekamp

**Sunday, February 26**

Transfiguration of the Lord

Preacher: Rev. William H. Stone, III  
Liturgist: Tom MacCowatt



**Ash  Wednesday**

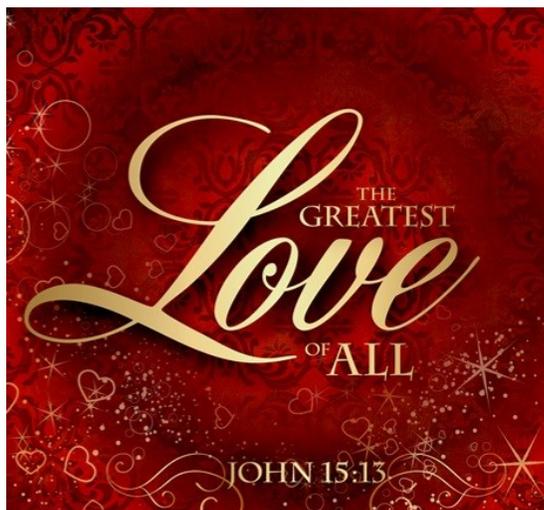
**Wednesday, March 1**

**7 pm**

Join us for a reflective evening service as we mark the beginning of Lent—our spiritual journey toward the cross.

## The Pipe Organ

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



## FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

**Sunday, February 5**  
**Ordination & Installation**  
During Worship Service

**Sunday, February 12**  
**Deacons' Pantry Sale**  
At Coffee Hour

**Sunday, February 26**  
**Annual Meeting of the Congregation**  
Immediately following Worship

**Sunday Speaker Series:**  
**Raising Children, Part II**

### 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](mailto:officeadmin@pcnv.org) or call 973-538-8394.

## CHURCH OFFICE

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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