

The Pipe Organ

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH New Vernon, NJ

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March 2014

Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another.

I Peter 4:8-10

Rick's Reflections

As a child I was fascinated with my Roman Catholic friends who had to give something up for Lent. Growing up in the old United Presbyterian Church, I had hardly even heard of Lent. Though I didn't understand the notion of no chocolate or no ice cream or whatever, I was curious.

It turns out that sacrifice was one of the ways people embraced the season of Lent. The weeks leading up to Easter are the most honest times for Christians. In this season, we realize our utter dependence upon God's grace. We think more deeply about the meaning of the cross. And we think about the connection between the sacrifice that Jesus made and the sacrifice that we are called to make. "If anyone would follow me, let him take up **HIS** cross and follow." That sounds like a lot more than giving up chocolate.

So I want to propose that this year, we all give up the same thing for Lent. It's not a food that we like or some pleasurable activity. It is simply this: Selfishness. If you are like me, you will be amazed at how many times a day you act upon that which is in your own best interest. There is nothing wrong with that unless it means that it is **NOT** in the best interest of others. That is **selfishness**.

The scripture above says that we are to love others **ABOVE ALL THINGS**; especially ourselves. When we are stewards of God's grace, we extend that grace to others before meeting our own needs.

Let's try it. Every day from now until Easter, make a conscious effort to give up selfishness. That means decisions about time and money and attitudes. It won't be easy. That's kind of the point of sacrifice. We might even learn what it means to live for Christ beyond Lent. Let me know how it goes for you.

Pastor Rick

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Tricia Tiensch

Keith Wood

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Erin Castner

Fenton Chaney

Andrea Di Ruggiero

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Rachel Newburg

Judith Shelton

Olivia Shelton

Prudy Sweeney

Anne Thomas

Eileen Urban

Anne Waite

Mission & Outreach News

Mission & Outreach Volunteer Event! (MOVE!)

SUNDAY, MARCH 2 11 am-noon Fellowship Hall

The Mission & Outreach Committee is inviting the nonprofits we support to participate in an Education/Volunteer Fair after the worship service on **Sunday, March 2 from 11am-noon.**

Our congregation is passionate about supporting nonprofits. In fact, we set aside 15% of our Operating Budget for this purpose and many of our members are actively involved in volunteering at all levels for these organizations.

One of our Committee's goals is to educate the congregation about these organizations. Our MOVE! Fair is an opportunity for you to speak directly with representatives from the non-profits about how we can better serve their organization (i.e. volunteering, contributing funds, serving on a Board, valuable networking, or information gathering).

The event will be held in Fellowship Hall and each organization will have a 6' table to display materials they feel appropriate to facilitating the event, such as: signage, brochures, descriptions of volunteer opportunities, and signup sheets.

We envision folks moving around the room, stopping at each table to reconnect, learning about new happenings at their organization and discussing new ways we can work together.

Our goal is to provide new venues for you to get involved in our community. Please plan to be there and find a new outlet for your talents and make a new MOVE! this year.



January and February Session Highlights



The following are highlights from the January 19th and February 18th 2014 Session Meetings. The meetings began with Pastor Sweeney and Nancy Barrett reading devotions, respectively.

Committee Highlights

Adult Education: On March 9th and 23rd Professor Bill Stroker, of Drew University, will present a 2-part program on *The Parables of Jesus*. On May 4th we will host a speaker who will share interesting information about Hinduism. Stay tuned for news about a coffee hour game show in June.

Worship and Music: Min Kwon will perform for us again on April 6th at 5 pm. The Technology Committee needs additional members to run the soundboard. On some Sundays we have been without a sound crew. **Teens and adults** are welcome to participate. If interested, please contact Rachel Newburg at RMNewburg@gmail.com and cc Tricia Tiensch at ttiensch@comcast.net.

Mission and Outreach: The final fund allocations for 2013 have been made. We will host another Social Club dinner on April 15th for the Mental Health Association of Morris County. Mental Health First Aid Training will be offered March 24th and 25th.

Finance: The church received an insurance rebate and a decrease in cleaning service costs due to the closing of the nursery school. The budget for buildings and grounds has been increased because of the necessity for foundation work in Fellowship Hall. The expenses for the Brick Manse are up; the rental fees will remain the same for next year but will be raised the following year.

Stewardship: Thanks to Jonathan Shelby we had a very successful stewardship campaign. The pledges came in just a few thousand under the goal of \$500,000. We received 134 pledges in all. Thanks to all who pledged!

Building & Grounds: Not surprisingly, our snow removal costs are slightly over budget. Also, due to our very snowy winter, the sampling of the well water has been delayed. The architects are currently working on a proposal for the foundation.

Personnel Committee: Brenda Myers will head the Personnel Committee enabling Keith Wood to chair the Finance Committee.

Youth Education: The Youth Group members were key players in this year's *Souper Bowl Sunday* luncheon. They helped the deacons set up the day before and were responsible for the delicious apple crisp everyone enjoyed for dessert. They also assembled Valentines' Day care packages to send out to college and boarding school students. On March 9th a group will go to Camp Johnsonburg to help clean the lodges and dining hall. A weekend retreat is planned for March 14th to 16th with Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church, over 100 participants are expected.

Administrative Review: Julia Buteux has graciously agreed to help Caroline Ford keep the database updated while Caroline is out of state.

Communion will be served on Sunday March 2nd.

Reverend Sweeney adjourned the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Jane Coyle, Clerk of Session

February Ordination and Installation



On Sunday, February 2, our new Elders and Deacons were installed during the Worship Service.



Homeless Solutions to Honor Helen and Grant Parr

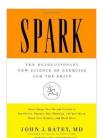
Dream Builder's Bash March 28

Westin Governor Morris, Morristown, NJ

Helen and Grant Parr are the 2014 Homeless Solutions honorees at the March 28th Dream Builder's Bash at the Westin Governor Morris in Morristown. This dinner dance, at which the Mary Van Kirk Volunteer Spirit Award will also be given, is HIS's major fund-raising event in support of its shelter and affordable housing programs.

Reservations can be made by contacting Wendi Zimmerman at 973-993-0900 x21 or wendizimmerman@homelesssolutions.org. If you mention that you are associated with the New Vernon Church, you will be seated with other church members. Reservations, at \$225 per person, are due on March 14.

FPCNV Book Club



March Book Selection: Spark: The Revolutionary New Science of Exercise and the Brain by John J. Ratey and Eric Hagerman

Did you know you can beat stress, lift your mood, fight memory loss, sharpen your intellect, and function better than

ever simply by elevating your heart rate and breaking a sweat? The evidence is incontrovertible: aerobic exercise physically remodels our brains for peak performance.

In SPARK, John Ratey, MD embarks upon a fascinating journey through the mind-body connection, illustrating that exercise is truly our best defense against everything from depression to ADD to addiction to menopause to Alzheimer's. Filled with amazing case studies (such as the revolutionary fitness program in Naperville, Illinois, that has put the local school district of 19,000 kids first in the world of science test scores), SPARK is the first book to explore comprehensively the connection

Meeting Dates and Book Selections

Where: Library When: 7:30 pm

MAR 11 Spark: The Revolutionary New Science of Exercise and the Brain by John J. Ratey and Eric Hagerman

APR 8 The Fish That Ate the Whale: The
Life and Times of America's Banana King
by Rich Cohen

MAY 13 And the Mountains Echoed by Khaled Hosseini

JUN 10 House of Spirits by Isabel Allende

New members are welcome.

between exercise and the brain. It will change forever the way you think about your morning run.

Community Soup Kitchen News

Our church provides many hard working volunteers each month to prepare and serve food at the Community Soup Kitchen in Morristown. It is deeply rewarding for those who participate. Now is a great time to join our Church Serving Team!

There is no training required to be a server, simply contact me and I will add you to one of the teams. Each team serves 4 times a year on the 3rd Wednesday of the month; serving hours are 10:45 to 1:00pm. On your scheduled day, just show up, serve and leave—no prep work and no clean up! This is one of our church's most important ministries.

If you are interested or want more information contact Jane Coyle:

973-879-6360 or ianeacoyle@gmail.com



Youth & Children's Ministry Assessment March 22-23, 2014



We value the children of our church, and we are committed to building sustainable youth and children's ministries that will have a deep impact. That's why we are developing a game plan together. We have experienced low attendance and lack of participation in our Sunday School and youth programs in recent years, so before we begin the process of identifying a part-time youth director, we need to ensure we have a game plan and that all stakeholders have a chance to share their thoughts and ideas.

We have invited Ministry Architects to visit us on Saturday and Sunday, March 22-23, 2014. (Learn more about them at www.ymarchitects.com.) The Ministry Architects consultant will spend the majority of her time listening to a variety of groups within the Church through focused listening groups. After spending all day Saturday in these listening groups, the consultant will prepare a report, sharing with us what she's heard about the youth and children's ministries—including assets, challenges, and how we compare to children's ministries around the country—and where it seems that God might be taking us next. On Sunday, March 23, 2014, the report will be presented to the congregation, laying out specific recommendations and a blueprint for how to move forward.

Invitations are being extended now for our Group Listening Sessions on Saturday, March 22.

Schedule for Saturday, March 22 Listening Groups:

11:30 am-12:30 pm Deacons/Elders
12:45-1:45 pm Parents of Children (Pre-K through Grade 5) Child care will be provided.

2:00 - 3:00pm Middle School Youth (Grades 6-8) 3:15 - 4:15 pm Youth Parents (Grades 6-12) 4:30-5:30 pm High School Youth (Grades 9-12)

If you would like to be part of this process and have not already been contacted, please email Kerra French, Youth Education Committee Chair, at kfrench@somersethillsymca.org.

Stakeholder Meeting – Sunday, March 23 at 3:00PM

All stakeholders and interested parties are invited to join us on Sunday, March 23 at 3:00PM to hear the final assessment report presented by Ministry Architects.



SAY IT WITH FLOWERS...TWICE!

The congregation enjoys the flowers on the altar each Sunday, and your gifts enhance the beauty of our lovely church. In addition, the acknowledgement in the weekly program allows others to share in your memorial or celebratory dedication.

BUT, THERE IS MORE...

Did you know that, after the service, Deacons deliver the flowers to people in our church family?

Pastor Rick advises the Deacons regarding recipients. Then, two Deacons are assigned this task on a monthly basis. Engaging in this traditional mission, the Deacons combine flower delivery with a friendly visit and a copy of that morning's bulletin.

For further information and/or to sign up for a Sunday Flower contribution:

Call or email Bernice Paton at 973-539-5168 or bnice234@verizon.net

Church Email Database

In 2009, the Church began using Vertical Response to send notices and announcements to our members. This service enabled us to send messages to all who had submitted their current email address to us and kept their address current.

In September, we noticed a change in our ability to reach many of the members. A review of the bounced emails showed that members with Verizon and AOL accounts were heavily impacted. Further investigation in early January revealed that these accounts had changed their security settings, and this resulted in our emails being blocked as spam.

Deb Hennessey has been in communication with Vertical Response to resolve this situation and has manually unblocked 68 email addresses that were no longer being reached by Vertical Response. To ensure that your email provider does not re-block emails from the Church, it would be helpful if you add officeadmin@pcnv.org to your contact list. This will prevent Verizon and AOL from automatically bouncing email that comes from our Vertical Response account. Also, if your email address has changed or you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send your current email address to Deb Hennessey at officeadmin@pcnv.org.

Adult Ed: The Parables of Jesus Presented by William Stroker

Part I: March 9 ~ Part II: March 23 11:30 am in Library



Jesus' teaching was characterized by parables. Historians are more confident that parables go back to the historical Jesus than any other type of teaching. Session 1 will treat the definition of parable, what it is and what it is not and describe the categories usually used to group the parables with examples of each. Session 2 will concentrate on the "parables of reversal" in which Jesus challenges normal understandings of God's dealing with people and the actions He approves and disapproves.

William Stroker is emeritus professor of Biblical Studies at Drew, where for many years he chaired the Department of Religious Studies. Most of his graduate studies in New Testament and Early Christian Literature were done at Yale University where he received his Ph. D. He also studied at the University of Basel in Switzerland and the University of Tuebingen in Germany. His areas of specialization include the history and literature of non-orthodox movements in early Christianity as well as more mainstream movements.

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Session has called the Annual Meeting of the Congregation Sunday, March 30

immediately following the Worship Service.

Copies of the Annual Report will be available in the Narthex and on the website at:

www.pcnv.org
on Sunday, March 23.

Harmonium Choral Society

March 1 at 8 pm March 2 at 3 pm

Morristown United Methodist Church on the Green

Tickets: \$25 at the door \$20 students & seniors

This program features ANNELIES by James Whitbourn, a major new cantata about Anne Frank and other works.

Min Kwon & Friends

Featuring **Steinway Piano**

(Courtesy of Steinway and Sons, NYC) and

Principal Players of
The Metropolitan Opera Orchestra &
The New Jersey Symphony

Sunday, April 6 ~ 5 pm

First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon In the Sanctuary

> Min Kwon, piano Yoon Kwon, violin Jonathan Spitz, cello Timothy Cobb, bass Vladimir Valjarevic, piano

Performing enchanting works by Schubert and Rachmaninoff.

Schubert: Military March, Fantasie for Piano Four Hands Rachmaninoff: Vocalise, Musical Moment Schubert Quintet: The Trout

All Proceeds will benefit the First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon Piano Fund

Tickets \$20

Available at Coffee Hour, in the Church Office, and from Tricia Tiensch, Patti Wood, and Edna Conway



Min Kwon



Yoon Kwon



Jonathan Spitz



Tim Cobb



Vladimir Valjarevic











SOUPER BOWL WEEKEND

On Saturday, February 2, members of the Youth Group met with some of the Deacons in Fellowship Hall to prepare Apple Crisp for Souper Bowl Sunday and to trim Fellowship Hall with festive football decorations. On Sunday, members enjoyed soup, chili, salad, bread, fellowship, and fun. A free-will offering benefitted the Community Soup Kitchen.

























Outreach Focus: Willow Tree

The Willow Tree Center is led by a dedicated member of our congregation, Susan Nobleman, MA, LCADC, CCS, CPS. Last year, as a new member on Session and new Chair of Mission & Outreach I knew very little about the functional work of the non-profits we support. I did know that Sue is the Executive Director at The Willow

Tree Center and that she is the petite blond who sings in the choir. What I didn't appreciate was her passion for her work. That is, until she approached me about assisting with the Social Club dinner we hosted at church last fall for the Mental Health Association of Morris County.

Sue suggested we meet to discuss some thoughts she had on how to make the dinner and evening extra special and run smoothly for our guests. With hindsight, I attribute a great deal of the success of the evening to her professional advice, creative ideas, and valuable contributions. In short, Sue provided us with a solid well organized framework for the entire evening. I really can't thank her enough. The evening was very special!

I visited The Willow Tree Center last fall and was immediately impressed by the warm caring environment of the facility in Morris Plains. Their mission statement is concise and felt clearly when you enter the center: "Through a personalized approach, The Willow Tree Center empowers, counsels & educates individuals and families to build emotionally healthy, alcohol, tobacco, drug-safe, caring individuals, families, schools and communities."

The center specializes in counseling for alcohol, tobacco & drug use disorders and mental health issues as co-occurring disorders. Additionally, they are actively involved in educating middle and high school students with a prevention program to reduce harassment, intimidation and bullying in the schools. We support The Willow Tree Center with funding for addiction counseling for indigent or low-income clients and the in school program called 100 VOICES.

100 VOICES program begins with an exciting day-long experiential conference designed to increase the social and emotional intelligence of student and adult participants. The ultimate goal is to empower participants to take positive action to reduce Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) in their school and community groups. Participants will learn the dynamics of bullying, become sensitized to the impact of HIB, and gain skills to intervene appropriately and safely. Essentially, participants will change from bystander behavior — where they are part of the problem — into upstander behavior — where they become part of the solution.

The addiction counseling component that the Center provides begins with an intensive interview process to rule an addiction in or out, determine the stage of the addiction, and identify the level

of care needed. The goal of an effective assessment is to make the RIGHT placement(s) providing the RIGHT: services, amount, intensity level, structure & support, time, place, people, price — all to achieve the right outcomes — recovery. The center then provides a warm & welcoming environment for one on one motivational, personal growth and relapse prevention counseling; referrals to in-patient & intensive outpatient programs when the level of care needed is greater than we provide. They also offer personal linkages to AA & other self-help groups.



March Movie

Sideways Thursday, March 27 7 pm at The Chaneys'

Sideways is a "modest but finely tuned film; with gentle compassion, it explores the failures, struggles, and lowered expectations of mid-life."

- Bret Fetzer

Cast:

Paul Giamatti, Thomas Haden Church, Virginia Madsen, Sandra Oh, Marylouise Burke, Jessica Hecht, Missy Doty, M.C. Gainey, Alysia Reiner, Shake Toukhmanian, Duke Moosekian, Robert Covarrubias, Patrick Gallagher, Stephanie Faracy

2004 R 127 minutes

Blood Drive

SATURDAY, APRIL 5 8 AM-1 PM FELLOWSHIP HALL

There will be a blood drive on Saturday, April 5, 2014 in Fellowship Hall from 8 am until 1 pm.

All donated blood will benefit patients at Morristown Medical Center.

To schedule an appointment:

973-210-7007

Fear Not! The Deacons bring you good tidings of great joy: Coffee Hour Hosting has been simplified.

The Deacons recently revamped the procedures for Coffee Hour, so please don't hesitate to sign up, perhaps with a friend or another family. Two Deacons will oversee Coffee Hour for the month and will prepare the coffee and tea so all you have to do is plug in the pots before church. What could be simpler? They will also set the serving tables with cloths, cups, and cutlery and put out platters and pitchers for you in the kitchen. You will provide the coffee, milk, half & half, juice, and goodies, either home baked or purchased. Sunday morning you will set out the food, plug in the pots, and when your guests arrive, be alert to pitchers that need refilling or platters replenishing. Afterward, a Deacon will help with clean-up. Voilà! You will have done a good deed and discovered it's been a breeze... and one that is always truly appreciated. Please add your name to the sign-up poster in Fellowship Hall without delay. The Deacons for March are Eileen Urban and Rachel Newburg.

March 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					AA Meeting noon	1
Communion Outreach MOVE! Volunteer Fair 11 am-noon Fellowship Hall	Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	Women's AA Step Meeting noon	Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:30 am Ash Wednesday Service 7:15 pm Choir 7:30 pm	6 Bible Study 8:30-9:30 am Youth Ed Committee 7 pm	AA Meeting noon	8
9 Confirmation Class 9-9:30 am Adult Ed: The Parables of Jesus Part I 11:30 am	No Bible Study Deacons 7:00 pm	Women's AA Step Meeting noon Book Club 7:30 p Library	12 Choir 7:30 pm	13 Bible Study 8:30-9:30 am Staff Meeting 4:30 pm	AA Meeting noon	15
16	Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am Madison Garden Club Finance Committee Meeting 7 pm	Women's AA Step Meeting noon Session Mtg. 7 pm	19 Choir 7:30 pm	20 Bible Study 8:30-9:30 am New Vernon Garden Club 9 am	AA Meeting noon	Youth Ministry Listening Group Meetings
Adult Ed: The Parables of Jesus Part II—11:30 am Youth Ministry Stakeholder Meeting 3 pm	Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	Women's AA Step Meeting noon	26 Choir 7:30 pm	27 Bible Study 8:30-9:30 am	AA Meeting noon	29
30 Annual Meeting of the Congregation 11 am	Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am					

March 2014 Worship at FPCNV

Sunday, March 2

Transfiguration of the Lord

Communion

Preacher: Dr. Sweeney Liturgist: Carol Vellekamp

Sermon: The Touch That Stops the Trembling

Text:

Psalm 99

Matthew 17:1-9

Sunday, March 9

First Sunday in Lent

Preacher: Dr. Sweeney

Liturgist: TBA

Sermon: A Selfie of My Halo

Text:

Psalm 51:1-17

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sunday, March 23

Third Sunday in Lent

Preacher: Dr. Sweeney

Liturgist: TBA

Sermon: *Stay Thirsty*

Text:

Exodus 17:1-7

John 4:5-15

Wednesday, March 5

Ash Wednesday

Preacher: Dr. Sweeney

7:15 pm

Sunday, March 16

Second Sunday in Lent

Preacher: Dr. Sweeney

Liturgist: Mindo Swartz

Sermon: How Can These Things Be?

Text:

Psalm 121

John 3:1-17

Sunday, March 30

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Preacher: Dr. Sweeney

Liturgist: TBA

Sermon: Blind By Birth: Blind By Choice

Text:

John 9:1-17

John 9:18-41

The Pipe Organ

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

Youth And Children's Ministry Assessment March 22 & 23



MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, March 2 ~ 11 amOutreach Volunteer Fair (MOVE)

Wednesday, March 5

Men's Prayer Breakfast - 7:30 am Ash Wednesday Service - 7:15 pm

Sunday, March 9 & 23

Adult Ed: The Parables of Jesus

Saturday, March 22

Youth Ministry Listening Group Meetings

Sunday, March 23

Youth Ministry Stakeholders Meeting

March 30 ~ 11 am

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

E-mail Addresses

The Church Office is still collecting and correcting members' e-mail addresses. 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

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