



The Pipe Organ

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
New Vernon, NJ

VOL. 63 NO. 7

September, 2013

Rick's Reflections

“Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, just as it is with our soul.” ~ III John 2

I just had my annual physical. In general, it was a good report, but it is always a little like judgment day when I have to step on that scale. All of my sins of over-eating and not exercising catch up to me. The doctor never seems to be too impressed with my excuses. He just urges me to live more healthily for my own good. He is, of course, right.

But I started to wonder about our spiritual health. While our physical well-being is important, the health of our souls is much more so. The doctor uses certain measurements to check your physical health. He checks pulse and blood pressure and examines cholesterol levels in the blood and weighs you. I have some tests to measure your spiritual health.

Worship Attendance: You need to be in church on a regular basis. Whatever excuses you have for not being here do not impress Dr. God. Your being here is also important for the health of the greater body of believers.

Prayer and Bible Study Factors: Do you spend any time growing in faith by studying the manual for well-being written by the manufacturer? And do you take advantage of the daily supplement that keeps your soul connected to God and thus keeps you spiritually well?

Kindness Quotient: This is not a way to earn your way into heaven, it’s an indication of your wholeness in spirit. It involves acting with kindness in global ways and in personal ways. It is a great test to see if you are healthy spiritually.

Humility Pulse: There is an ad on TV for a video game that challenges you to “create your own god and build your own empire.” Sadly, that applies to many of us in our real lives. Nothing is more deadly to that part of you that is eternal.

Generosity Level: One of the side effects of a strong spirit is that you become generous with your money and your time. God will make sure you have time to do everything that God wants you to do. And God will

make sure you have enough money to take care of every need. So you are free to be generous.

Joy Gram: If you are well in your soul, you will be a joyful person. You have absorbed the good news of a life worth living and a life that never ends. You have taken in the truth that love conquers all ills of the soul. So your life will surely show it.

How spiritually healthy are you? The God who created you and loves you does not want to hear excuses. God wants you to be healthy in body and soul. Fall is a great time to re-commit to your church, and as you get healthy in spirit, you will make the church healthy as well.

Blessings, **Pastor Rick**

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Lisa Chapman

Sandy Finlayson

Barbara Gill

Nancy Gockley

Susan Morris

Sue Nobleman

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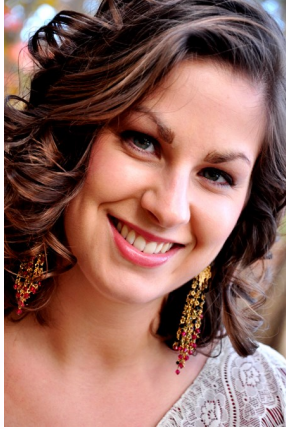
Prudy Sweeney

Anne Thomas

Eileen Urban

Anne Waite

Elena Bird Zolnick



Elena Bird Zolnick was raised in Kenai, Alaska, where she spent the first years of her life studying music, running up mountains, and catching salmon. Elena started leading music at her church, where her mother was the music director, at the age of six. After graduating from high school, she began her studies at St. Olaf College, where her knowledge and appreciation

of sacred choral music grew. While at St. Olaf, Elena was a member of the Manitou Singers, St. Olaf Choir, and studied voice and conducting. After two years, Elena transferred to the University of Colorado at Boulder to focus on solo repertoire, while continuing to work as a church musician. After earning a Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance in 2009, she moved to Manhattan to continue her vocal studies. In 2011, Elena moved to Tallahassee, FL, to pursue a Master of Music degree in Voice Performance, graduating in 2013.

Elena is the recipient of several vocal awards, including the Anchorage Festival of Music Young Artist Award, and has soloed with several choirs. She has recited in Alaska, Austria, New York, Florida, Minnesota, and Colorado, and has performed operatic roles with New York Lyric Opera Theater, Florida State University Opera, CU Opera, and Loveland Opera Theater, among others. She currently maintains a private voice studio and continues her studies in New York City with Trish McCaffrey.

Elena has been a professional church musician for seven years, although the spiritual and musical wealth of her upbringing has prepared her for it all of her life. She loves being able to include God's people and help enhance the worship experience for the congregation. When she is not praising God with music, she is praising Him in the outdoors, or with her husband Matt (and even sometimes with their dog, Stanzi), or in the best of circumstances, all of the above at the same time.



JUNE SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



The following are highlights from the June 28, 2013 Session Meeting.

The meeting began with Kerra French reading devotions.

Committee Highlights

Adult Education:

Kevin Newburg conducts the Thursday morning Bble study. Our current agreement with him is for ten months of the year; however, the group would like to continue through the summer. It was decided that Kevin will be able to use the upstairs meeting room to teach throughout the summer months. Attendees will be asked for a small contribution to compensate Kevin for his time and knowledge.

Congregational Life: The picnic was a huge success! The weather cooperated nicely this year. Our hosts, the Sheeleighs, once again graciously opened their home and pool to our congregation. Their generosity is greatly appreciated!

Membership:

The Birthday Card Program is under way. So far, 316 replies have been received. The initial cards will be given out in the fall. The various committees were encouraged to take note of the feedback from the listening sessions and act on any shortcomings.

Youth Education:

The second Habitat for Humanity will be held at the end of June.

Worship and Music:

The Committee has met with several candidates for the Choir Director position. The quality of interviewees has been very high. The position will most likely be filled by the end of June.

Mission and Outreach:

Lou Schwarcz, from the Mental Health Association of Morris County, will visit our church and address the congregation over the summer. Plans to host a dinner/social event at our church are under way for September.

Finance:

Current year pledges are in line with what is expected; however, plate offerings have been running below budget. Presently, all expenses are under control. The utility bills are up because of the poor weather. The Memorial Fund will pay for the projector that will be purchased for the sanctuary. The HERB Fund is low, as some tuition payments were recently made.

Stewardship:

The stewardship campaign for 2013 will begin in the fall. Any ideas for a theme? Contact Jonathan Shelby.

Communion will be served by intinction on Sunday, July 7th.

The next Session meeting will be on Tuesday, September 16, 2013 at 7 pm.

Reverend Sweeney adjourned the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Coyle, Clerk of Session



The Butterflies from God

My favorite time of year, bar none, is the one that envelopes the early days of autumn. It's a time that seems to have an ethereal quality tinged with a melancholy derived from the reminders that another year is about to end. The milkweed seeds sail on the breeze. Leaves have begun to turn ever so slightly, tinged at their edges with yellow, brown, and red. Mornings are crisp, the birdsong is a bit more reserved, and the harbingers of warmer months, the butterflies, still flit lazily among the goldenrod and blue-flowered chicory that fill the fields and line the roadways.

It was on one of these days that I chose to walk along the fields and wooded roadsides that was my boyhood home. My sojourn took me on a loop of two and one-half miles along four roads. Each vista, every spot, held memories. Here's where I waited for the bus with my mother on my first day of school. There is the field where our neighbor used to graze his cows. Up that dirt and gravel right-of-way is where I learned to ride my bicycle. My godparents lived in that house, up that long drive is the place where the nursing home burned to the ground, and there's the patch of woods where my friend and I built our spook house and charged five cents to anyone brave enough to navigate its paths.

However, the memories that presented themselves most vividly were the ones regarding my family. There were ghosts everywhere. I "saw" my grandmother pulling me in a wagon along the same route I was walking. I "saw" my father showing me the red-capped lichen that grew on the bank along the road. I "saw" my mother walking with me on a mile-long path that led from our driveway and through the woods to my elementary school.

The most common recollections about my parents had to do with nature. My father was a botanist, and my mother was a gardener. Both of them loved butterflies and got me addicted to butterfly collecting as a child. I was proud of the specimens I collected and admit that I had the Golden Nature Guide *Butterflies and Moths* committed to memory by the age of nine. I was intrigued not only with their beauty, but with their vision – how they detected color and movement with their compound eyes.

We all had our favorites. Mine was the Mourning Cloak, which, incidentally, was the first butterfly I ever caught. My father's favorite was the Red-spotted Purple, a larger butterfly with washes of purple and red spots on its dark wings. I recalled how my father once stopped our family's station wagon very abruptly in order to net this butterfly at the very spot I was now standing. My mother adored the female Tiger Swallowtail, similar in size to the Red-spotted Purple but with blue edging to complement its black and yellow wings. For this story's sake, I need to note that the Tiger Swallowtail also occurs in a dark phase with wings that sport black stripes on very dark brown wings. At a glance, it's sometimes difficult to tell these from other similar-sized butterflies, such as the Spicebush Swallowtail and the Red-spotted Purple.

With both of my parents now gone to God, I found myself getting very nostalgic as I turned up the last road. At this point, I actually asked God to do something for me. "If my parents are with you and they can see what I've done with my life, can you give me some sort of a sign, something to let me know they are here?"

I have to tell you something about butterflies. As part of the mating process, two butterflies will often be seen spiraling upwards in flight. What they are doing is sensing each other's pheromones to determine if they are a match. I've seen this behavior very often and always between two butterflies of the same species, as their abilities to detect color and pattern allow them to choose the correct butterfly to approach.

Rounding a bend in the road, the woods end where a power line descends a hill from the north and ascends on the opposite side of the road. Underneath these power lines, wildflowers grow in dense clusters. Having just made my wish to my parents, I noticed two butterflies, perhaps fifteen feet from me, engaged in one of those spiral flights. I stopped and gasped. The pair was comprised of a female Tiger Swallowtail and a Red-spotted Purple! I have never seen this – have never even heard of it – but there they were, and the symbolism was not lost on me. God answered my prayer, and the symbols of my mother and my father danced before my eyes, seconds after I had asked God to let me know if my parents were with me.

Now, some people might say, "Well, perhaps the Tiger Swallowtail mistook the Red-spotted Purple for the dark phase of its own species," and I suppose that could happen, but I'm not buying it in this case. The timing was too perfect. There comes a time in life when one has to make a choice. Am I going to believe that God answers prayers and reveals himself my life? Or am I going to chalk everything up to coincidence and live in doubt?

I believe that God, and our loved ones who have gone to God, are alive and well and part of our existence. Where are the butterfly reminders in your life? Go and look. Open your eyes to the possibilities of faith and the answers to prayer that flit among your days on gossamer wings.

To All Parents and Students:
Come Celebrate With Joy Our Children's
Sunday School on Rally Sunday!



Joyfully Serving Jesus!

Sunday School classes begin on **Sunday, Sept. 15** for all children in Kindergarten through Grade 7. We will begin in the church at 10:00 a.m. Children will leave worship for Sunday School with their teachers. Classes will be held in the Fellowship Hall building and will conclude by the end of the worship service. There will be one multi-age class this year. Nursery care will be available each Sunday for children ages 4 and younger.

We're All Lovin' It! We will again use the Sunday School curriculum entitled, "Feasting on the Word." This curriculum follows the Revised Common Lectionary, which means our students will be learning the same lessons and stories that Pastor Rick preaches on each Sunday.

**Want to share your joy with our youth? Volunteer today to teach Sunday School.
We need your help!**

Contact Susan Fischer at shfischer@verizon.net or
908-204-0820 to discuss a teaching opportunity.



The Story Behind the Hymns

September 15 at Coffee Hour

Some of the great hymns of the faith have a wonderful story behind them. The Adult Education Committee is sponsoring an Adult Education hour after worship on September 15th in Fellowship Hall entitled, "The Story Behind the Hymns." Pastor Rick Sweeney and Minister of Music/Organist, Amanda Tsukamoto, will share stories behind some of our favorite hymns, which we will then sing together. Come and raise your voices!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR 2013 –2014

SEP	15	First day of Sunday School
	22	
	29	
OCT	6	Family Communion Sunday (No Sunday School)
	13	
	20	
	27	
NOV	3	Family Communion Sunday (No Sunday School)
	10	
	17	
	24	Youth Sunday (No Sunday School)
DEC	1	Family Communion Sunday (No Sunday School)
	8	Pageant (No Sunday School)
	15	
	22	
	29	No Sunday School
JAN	5	
	12	Family Communion Sunday (No Sunday School)
	19	
	26	Youth Sunday (No Sunday School)
FEB	2	Family Communion Sunday (No Sunday School)
	9	
	16	
	23	
MAR	2	Family Communion Sunday (No Sunday School)
	9	
	16	
	23	
	30	
APR	6	
	13	
	20	Easter Sunday (No Sunday School)
	27	Youth Sunday (No Sunday School)
MAY	4	Family Communion Sunday (No Sunday School)
	11	
	18	
	25	Memorial Day Weekend (No Sunday School)
JUN	1	Family Communion Sunday (No Sunday School)
	8	
	15	Last Day of Sunday School

WELCOME

Congregational Life News

SAVE THE DATE

Harvest Festival

October 27 ~ 3 pm

Be sure to save the date for a time of family fun, good fellowship, and food. This event will take place at Aimee Bloom's barn. More details to follow in the October issue of *The Pipe Organ*.



SAVE THE DATE



Christmas Luncheon

December 1

You won't want to miss this special event in December.

We will welcome the Advent Season with a congregational luncheon following worship on December 1.

We welcome any members, new or seasoned, who would like to join our committee. Help us to enhance the life of our congregation!

Please contact Meg Richardson if you would like to assist with the luncheon this year.



September Movie Night

Lorenzo's Oil

Wednesday, September 11

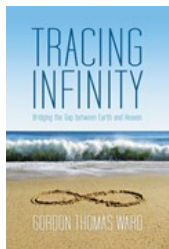
7:00 pm

1992 PG-129 minutes

Our next movie is *Lorenzo's Oil*, which will be shown at 7:00 at the Chaneys' on Wednesday, September 11. Hope to see you at the movies!

Susan Sarandon received an Academy Award nomination for her role as the mother of Lorenzo (Zack O'Malley Greenburg), a typical young child whose life is shattered when he's diagnosed with a terminal disease. His parents, Augusto (Nick Nolte) and Michaela (Sarandon), feel helpless as they watch their son slowly succumb to the illness. Not satisfied with modern medicine, they research the disease and turn to a controversial remedy for help.

Cast: Nick Nolte, Susan Sarandon, Peter Ustinov, Kathleen Wilhoite, Gerry Bamman, Margo Martindale, James Rebhorn, Ann Hearn, Maduka Steady, Mary Wakio, Don Suddaby, Colin Ward, LaTanya Richardson, Jennifer Dundas, William Cameron, Laura Linney, George Miller



Gordon Ward's Book & CD Signing

September 22 at Coffee Hour

Tracing Infinity: Bridging the Gap between Earth and Heaven will take you on an exploration, one that will show you how close our lives are to heaven and the source of our existence.

Discovering God's immersion in our lives is not complicated; the clues are all around us! We just need to learn how to see. Meadows, mountains, gardens, coastlines, and open rangeland are all God's classrooms for author Gordon Thomas Ward, and he will show how you can find evidence of God wherever you happen to be, even in your own backyard. Our lives are saturated in God. Even when we feel we are in the wildlands and winters of our lives, we are always in the presence of the Eternal. We can find holy breadcrumbs, evidence of the Infinite, leading us on our life paths and laid out by our Creator. Come and see how the Divine touches us all on our incredible journeys.

"Nature writers often hint at grand design. Gordon Ward does not hint! His insightful essays point the way toward understanding that our environment presents opportunities to learn how close we really are to the source of life with every breath we take, and that we can change with the next breath." ~ **Mike Anderson, New Jersey Audubon Society**

Singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Gordon Thomas Ward's debut CD, *Welcome to the Past*, is a collection of 13 original, acoustic songs featuring a variety of moods and topics. Accented by musical contributions by some guest artists, including our own Maggie Fischer, Gordon takes listeners on a diverse musical journey. Songs range from the lively "Grandfather River" and the edgy "Southern Man" to the reflective "For Emily" and promising "Best and Last."

"Gordon's musical performance is particularly spot-on, providing both the narrative and evocative resonance of the past, which only music, well performed, can draw forth from our collective heart."

~ **Dr. Jude Pfister, historian and author**



Adult Education Events

New Fall Plans and Returning Favorites

The Adult Education Committee is working on a number of informative and fun activities and events in the coming months. Details are still being worked out, but here are the series, discussions, studies, dates, and topics that are confirmed:

SEPTEMBER

9/12: Thursday Bible Study 8:30-9:30 am: An Introduction to Church History ~ more on pg. 15

9/15: *The Story Behind the Hymns* ~ the origins of some of our favorite hymns will be the topic of this joint presentation by Pastor Rick and Amanda Tsukamoto. ~ more on pg. 5

9/16: Women's Bible Study resumes. See pg. 11 for the study's new theme.

9/22: *Frankenstein's Cat* ~ discussion of the NVPC Book Club's September selection (see below).

OCTOBER

10/20: Prison Ministry: June Tamburro, A Talk Based on Her Experience. June will discuss the severe problem of under-education among prison inmates and an exciting new program called NJ-STEP that seeks to provide college courses toward degrees, and assists in prisoner transition to college life upon release. ~ more on pg. 15

NOVEMBER

11/1: All Hallows Eve Celebration in the Celtic Tradition "All Hallows" or All Saints Day is the origin of today's Hallowe'en celebration. For the ancient Celtic Christians, it was a time to affirm the bond, in Christ, between the living and the departed. ~ more on pg. 10 **NOTE: THIS IS A FRIDAY EVENING EVENT**

11/3, 11:30-1:30: Personality Preferences, Part 1 of 3 with Jane Kendall Do you like to be at the airport early, or does that seem like a waste of time? Does spending lots of time with others energize you or tire you out? Come to our 3 part workshop based on the "Myers Briggs Type Indicator" to learn about your own "personality preferences" and those of family, co-workers and friends. ~ more on pg. 17

11/10, 11:30-12:45: Personality Preferences, Part 2 of 3 with Jane Kendall ~ more on pg. 17

11/17, 11:30-12:45: Personality Preferences, Part 3 of 3 with Jane Kendall ~ more on pg. 17

12/22: To be announced.

Frankenstein's Cat

Sunday, September 22 at Coffee Hour

Fish and cats that glow under "blue light." Goats endowed with human genes. Mice with a human gene believed tied to speech. Cloned cats – how is that working out? Cyborgs: insects, rats and cats that we can remotely control.

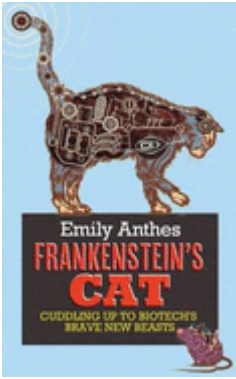
Why are scientists creating such creatures? How do we feel about lay people creating cyborg animals? What is moral, and what not? What are the bases for our decisions?

Join the discussion based on the book "Frankenstein's Cat."

FPCNV Book Club

2013– 14 Books & Meeting Dates

Sept 10: *Frankenstein's Cat* by Emily Anthes



In *Frankenstein's Cat*, journalist Emily Anthes takes us from petri dish to pet store as she explores how biotechnology is shaping the future of our furry and feathered friends. As she ventures from bucolic barnyards to a “frozen zoo” where scientists are storing DNA from the planet’s most exotic creatures, she discovers how we can use cloning to protect endangered species, craft prosthetics to save injured animals, and employ genetic engineering to stock farms with disease-resistant livestock. Along the way, we meet some of

the animals that are ushering in this astonishing age of enhancement, including sensor-wearing seals, cyborg beetles, a bionic bulldog, and the world’s first cloned cat.

Through her encounters with scientists, conservationists, ethicists, and entrepreneurs, Anthes reveals that, while some of our interventions may be trivial (behold, the GloFish), others could improve the lives of many species—including our own. So what does biotechnology really mean for the world’s wild things? And what do our brave new beasts tell us about ourselves?

With keen insight and her trademark spunk, Anthes highlights both the peril and promise of our scientific superpowers. ~ emilyanthes.com

Book Club Meeting Dates & Book Selections

Where: Library **When:** 7:30 pm

SEP 10	<i>Frankenstein's Cat</i> ~ Emily Anthes
OCT 9	<i>Cleopatra</i> - Stacy Schiff
NOV 12	<i>It's Time To Start Thinking: America in the Age of Descent</i> ~ Edward Luce
DEC	Café Beethoven (Date TBD)
JAN 14	<i>A Biography</i> TBD
FEB 11	<i>Bringing Up the Bodies</i> ~ Hilary Mantel
MAR 11	<i>Spark: The Revolutionary New Science of Exercise and the Brain</i> ~ John J. Ratey & Eric Hagerman
APR 8	<i>And the Mountains Echoed</i> ~ Kahled Housseini
MAY 13	<i>The Fish That Ate the Whale: The Life and Times of America's Banana King</i> ~ Rich Cohen
JUN 10	<i>House of the Spirits</i> ~ Isabel Allende

Adult Education

ALL HALLOW'S EVE CELEBRATION in the Celtic Tradition

Friday, November 1, 2013 ~ 6-8 pm

“All Hallows” or All Saints Day is the origin of today’s Hallowe’en celebration. For the ancient Celtic Christians it was a time to affirm the bond, in Christ, between the living and the departed. Join us for this deeply meaningful celebration, which begins with Hallowe’en fun, moves into our historic cemetery to affirm Christ’s victory over death, and ends in the church remembering those whom we love but see no more. Many members of the church have found this celebration life-affirming and spiritually moving in past years. Led by The Rev. Robert Corin Morris, an Episcopal priest and Founder of Interweave Center at Calvary Church in Summit.

The Rev. Robert Corin Morris, an Episcopal priest, is the former Executive Director of Interweave Center, an ecumenical and interfaith center for wellness, spirituality, and the common good. He is a trained spiritual director and the author “Provocative Grace: The Challenge in Jesus’ Words” and two other books.

Women's Bible Study

Resumes on Monday, September 16

9:30-11:00 am

The Women's Monday Morning Bible Study returns this Fall on Monday, September 16 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. We will be picking up where we left off with the DVD *Great Courses* program featuring our now dear friend, Professor Amy-Jill Levine from Vanderbilt University. We are studying "Great Figures of the New Testament" – characters like Doubting Thomas and Stephen and the Pharisees, and figures in the stories Jesus told like the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son. Our professor leads us through historical, literary, and cultural considerations so that we develop a background for informed discussions about God's Word speaking to us through Scripture today. As the introduction to the series says, "The point of this exploration is not to inculcate any particular religious worldview. Rather, it seeks to read the ancient texts anew to discover what they say and how they were interpreted by both the secular culture and the faithful church." The discussion will be led by the Rev. Barbara Aspinall, who is pastor at our neighbor across the swamp, Meyersville Presbyterian Church.



Thank You!

A Note from Richard and Linda Cox

Dear Church Family,

It seems hard to believe that 17 years ago I was wondering whether I would be hired to be your new Co-Minister of Music. My, how time flies. Sure there are indicators to let us know it is happening, the most telling perhaps, are the infants who have become high school students and college students right before our eyes in the intervening interval. Amazing, isn't it.

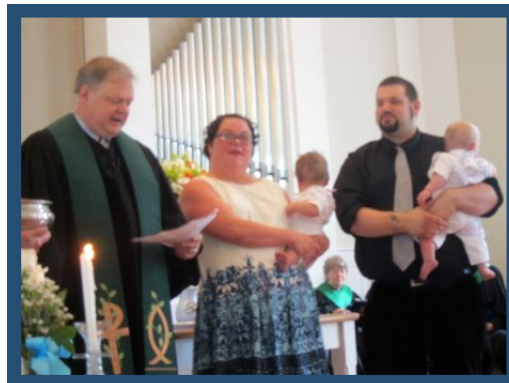
Linda and I have been folded into your church family over these years. We have made many good friends and celebrated and mourned with many too. Thank you for loving us into family. Thank you for responding to our ministry and caring, it has sustained our vision and inspired our leadership. Thank you too for your amazing parting gifts; when we opened your card, it knocked us off our feet.

It is never easy to leave family and friends but know that we will carry the memory of your love with us as we go, and we will remember time with you with joy.

With much love,
Richard and Linda

New Members: Theresa & Matt Luoni

Theresa and Matt Luoni became members of our church in June. Theresa grew up in our church, was active in the Youth Club, and has taught Sunday School here. She got in touch with us in 2010 when she was getting married and wished to have their wedding service here in the church Theresa considered home. When their twins arrived, Theresa and Matt became members in June and had their twin sons, Dylan and Maxwell, baptized here as well. We are happy to have this young family as the newest members of our congregation.



Greetings to the First Presbyterian congregation of New Vernon! I am Elena Bird Zolnick, the new Minister of Music/Choir Director, and I would like to express my gratitude for the warm welcome so many of you have already given me, particularly Pastor Sweeney and the staff. God has truly showered me with blessings since relocating to New Jersey, and I am very grateful to be among you.

I would like to extend an invitation to everyone in the congregation, friends, family, and community members, to join the choir! **The adult choir is open to anyone 13 years of age or older.** Please do not be shy! My goal is to adjust the difficulty and genres of the music for the members, as needed, without sacrificing the quality of the product. If you have had concerns about joining the choir in the past, please do not be afraid to share them with me so that I can address them; I hope to make it enjoyable and accessible for everyone. The more voices we have to praise the Lord in music, the better!

Also, please keep an eye out for a survey about the music program and upcoming events. I hope everyone had a wonderful and safe summer, and I look forward to growing together within the community.

Blessings,
Elena Bird Zolnick

Stewardship Campaign 2013-2014

Raise the Roof!

There's no question that things at the First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon are looking up! As we raise our sights ever higher, your Stewardship Committee is asking the congregation to "**raise the roof!**" on your annual pledge (and involvement) to the Church. These receipts to our budget make up more than 80% of our operating revenue and are vital to our planning for the coming year in church ministry, administration, buildings and grounds, and outreach to the needy in our area.

The goal of this year's campaign is \$500,000, which is 3% above last year's total of \$485,000. We hope for 100% participation and that every churchgoer thinks deeply and prayerfully of their spiritual needs and makes a financial commitment of at least 3% more than last year's pledge.

So, grab a hammer and a mouthful of nails and "climb the ladder" to the top! The **Raise the Roof!** campaign will officially kickoff on Sunday, September 29th and the pledge cards will be in your mailboxes shortly thereafter. Think about this carefully and acknowledge your personal connection to our church and to God. We thank you in advance for your timely response to this calling.

Jonathan Shelby, Stewardship Chair

Member News: Birthday Celebrations

Is your birthday in September? Did you receive a birthday card from the Church?

Hmmm, did you let us know your natal day? We want to celebrate with you, so please send us the month and day of your birth!



Outreach Focus



Mental Health Association of Morris County

A new outreach organization receiving grant funding from our congregation is The Mental Health Association of Morris County. Please plan to attend the Adult Education session after church on September 8th to learn about this organization. Lou Schwarcz, President and CEO, will be leading the session. There are many opportunities for us to be directly involved in making a positive difference in the lives of many individuals in our area.

The Mental Health Association of Morris County has been serving our community since 1953. However, the roots of the organization go back to 1909, when a person suffering from mental illness, Clifford Beers, the national founder, started a movement to help people in institutions (who were often restrained in chains) to live in the community. His goal was to give people back their dignity and respect. He started a national organization, currently Mental Health America, which is the national affiliate that still looks out for the rights of people with mental illness around the country.

In Morris County, MHAMC provides mental health services, including advocacy, support, and education, to over 3,500 individuals per year. It is a non-profit agency, supported by a myriad of volunteers and also with 85 staff, and a \$6 million budget. Their services focus on people with mental illness who are confined to psychiatric hospitals, people who are homeless, and people inappropriately placed in jails for behavior problems stemming from untreated mental illness.

They have a hopeful message: that people with mental illness can lead full, productive lives, and that they can have jobs, families, and homes. Their goal is to help people transition from hospitals, jails, shelters, and the streets into their own community apartments. Case managers visit people to make sure they are receiving psychiatric treatment, that they know

how to meet their basic needs, and that they have access to all the opportunities that this country offers.

MHAMC also provides a variety of self-help services, where people are active in their own recovery, such as a peer-to-peer support line, and various clubs, including healthy cooking club, meditation, spirituality, diabetes management, creative writing, and gardening.

When people are struck down by mental illness, they need a sense of hope. People in all stages of illness can heal and recover, and MHAMC hires people with mental illness as case managers to show not just that people improve, but that people in recovery can help the next generation to recover. Almost 40% of the program staff are themselves in recovery from mental illness.

They believe that the community needs to be educated about the types of mental illness and how to help people. They have a variety of programs providing community education, including an improvisational theatre group, Mental Health Players, as well as Information and Referral, Legislative Network, and their newest program, Mental Health First Aid, which teaches people to identify early signs of mental illness and how to intervene early before there is a community crisis.

There are various ways to help the Mental Health Association of Morris County. Volunteer opportunities include Board or Committee membership, helping clients directly in the Community Companions program or the Edna's Haven Drop In Center, or becoming a Mental Health Player in the educational, improvisational theatre group. For more information check out their website at www.mhamorris.org or call 973-334-3496 extension 104 and talk to Barb Flynn.

June Tamburro ~ Prison Ministry ~ October 20

The United States currently has over two million people in prison or jails, most for non-violent crimes, and has the highest incarceration rate in the world. Many studies show that mass incarceration actually increases crime and has a devastating effect on poor families and communities. Approximately 44 percent of people released from prison are re-incarcerated within three years, either for committing a new crime or violating conditions of parole.

Incarcerated people are severely undereducated compared to the general population. Among federal and state inmates, about 37 percent do not have a high school diploma or a GED, compared to 19 percent of the general population. There is extensive research that shows an inverse relationship between recidivism and education. Completing a college program, either while incarcerated or upon release, can decrease the recidivism rate by as much as 72 percent.

New Jersey is at the forefront of offering higher education in prison. The New Jersey Scholarship and Transformative Education in Prisons (NJ-STEP) is a consortium of higher education institutions in NJ that works in partnership with the Department of Corrections and State Parole Board to provide college courses towards degrees for students while incarcerated and assists in their transition to college life upon release. NJ-STEP is privately funded and is housed at Rutgers University in the School of Criminal Justice.

Come and learn more about NJ-STEP from June Tamburro, who works as an academic counselor for students at the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for women. June will talk about her calling to work in the prison and share some thoughts about our Christian response to the injustice of mass incarceration.

Wanted

Nursery Caregiver

Sunday Mornings
9:45-11:15 am

If you, or someone you know, is interested, please email Debbie at: dhennessey@pcnv.org

Save the Date

Fundraising Concert

Sunday, November 17
Time TBD

Mark your calendars—Min Kwon will be presenting another enchanting concert on November 17—details to follow.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

An Introduction to Church History

This fall the Thursday morning Bible Study will focus on the history of the Church. Kevin Newburg will teach an abbreviated version of the Church History course he will be teaching this fall at the Theological School of Drew University. This 13-week course will cover the period from the New Testament to the precursors to the Reformation. *The Story of Christianity, Vol 1*, by Justo Gonzalez will be the primary text (let Kevin know if you want him to get you a copy, \$19). The class will meet Thursdays, 8:30-9:30 am beginning September 12.

Old Fashioned Church Picnic



This year's picnic was again graciously hosted at the home of Kathy and Matt Sheeleigh and featured great food, fellowship, lots of laughter, and good, old-fashioned fun!

Thank you, Prudy Sweeney, for once again capturing these memories and sharing them with us.

Explore Your Unique Personality Preferences

Adult Ed is offering a unique program on exploring your “personality preferences.” We all approach things differently. This program will help us explore why.

- Do you like to be at the airport early, or does that seem like a waste of time?
- Do you like to design new projects and leave the follow-up to others, or do you like to take a project from start to finish?
- Does spending lots of time with others energize you or tire you out?

Come to our workshop where you’ll learn more about yourself and others, facilitating your ability to work with people with different basic personality preferences. This three-part workshop is appropriate for participants 14 years and up. It will use the Myers Briggs Type Indicator as a resource, a powerful tool used world-wide for self-development, career development, teaching styles, academic counseling, team building, parenting approaches, leadership development, and couples coaching.

Our workshop facilitator, Jane Kendall, is a 30-year member of our church. Jane is a certified MBTI Practitioner who has a boutique consulting practice working with leaders, teams, individuals, and organizations. She was the founding president of an international organization that has mentored the development of competency to work with personality type theory in countries including South Africa, Singapore, France, Canada, and the Middle East. She was the founder and Managing Director of the Leadership Center at NYC’s The New School for seven years.

Structure of our workshop:

Our workshop will consist of three sessions that build on each other. You must attend the first session to attend either or both of the follow-up sessions.

- The introductory session will be Sunday, November 3 from 11:30am to 1:30pm. A light lunch will be provided. If you are not able to attend on Sunday, an alternative workshop will be scheduled for Monday, November 4 from 7pm to 9pm.
- The following two sessions will be Sunday, Nov. 10 and Sunday, Nov. 17 from 11:30am to 12:45pm.

There is a \$15 fee for the workshop, which covers the cost of the “Introduction to Type” Booklet that we must provide to each attendee.

Preliminary work before the workshop:

In order to participate, you will need to have taken the MBTI questionnaire. There are no “right or wrong” answers. Your answers on the instrument will help to identify your primary personality preferences and will be used solely by you in the context of this workshop. No one else will have access to your responses.

How to take this MBTI questionnaire before the workshop:

- Pick up a free copy of the MBTI questionnaire at the Church Office, fill it out, and return it by October 30 so Jane can provide you with feedback at the first session.
- Come to church at 9 am on November 3 and answer the questionnaire then. It should take only 20-30 minutes.
- Take the MBTI online anytime through Jane’s online resource. Contact Jane for access instructions. If you choose to do this, you must take it by Oct. 30, and there is a \$14.95 fee, which is Jane’s cost for the online access.

For questions or additional details, please contact Jane by email at janeakendall@att.net or on her cell: 201-400-8852. From September 14 – October 7, the easiest way to reach her will be by email. Those interested should sign up by October 8.

September 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Church Office closed	3	4 4 pm Youth Cookie Baking	5 9 am Staff Meeting Choir 7:30 pm	6 AA Meeting noon	7
8 Communion Choir Is Back Morris Mental Health 11:30 am	9 5:00 pm Adult Ed 7:30 Deacons	10 Presbytery 4 pm—Camp Johnsonburg Book Club 7:30 pm	11 Movie Night 7pm	12 Church History Bible Study 8:30-9:30 am Choir 7:30 p	13 AA Meeting noon	14
15 Rally Day Sunday School Begins Welcome Party for Elena at Coffee Hr Story Behind the Hymns at Coffee Hour	16 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	17 Session 7 pm	18	19 Church History Bible Study 8:30-9:30 am Choir 7:30 p	20 AA Meeting noon	21 Session Retreat Meyersville Presby.Church 9 am-3 pm
22 Frankenstein's Cat Discussion at Coffee Hour	23 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	24	25	26 Church History Bible Study 8:30-9:30 am Choir 7:30 p	27 AA Meeting noon	28 NVVFD Auction
29 Stewardship Campaign Confirmation Class Luncheon noon	30 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	<p style="text-align: center;">We Welcome Our New Minister of Music/Choir Director Elena Bird Zolnick</p> <p>We are very pleased to have Elena join us as the new Minister of Music/Choir Director. We invite everyone to come to Coffee Hour on Sunday, September 15 for a welcome party in her honor. It will be the perfect opportunity for members to meet her, ask questions, and enjoy this new addition to the First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon's staff.</p>				

Worship at FPCNV ~ September 2013

Sunday, September 1

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preacher: Charles Thompson
Liturgist: Ann Talcott

Sermon: *Help Us Accept Each Other*

Text:
Hebrews 13:1-3, 5-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14

Sunday, September 8

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Communion

Preacher: Dr. Sweeney
Liturgist: TBA

Sermon: *But I'm Not Lost*

Text:
Jeremiahs 8:1-11
Luke 15:1-10

Sunday, September 15

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preacher: Dr. Sweeney
Liturgist: TBA

Sermon: *The Liberator*

Text:
Jeremiah 4:11-12
Philemon 1-21

Sunday, September 22

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preacher: Dr. Sweeney
Liturgist: TBA

Sermon: *Untitled*

Text:
Jeremiah 33:1-9
Luke 16:1-13

Sunday, September 29

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preacher: Dr. Sweeney
Liturgist: TBA

Sermon: *All Who Are of Willing Hearts*

Text:
Philippians 1:21-30
Exodus 35:20-29, 36:1-7

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

Rally Day

September 15

Highlights This Month:

Sunday, September 8

Choir Is Back
Mental Health Assoc. of Morris County Presentation

Wednesday, September 11

Movie Night is back

Sunday, September 15

Rally Day—Sunday School Begins
Welcome Party at Coffee Hour
The Story Behind The Hymns at Coffee Hour

Monday, September 16

Women's Monday Morning Bible Study

Sunday, September 22

Frankenstein's Cat at Coffee Hour

Saturday, September 28

New Vernon Volunteer Fire Department Auction

E-mail Addresses

Have you sent us your e-mail address? If you want to stay current on what's going on at the Crossroads, please e-mail office@pcnv.org or call 973-538-8394.

CHURCH OFFICE

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