

# The Pipe Organ

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
New Vernon, NJ

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May 2019

## Bill's Reflections

*When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you..."*

*But Thomas, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."*

*A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." - John 20:19-29*

In this well known passage, Jesus says to his disciple Thomas: "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Traditionally we have interpreted Jesus as scolding Thomas. He wouldn't believe Jesus was alive unless he saw it with his own eyes. Therefore—the story goes—we should try to have faith that doesn't require proof. Faith that just trusts and believes.

But, I don't think that's what Jesus is doing here. The phrasing of his statement here echoes a well known part of his sermon on the mount (the Beatitudes). In the Beatitudes, Jesus highlights a variety of traits and behaviors that mark people as blessed in God's kingdom. Jesus is telling us that faith is more than words. It is more than knowledge or belief. Faith is about action.

As a faith, community this is our challenge today. We are called to put our faith in action. We are called to make our community a place where people can know and experience God.

The events of that first Easter are lost to history. Jesus is no longer with us in the flesh, but his spirit—the same spirit he breathed on the disciples in that locked room—remains.

And every time we come together:

as a congregation for morning worship  
as a small group for Bible Study  
as a team to serve at the Community Soup Kitchen  
as a pair of deacons visiting one of our homebound members  
even as friends around the dinner table

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**FPCNV Staff**

Rev. William H. Stone, III  
*Pastor*

Dr. Martin Sedek  
*Music Director*

Jany Izaguirre  
*Accompanist*

Debbie Hennessey  
*Office Administrator and  
Manager of Accounting*

Darlene Cappel  
*Financial Secretary*

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*Church Custodian*

**Session**

Jonathan Shelby, *Clerk*

Martha Coy

Tom Ewig

Roger Greenway

Jenn McCann

James Muchmore

Scott Noyes

Don Richardson

Eileen Urban

Carol Conger Vellekamp

Christin Willis

Keith Wood

**Deacons**

Jane Coyle, *Moderator*

Ellie Burd

Lisa Chapman

Andrea Di Ruggiero

Sandy Finlayson

Susan Fischer

Beth Gibson

Barbara Gill

Margaret Greenway

Russ MacAusland

Michael McCann

Karen Pennett

Ben Thompson

Faith Winow

Every time we come together, that same spirit is present in our midst...

Our community has been through a lot recently...

We've said goodbye to several long-time members...

We've said goodbye to a former minister...

Where is God's peace?

We've lost loved ones...

We've lost jobs...

We've had ups and downs on our journey with cancer...

Where is God's peace?

We've been struggling with money, with marriage, with depression...

Where is God's peace?

We watch the news and see terrorism, child abuse, and civil unrest...

Where is God's peace?

All of these situations can feel hopeless.

It is easy to feel cut off—locked away like the disciples in that upper room.

Sometimes we even cut ourselves off intentionally...

sometimes out of fear, sometimes out of shame,

sometimes out of a gut instinct for self preservation...

But more often than not, this does more harm than good...

This story teaches us how essential our faith community is to creating a deep and lasting peace. In the midst of their grief, the disciples have gathered to support one another. They each bring something different into that space, and together—as a community—their faith creates a space where God can be felt and experienced in a unique way.

Thomas presents us not with a picture of doubt and skepticism, but with a passionate certainty that there is more to faith than kind words and heartfelt prayers. As we said last week—Resurrection is not a one time event that happened in a tomb outside of Jerusalem a long time ago. Resurrection is an ongoing event. In every moment, God is inviting new life and new possibility.

In every person, every place and every thing God has created...  
resurrection is endless.

And each of us is invited to be a part of it.

Thomas knows this, and that's why he wants to see Jesus. He knows that God is really risen and really out there continuing to make resurrection happen in our world.

It takes a community to nurture faith like this.

It takes a community to hold this faith when tragedy strikes.

And it takes a community to put faith like this to work—  
creating a peace that passes all understanding...

My prayer is that we can continue to make our community a place where this peace is found and experienced—a place where we can celebrate with one another in our happiest moments and support one another in our most challenging times.

Thanks be to God.

**MARCH SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

April 9th Meeting



The meeting began with Tom Ewig leading devotions.

**Pastor's report:**

- Communion was served on Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Prospective Member's lunch went well- had 7 attend and 4 who could not make it.
- Officiating Wayne Boulton's interment service this Sunday.
- Confirmed pulpit exchange with Rev. Dr. Martin Ritchie for the month of July.
- Received a gift to the church from the Kim family for hosting the blood drive.
- Attended an open house at Deep Roots School on Saturday- was well attended.
- Have a significant number of pastoral care issues ongoing.
- Will be away from April 28- May 5. Nicola Whyte will lead worship again.
- Then asked session to consider how to better use our space, to become more of a community center. To be tabled until the next meeting.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS****Finance (Keith Wood, excused):**

- Jonathan presented committee highlights. Distributed financial statements to Session members.
- Bill presented the Policy and Procedure Disbursement changes. Presented for a vote and passed unanimously.

**Stewardship (Christin Willis)**

- Presented her preliminary outline of her thoughts for the Stewardship effort for this year. Strategy will have three parts: 1. Increase Engagement, 2. Add Donors, 3. New Contribution Channels. In addition, stressed the importance of growing and maintaining high value donors.

**Mission and Outreach (Eileen Urban):**

- Having our Mission Fair this Sunday after services with tables manned by representatives from the organizations we support. Deep Roots school and the Crossroads Society will also be included.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Communion will be served next on Sunday, May 5th. Elders serving will be Shelby, Urban, Richardson, and Coy.
- Reviewed assignments and responsibilities for the Easter breakfast after the 10:00 Easter service on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

Adjourned with prayer by Bill Stone at 8:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Shelby, Clerk of Session



## Easter Service and Egg Hunt



## Mother's Day Pantry Sale

Sunday, May 12 at Coffee Hour

The Deacons are holding another Pantry Sale, featuring such items as soups, stews, salads, salad dressings, homemade bread, cookies, candies, and other baked goods. Pick something up for that special woman in your life or simply enjoy the homemade goodness provided by our Deacons.



## Nursery Care Help Needed!

We are looking for volunteers to help out in the church nursery on Sunday mornings from 9:45-11:00 am. We are searching for volunteers for May and June, as well as over the summer.

On average, we have around five to seven children (age five and under). In order to comply with child protection, we always have two volunteers serve together.

If you're interested or know someone else who may be interested in volunteering, (or applying for a hired position), please call the church office.



## Church Picnic



## Save the Date!

## Church Picnic

*Hosted by the Congregational Life Committee*

**Sunday, June 9**

**Immediately following worship**

This year's picnic will be held at the home of  
Eunice and Dave Conine  
Across the street from Fellowship Hall



## Men's Breakfast

**Wednesday, May 22nd @ 7:30 am**  
**La Di Da Café**

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

let's do  
**lunch**

## Monthly Luncheon

**Wednesday,**

**May 22nd at 12 pm**

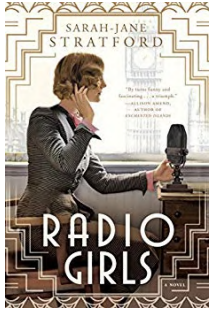
Let's Do Lunch! will be held in Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, May 22nd at 12:00 pm. All are welcome. Please RSVP by May 20th to the Church Office at:

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



## FPCNV Book Club Schedule

### Radio Girls by Sarah-Jane Stratford



London, 1926. American-raised Maisie Musgrave is thrilled to land a job as a secretary at the upstart British Broadcasting Corporation, whose use of radio—still new, strange, and electrifying—is captivating the nation. But the hectic pace, smart young staff, and intimidating bosses only add to Maisie's insecurity.

Soon, she is seduced by the work—gaining confidence as she arranges broadcasts by the most famous writers, scientists, and politicians in Britain. She is also caught up in a growing conflict between her two bosses, John Reith, the formidable Director-General of the BBC, and Hilda Matheson, the extraordinary director of the hugely popular Talks programming, who each have very different visions of what radio should be. Under Hilda's tutelage, Maisie discovers her talent, passion, and ambition. But when she

### Meeting Dates and Book Selections

**Where:** Library

**When:** 7:30 pm

**MAY 7** *Radio Girl* by Sarah-Jane Stratford

**JUN 13** Planning Session for next year

unearths a shocking conspiracy, she and Hilda join forces to make their voices heard both on and off the air...and then face the dangerous consequences of telling the truth for a living.

### About the Author:

**SARAH-JANE STRATFORD** is an author and essayist who has written for the *Guardian*, *Boston Globe*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Slate*, *Salon*, and *Guernica*, among others. She is also a member of WAM! (Women, Action, and the Media).

### Next Movie Night: Tuesday, June 25 at 7:00 pm At the Greenways' *If Beal Street Could Talk*



From Academy Award® Winner Barry Jenkins, comes this timeless love story set in early 1970s Harlem. Newly engaged 19-year-old Tish and her fiancé Fonny have a beautiful future ahead. But their plans are derailed when Fonny

is arrested for a crime he did not commit. Now the pair must fight for justice in the name of love and the promise of the American dream.

### Bill Bruen's Birthday was joyfully celebrated at our April Let's Do Lunch!



## Hymn of the Month

### ***Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers***

Author: John L. Bell (b. 1949)

First Published: The Child's Book of Praise  
(Glasgow, 1988)

This is a text both reflective and challenging. It begins on a remorseful note about the failure of human beings to believe and trust in Christ. In our own ways, we have been doubters and deniers like Thomas and Peter. So the cosmos is summoned to proclaim the Resurrection. The second stanza is a catalog of those for whom Christ has risen, a welcome change from the customary hymnic attention to those for whom Christ died. The final stanza adds to this list the remarkable lines about "all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange." And why would Christ do such a thing? To make us, like him, "evidence of transformation in which God is known and seen." It is hard to imagine a better explication of what it means to be a Christian, literally "a little Christ."

A solo melody instrument could be used effectively here to establish the melody by playing through the tune (accompanied or not) as an introduction and by possibly returning on the final stanza for a descant. The vitality of the tune will be greatly enhanced if the dotted and syncopated rhythms are carefully observed.

While this text could well be used on any Sunday of the Easter season, it seems to have the most affinities with Easter 2, when the RCL always appoints the Thomas story from *John* 20. This text is a helpful reminder that Christ's Resurrection was inclusive, while the church has too often been exclusive.

*Joyful is the dark, holy hidden God,  
rolling cloud of night beyond all naming:  
majesty in darkness, energy of love,  
word in flesh, the mystery proclaiming.*

*Joyful is the dark, Spirit of the deep,  
winging wildly o'er the world's creation,  
silken sheen of midnight plumage black and  
bright,  
swooping with the beauty of a raven.*

*Joyful is the dark, shadowed stable floor;  
angels flicker, God on earth confessing,  
as with exultation, Mary, giving birth,  
hails the infant cry of need and blessing.*

*Joyful is the dark, coolness of the tomb,  
waiting for the wonder of the morning;  
never was that midnight touched by dread and  
gloom:  
darkness was the cradle of the dawning.*

*Joyful is the dark, depth of love divine,  
Roaring, looming thundercloud of glory,*

Join our worship services from home, abroad or anywhere!

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

We would be happy to help you join us digitally! Contact the Church Office for help setting up your device. We can also provide you with a hymnal, so that you can follow along with the music.



## Calendar of Events 2019

### MAY

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

**SUN 05/05** Cinco de Mayo Coffee Hour

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

**SUN 05/12** Mothers' Day

Deacons' Pantry Sale @ 11:00 am

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

**MON 05/20** Finance Committee @ 7:00 pm

**TUES 05/21** Session Meeting @ 7:00 pm

**WED 05/22** Men's Breakfast @ 7:30 am

Let's Do Lunch! @ 12 noon

Toddler Time @ 1:30-3:30 pm

**MON 05/27** Memorial Day (Office Closed)

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

### JUNE

**SUN 06/02** Communion

**SUN 06/09** Church Picnic

**SUN 06/16** Fathers' Day

**MON 06/17** Finance Committee @ 7:00 pm

**TUES 06/18** Session Meeting @ 7:00 pm

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

**WED 06/26** Let's Do Lunch! @ 12 noon

### SEPTEMBER

**SUN 09/08** WELCOME BACK SUNDAY!

**Help support Mrs. Wilson's  
Treatment Services for Women  
56 Mount Kemble Avenue  
Morristown, NJ 07960**

Find a beautiful Mother's Day gift while giving the gift of recovery and hope to women from our community. Assorted colors are available in various sizes. Your generous participation helps support the mission here at Mrs. Wilson's Treatment Services for Women.

**Gerarium Sale - Saturday, May 11, 9 am -1 pm**

Presale starts Friday, May 3rd

Visit <https://www.mrs-wilsons.org/index.html>  
to order.

Pick up: Friday, May 10 & Saturday, May 11th



We are asking for your help to keep our utilities costs under control. Utilities represent one of the larger line items in the B&G budget, and with that in mind we have programmed all thermostats in our buildings to achieve maximum efficiency.

There are separate thermostats for heating and cooling in each building. These can be manually adjusted, but we ask that if you do so, please DO NOT push the hold button after you have changed the setting. This will allow the system to return to its normal program after a given time frame.

#### Thermostat Locations:

**Sanctuary:** Thermostat in the Sanctuary controls all heat. Thermostat on balcony controls all air conditioning.

**Chorba Hall Main Floor:** Thermostat by the stairs controls all heat on main floor

Thermostats in Library and Main Hall control air conditioning on main floor

**Chorba Hall 2nd Floor:** Thermostat in Conference Room controls all heat on 2nd floor. Thermostat outside bathroom controls all air conditioning on 2nd floor

**Chorba Hall Basement:** Thermostat outside big front room controls all heat for basement. Thermostat on right in hallway controls air conditioning in music room and 1/2 of piano room. Thermostat on left in hallway controls air conditioning in 1/2 of piano room and all front rooms.



## Reception of New Members

### EASTER SUNDAY

On Easter Sunday, we welcomed new church members, Suzie, Scott and Kelly Carpenter, and Courtney and Ben Thompson. Kelly Carpenter has been a delightful member of our choir on Sunday mornings! Ben Thompson has recently been ordained as a Deacon.



## Welcome New Members

### Linda Miller Simonson

I was born and raised in New Vernon, currently residing in Washington state. I enjoy genealogy and consider myself the family historian. I also enjoy quilting and other various hobbies.



### Don Miller

I'm a lifelong resident of New Vernon, leaving only to serve in the US Army. I'm a retired plumber and enjoy music, making whirlygigs and tinkering in the garage.



### Michelle and Shane Vince

Shane and Michelle Vince moved to New Vernon two years ago and welcomed their first child, Wade Vince, into the world last April. Together, they are avid travelers, and most recently, are building a real estate investment practice. Separately, Shane is honored to work alongside his father and three brothers as a 3rd generation car dealer, while Michelle runs her boutique, digital media consultancy. Whether golfing, beekeeping, surfing, hiking or trap shooting, odds are, you will find the Vincés outside, where they are happiest.

# May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Toddler Time! 1:30-3 pm	2 Choir 7:30 pm	3 AA Meeting noon	4
5 Communion Worship Service 10 am	6 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	7 Women's AA Step Meeting Noon  Book Club 7:30 pm Library	8 Toddler Time! 1:30-3 pm	9 Choir 7:30 pm	10 AA Meeting noon	11
12 Worship Service 10 am  Deacons' Pantry Sale 11:00 am	13 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	14 Women's AA Step Meeting Noon  Deacons' Mtg 7:00 pm	15 Toddler Time! 1:30-3 pm	16 Choir 7:30 pm	17 AA Meeting noon	18
19 Worship Service 10 am	20 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am  Finance Comm. 7:00 pm	21 Women's AA Step Meeting noon  Session Mtg 7:00 pm	22 Men's Breakfast La Di Da Café 7:30 am  Toddler Time! 1:30-3 pm Let's Do Lunch! 12 pm	23 Choir 7:30 pm	24 AA Meeting noon	25
26 Worship Service 10 am	27 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	28 Women's AA Step Meeting noon	29 Toddler Time! 1:30-3 pm	30 Choir 7:30 pm	31 AA Meeting noon	

## MAY WORSHIP PLANS

**Sunday, May 5**

Third Sunday of Easter

Preacher: Rev. Nicola Whyte

**Sunday, May 12**

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Preacher: Rev. William H. Stone, III

**Sunday, May 19**

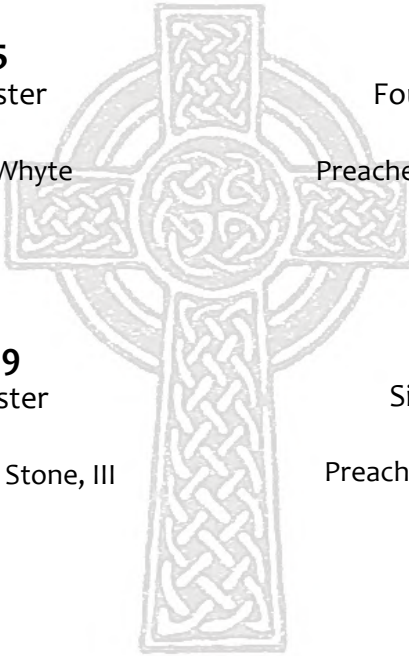
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Preacher: Rev. William H. Stone, III

**Sunday, May 26**

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Preacher: Rev. William H. Stone, III



**FRIDAY, MAY 17, 6-9 P.M.**

Preview Party and Art Sale

**SATURDAY, MAY 18, 8:30-11 A.M.**

Art Sale

Held at Church of Christ the King

## Tickets on sale now for *Art in Bloom*

The Friends of Kemmerer Library invite you to our popular biennial spring fundraiser, featuring original paintings, pottery, jewelry, sculpture, fine art, and functional arts for sale. 100% of the proceeds benefit Kemmerer Library Harding Township.

Purchase your tickets for the Preview Party at [www.hardinglibrary.org](http://www.hardinglibrary.org) or in the Library. A pre-paid ticket is \$50 per person (\$60 at the door). Wine and hearty hors d'oeuvres are included. You can also take a chance on our wonderful Silent Auction items.

Admission to the Saturday morning art sale is free.

Preview the artists at [www.artinbloom.net](http://www.artinbloom.net)

### **Not to be missed - Silent Auction!**

- Fabulous house in the South of France for one week (sleeps 9).
- Rounds of golf for four at Morris County and Basking Ridge Country Clubs.
- Golf lessons at Fairmount Country Club.
- Terrific area restaurants.



## **The Pipe Organ**

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

## **MAY HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Toddler Time!**

Every Wednesday, 1:30 to 3:00 pm

### **Cinco de Mayo Coffee Hour**

Sunday, May 5, Following Worship

### **Deacons' Pantry Sale**

Sunday, May 12, Following Worship

### **Men's Breakfast**

Wednesday, May 22, 7:30 am

### **Let's Do Lunch!**

Wednesday, May 22, 12 pm

## **E-mail Addresses**

Do we have your updated email address? If you would like to be included in various mailings, please contact *officeadmin@pcnv.org* or call 973-538-8394.

# **CHURCH OFFICE**

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