

The Pipe Organ

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
New Vernon, NJ

VOL. 63 NO. 3

March, 2016

Robert's Reflections

Dear Friends,

We have entered the season of Lent. The word Lent came into use in the Middle Ages when sermons and worship made use of the language of common people instead of Latin. Lent meant *spring*; (in German: *Lenz*). It also came from a Germanic root for "long" because in spring, days lengthen says Wikipedia.

Lent has traditionally been the time for believers to prepare themselves with prayer, repentance, and even self-denial, the height of which comes in Holy Week with the Last Supper (Maundy Thursday) and the crucifixion (Good Friday). Lent is a time of testing and temptation. Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness, where the gospels tell us he was tested by the devil. As with anything you deny yourself, and then later enjoy, Lent finally prepares us to celebrate the joy of Easter.

As a minister, I take all things seriously: preaching, worship, pastoral care, for example. Yet for reasons I cannot explain, I have had many occasions here, and serving God and you at this church, to laugh. So along our Lenten way—even under the clouds of darkness over Syria, of the greatest refugee crisis the world has seen, of tough economic times, of the name calling among political candidates, the news of denominations in decline, and the personal trials some of us are facing with health issues—there is time not only for confession and soul searching, but laughter. Here's a Lenten/Easter story I find humorous but also inspiring, about a man who knew dark and difficult times.

Winston Churchill planned his own funeral service; it took place in St. Paul's Cathedral, London. Churchill included great hymns of the church and eloquent Anglican liturgy. At his direction, he also planned to have a bugler positioned high in the dome of St. Paul's playing "Taps" at the end of the service, that song that says the day is over but is also the mournful reminder of the end of a life, eternal rest.

But then came a dramatic turn in the service. By written instruction, he had another bugler placed on the other side of the great cathedral. As soon as the last tones of "Taps" faded, the second bugler immediately played the notes for "Reveille" —"It's time to get up! It's time to get up! It's time to get up in the morning!" That second bugle call was Churchill's testimony of faith, shared with those he knew would be mourning his death, declaring at the end of this life, and the end of history, the last note will not be "Taps" but "Reveille!"

The empty tomb is what we celebrate at Easter, the assurance that God has the final word, not death, but life. "Thanks be to God," Paul said, "who gives us the victory, through our Lord Jesus Christ." We are Easter people.

Grace and Peace,
Robert Gamble

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FPCNV Staff

Dr. Robert Gamble,
Interim Pastor

Amanda Tsukamoto,
Minister of Music/Organist

Elena Bird Zolnick,
Minister of Music/Choir Dir.

Benjamin Krumreig,
Interim Choir Director

Debbie Hennessey,
*Office Administrator and
Manager of Accounting*

Tony Rodriguez, *Custodian*

Elders

Tom MacCowatt, *Clerk of Session*

Julia Buteux

Todd Claytor

Carol Conger Vellekamp

Caroline Ford

Kerra French

Jane O'Keefe

Meg Richardson

Peter Saulnier

Jonathan Shelby

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

Session Committees

CLERK OF SESSION: The primary role of the Clerk of Session is to maintain and preserve the records of the church, including the minutes of Session and Congregational Meetings and the Rolls and Registers. They may assist the moderator in docket preparation. Clerk: Tom MacCowatt

ADMINISTRATION/COMMUNICATIONS: Responsible for our insurance policies, use of building policies, office management, and phone and office equipment contracts, technology and other aspects of the administration of the Church. Chair: Caroline Ford

ADULT EDUCATION: Responsible for programs to instruct adults in faith and life application through Bible study, guest speakers, and discussion groups throughout the year. Chair: Julia Buteux

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: Care and maintenance of the church buildings and property. Interim Chair: Don Vellekamp

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE: Fellowship is an important part of the life of the Church. This group takes the lead in planning and supervising dinners, picnics, and special events throughout the year. Chair: Meg Richardson

FINANCE: Responsible for the formulation of a budget, the monitoring of income and spending, investments, and the reporting of the Church's financial status to Session and the congregation. The leader of this committee is the Treasurer. Chair: Keith Wood

MEMBERSHIP: Responsible for care of current members, recruitment of new members, and the keeping of an accurate roll of membership. Chair: Jane O'Keefe

MISSION AND OUTREACH: The Church accepts responsibility to care for those beyond our doors. This committee is responsible for the allocation of mission funds to organizations in our community and throughout the world. They are also involved in the interpretation of our mission to the congregation. Chair: Jonathan Shelby

NOMINATING: Each year this committee is responsible for choosing candidates to serve as elders and deacons as well as other corporate officers for the Church. Chair: Tom MacCowatt

PERSONNEL: Responsible for hiring, monitoring, and evaluating the paid staff of the Church. Chair: Carol Conger Vellekamp

STEWARDSHIP: Leads the campaign to interpret our mission as a church and encourages faithful giving by members of the congregation through the pledge process. Chair: Todd Claytor

WORSHIP AND MUSIC: The planning and monitoring of worship services, communion and baptisms, the choir and other musical programs in the Church are the responsibility of this group. Chair: Peter Saulnier

YOUTH EDUCATION: Plans and monitors the Church's Confirmation Class, Sunday School, and Youth Ministry. Chair: Kerra French

If you would be interested in serving on any of these committees or just want more information, please call the chairperson or Dr. Gamble.



FEBRUARY SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



The following highlights are from the February 16, 2016 Session meeting.
The meeting began with Carol Vellekamp leading devotions.

Committee Highlights

Adult Education (Julia Buteaux):

- On March 6th Douglas W. Simon, emeritus professor of political science at Drew University, will be speaking after service on "Does America Have a Coherent Foreign Policy?"
- On March 13th, Brid Nicholson, Associate Professor of History at Kean University, will be speaking after service on "A History of St. Patrick."

Youth Education (Kerra French):

- Youth group assembled and mailed 25 Valentine's Day Care Packages to our college students
- Summer mission trip being scheduled through Youth Works.
- Saturday evening 6-week pilot services beginning April 23rd from 5:00-5:45 pm to better attract families. Come as you are in Chorba Hall. Looking for a youth worship leader for these services.

Cemetery (Jonathan Shelby):

- Historical veterans' markers to be put in for flags and to mark veterans' graves.

Congregational Life (Meg Richardson):

- Souper Bowl lunch on February 7th with youth education. Well attended—60-65 people and donations of \$274 for Community Soup Kitchen.
- St. Patrick's Day-Themed Coffee Hour will be held on Sunday, March 13th.

Finance (Keith Wood):

- Financials in good shape – revenues over budget and expenses under budget year-to-date. Higher plate offerings account for the revenue increase.
- Applying, not later than March 31, 2016, for a Grant from the Morris County Historic Preservation Trust in an amount of \$150,000 for the purpose of completing repairs and painting of the exterior of the Sanctuary building.

Worship and Music (Peter Saulnier):

- Amanda requested leave of absence, once a substitute is found, until September 11th. Search is under way for an interim.

Clerk's Report:

- Phil Van Kirk has resigned from Session and the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Nominating Committee will be looking for a replacement.

Pastor's report:

- Larissa Kwong Abazia will preach Sunday, April 3rd.
- Confirmation retreat will be Feb 26-28th, Class Joining May 22nd.
- Session retreat being planned.

The next meeting of Session will be Tuesday, March 15th at 7:00 pm. Buteaux will provide refreshments, MacCowatt will lead devotions, and Saulnier is responsible for usher recruitment in March. Communion will be served on Sunday, February 28th by Shelby, MacCowatt, Richardson and Claytor.

Dr. Gamble adjourned the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom MacCowatt, Clerk of Session



Sunday Speaker Series January 31

Dennis Corcoran returned to update us on the impact that Pope Francis continues to have on Christians worldwide.

Photos by John Thomas

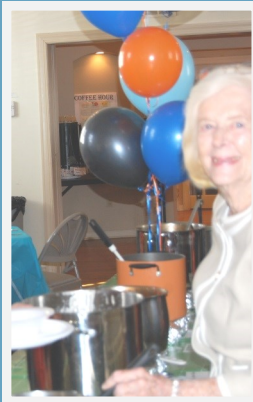


CME Academy Seminar Series

CME Academy Faculty Sarah Shin & Ana Garcia provided a free flute and saxophone seminar on February 21.

Photos by Andrea Di Ruggiero

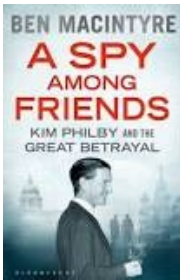
CLC's Souper Bowl of Caring Luncheon on February 7



Great food, fellowship, and festivity were enjoyed by all who attended the Congregational Life's Souper Bowl of Caring Luncheon. Proceeds of \$274 benefit the Community Soup Kitchen. Photos by John Thomas and Meg Richardson

FPCNV Book Club

Schedule & Book Selections



March Book Selection:

A Spy Among Friends, Kim Philby, and the Great Betrayal
By Ben Macintyre

Kim Philby was the greatest spy in history, a brilliant and charming man who rose to head Britain's counter-intelligence against the Soviet Union during the height of the Cold War—while he was secretly working for the enemy. And nobody thought he knew Philby like Nicholas Elliott, Philby's best friend and fellow officer in MI6. The two men had gone to the same schools, belonged to the same exclusive clubs, grown close through the crucible of wartime intelligence work and long nights of drink and revelry. It was madness for one to think the other might be a communist spy, bent on subverting Western values and the power of the free world...

Told with heart-pounding suspense and keen psychological insight, and based on personal papers

Meeting Dates and Book Selections

Where: Library When: 7:30 pm

MAR 8	<i>Spies Among Friends...</i> by Ben Macintyre
APR 12	<i>The Wright Brothers</i> by David McCullough
MAY 10	<i>All the Light We Cannot See</i> by Anthony Doerr
JUN 14	<i>Bach</i> by Tim Dowley

New members are welcome.

and never-before-seen British intelligence files, "A Spy Among Friends" is Ben Macintyre's best book yet, a high-water mark in Cold War history telling.

– Amazon.com

SUNDAY SPEAKER SERIES in APRIL



Guest Preacher & Speaker: Sunday, April 3

Rev. Larissa Kwong Abazia

Rev. Larissa Kwong Abazia will preach on Sunday, April 3 and also lead a program at 11:15 am.

Larissa is the Vice Moderator of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Director of Church Relations at Princeton Theological Seminary.

The world around us is ever changing and can sometimes seem scary. A question for the Church today is: Do we come to church to escape the world or to respond to its deepest yearnings? Join us for discussion on gracious discernment about difficult issues that we face as a congregation.

Congregational Life To Host Three Events



St. Patrick's Day-Themed Coffee Hour
Sunday, March 13

Immediately following Worship



Save the
date...

Cinco De Mayo-
Themed Coffee Hour

Sunday, May 1



Annual Church Picnic

Save the date...

Sunday,
June 12

Details to follow...

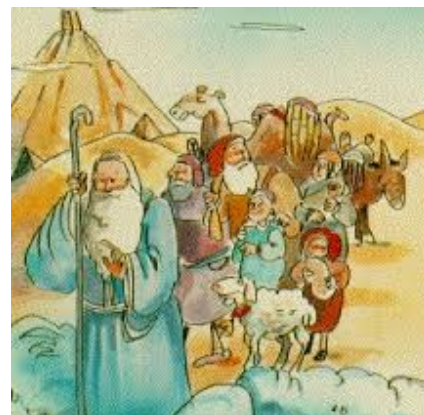




A Passover Seder for Christians

Thursday, March 24~ 7:00 pm

Please join us for a Passover Seder for Christians on Thursday, March 24. At this service, we will envision ourselves as if we were leaving Egypt. Beginning with the Patriarchs—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—we will recount the Jewish people's descent into Egypt, recall their suffering, and join in their Exodus.



Easter Dedications

If you would like to make a donation in memory of or in honor of a loved one, please complete the following form and send in your donation by Monday, March 21.

Please select your preference:

☐ In memory of ☐ In honor of

Dedication from:

Dedication to:

Easter Sunday, March 27 Schedule



Sunrise Service

Bayne Park

6:30 am

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb...

Luke 24:1-2a

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

Worship Services

9:00 am & 11:15 am

There will be two Worship Services on Easter Morning again this year. The first is at 9:00 am, and the second will begin at 11:15 am.

*Christ
is
Risen!*



Easter Morning Breakfast

Hosted by the Deacons

Fellowship Hall

10:00-11:00 am

The Deacons invite all members of the congregation to join them for Easter breakfast at 10 am.

Children's Egg Hunt

Fellowship Hall

10:00 am

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

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





Next Movie: Rebecca

**Wednesday
March 2
7:00 pm
At the Chaney's'**

The only Alfred Hitchcock film to win an Oscar for Best Picture, this mystery stars Laurence Olivier as Maxim de Winter, a widower whose hapless second wife (Joan Fontaine) moves into his mansion only to find the memory of his first wife still governs the household. Some have said it is Hitchcock's best film.

Thank-You Coffee Hour Hosts and Hostesses

FEBRUARY

Congregational Life Committee
The Deacons
The Bruns Family
The Chaney's

We are now in need of Coffee Hour Hosts and Hostesses for
March and April



Youth Ministry Activities Calendar

All activities open to students Grades 6-12 unless otherwise noted.

Sunday, March 20

Service Project 11:30 am - Easter Egg Stuffing

Sunday, March 27

Service Project – Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 30

Service Project – The Relief Bus

Saturday, May 14

Service Project—TBD

Saturday, June 4

Service Project—Car Wash

Sunday, June 5

High School Graduate Recognition Sunday

Saturday, June 11

Car Wash rain date

TBD

Sr. High Mission Trip (Grades 9-12)



SUNDAY SPEAKER SERIES

Douglas W. Simon
March 6, 11:15 am

Does America Have a Coherent Foreign Policy?

More than one political pundit has made the observation that ever since the end of the Cold War in 1990, the United States has struggled to determine what its role in the world should be, that we have no grand strategy nor coherent foreign policy. But others have pointed out that grand strategy in the post Cold War world is difficult, if not impossible, to create. The system is far too complicated and constantly morphing.

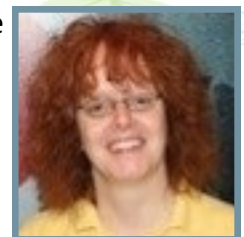
DOUGLAS W. SIMON

Dr. Simon, emeritus professor of political science at Drew, specialized in international affairs, U.S. foreign policy, international organization, and national security. After receiving a B.A. from Willamette University in 1963, he served as an officer in U.S. Air Force intelligence, including a tour in Vietnam. He earned a Ph.D. at the University of Oregon. Arriving at Drew in 1971, Dr. Simon co-directed the University's Semester on the United Nations for 15 years, served as convener of its Masters in International Affairs Program, and later chaired the political science department. He is the only two-time recipient of Drew's Distinguished Teaching Award. He co-authored *The Challenge of Politics*, now in its fifth edition, and *New Thinking and Developments in International Politics*. Dr. Simon has contributed to such publications as the *Harvard Journal of World Affairs*, *East Asian Survey*, *Comparative Political Studies*, and *Perspectives on the Holocaust*.

SUNDAY SPEAKER SERIES:

Brid Nicholson
March 13, 11:15 am

Brid Nicholson, Associate Professor of History at Kean University, will participate in the *Sunday Speaker Series* on March 13 at 11:15 am in the library. Her timely topic is *A History of St. Patrick*. Although St. Patrick's Day is widely celebrated, few appear to know anything about the man. Who was he, and why is a Welshman the Patron Saint of Ireland? Fill in the blanks as Dr. Nicholson tells the story of Patrick, the Irish, and the creation of the Celtic Catholic Church.



A native of Dublin, Dr. Nicholson teaches Irish, American, and Middle Eastern history; she received the Ph.D. from Drew in 2006. She coordinates the Internship Program at Kean through which students experience history in archives, museums, and stately homes across the region. We look forward to what promises to be a lively and informative talk.

March Outreach Focus: Interfaith Food Pantry



Interfaith Food Pantry
Serving Morris County
“neighbors helping neighbors”

January 8, 2016

First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon
P.O. Box 323
New Vernon, NJ 07976

Dear Friends at First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon,

Your recent 2015 donation of small travel toiletries is greatly appreciated by all. We are always grateful for what we receive, and we want to thank you for taking the time to think of your neighbors in need.

As you can imagine, these past few months were extremely busy! With the help of our many wonderful friends, like you, we distributed nearly 1,600 Thanksgiving baskets complete with turkeys and even a few tofu birds for our vegan clients! Our annual Thanksgiving Turkey Trot had a record 3,407 registrants and was such a great day! December was another busy month but, with your help, we were able to ensure an ample supply of food to the thousands of people we served. Thanks to some very special “angels” many of our client’s children as well as our elderly home delivery clients received holiday gifts and they were all thrilled.

What a wonderful way to end the year! Together we provide a safety net for our many neighbors who live constantly with the worry of not having enough food for their families. Neighbors helping neighbors is a wonderful concept that has come to life through your caring and generous donation!

Now, we start the new year looking forward to all the opportunities presented. It is truly incredible what wonders people can do when they come together for a common cause.

Thank you again for your support and I wish you and yours a truly Happy 2016!

Warm Regards!

Sincerely,

Rosemary Gilmartin
Executive Director

*No goods or services were provided to you in exchange for your contribution.

2 Executive Drive • Morris Plains, NJ 07950 • 973-538-8049 • Fax: 973-998-5086
E-mail: interfaithfoodpantry@mcifp.org • www.mcifp.org

IFP is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Our Federal tax-exempt # is 22-3618468.

Interfaith Food Pantry Needs

Current Needs: (bolded items needed most)

- Rice
- **100% juice 32 oz.**
- Canned Vegetables
- **Canned Fruit**
- **Tuna Fish** and other canned fish
- **Cereal**
- **Peanut Butter**
- Macaroni and Cheese
- **Soups—regular, hearty, and low sodium**
- Quart and gallon size re-sealable bags
- **Side Dishes:**
 - * **Instant potatoes**
 - * **Stuffing**
 - * **Rice-A-Roni**
 - * **Hamburger Helper, etc.**
- **Canned meats and meals:**
 - * **Ravioli**
 - * **Spaghetti & meatballs**
 - * **Hash**
 - * **Stew**
 - * **Canned chicken, etc.**
- Boost or Ensure: Boost Glucose Control or Glucema
- **Dry Milk (1-quart package)**
- **Enfamil Instant Formula (NOT newborn)**
- **Parmalat (shelf stable 32 oz. size)**
- Baby food—**Stage 1 fruits & veggies & Stage 3**
Vegetables and meats
- Evaporated milk
- **Diapers 5 & 6, Pull Ups 4T & 5T, Baby wipes**
- Pasta/Whole wheat pasta
- Adult Depends
- Tea (100 ct. boxes)
- **Spaghetti/Tomato Sauce**
- **Canned Beans (Pork and Beans, Pinto, Red, White)**
- Gluten-Free Products
- Individually wrapped Granola Bars

Donations may be dropped off in Fellowship Hall and will be delivered to the Food Pantry by a member of the Outreach Committee.

Men's Breakfast

Next Men's Breakfast

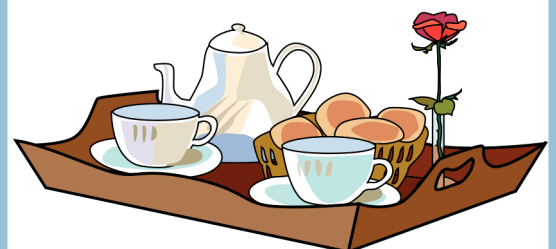
Wednesday, March 9
7:30 am
at
The Nautilus Diner
Madison, NJ

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

Next Women's Afternoon Tea

Wednesday, March 9
2:00 pm
Village Bistro
New Vernon, NJ

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



March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Women's AA Step Meeting 12:00 pm	2 Movie Night at Chaney's 7:00 pm Youth Ed Library 7 pm	3 Bible Study 9-10 am Choir 7:30 pm	4 AA Meeting noon	5
6 Guest Preacher Sunday Speaker Series: Dr Doug Simon, 11:15 am	7 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	8 Women's AA Step Meeting 12:00 pm Deacons' Mtg 7:00 pm Book Club 7:30 p Library	9 Men's Breakfast at Nautilus Diner 7:30 am Women's Afternoon Tea Village Bistro 2:00 pm	10 NO Bible Study Choir 7:30 pm	11 AA Meeting noon	12
13 Confirmation Class 9:00 am Congregational Life Hosts St. Patrick's Day-themed Coffee Hour Sunday Speaker Series: Brid Nicholson 11:15 am	14 No Bible Study Finance Mtg 7 pm	15 Women's AA Step Meeting 12:00 pm Session Mtg. 7 pm	16	17 Bible Study 9-10 am NV Garden Club 9:00 am Choir 7:30 pm	18 AA Meeting noon	19
20 Youth Group - Easter Eggs 11:30 am Palm Sunday	21 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	22 Women's AA Step Meeting 12:00 pm	23	24 Bible Study 9-10 am Choir 7:30 pm	25 Church Office Closed AA Meeting noon	26
27 Sunrise Service 6:30 am Easter Services 9:00 & 11:15 am Easter Breakfast 10 am Children's Egg Hunt 10 am	28 No Bible Study	29 Women's AA Step Meeting 12:00 pm	30	31 Bible Study 9-10 am Choir 7:30 pm	DEACONS' PANTRY SALE <i>Congratulations to our Deacons for raising \$658 for the PIN Fund at the their Valentine's Day Pantry Sale!</i>	

March Worship Plans

Sunday, March 6

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Preacher: Erin Anne Jacobson
Liturgist: Ann Talcott

Sunday, March 20

Palm Sunday

Preacher: Dr. Gamble
Liturgist: TBA

Sunday, March 13

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Preacher: Leigh Whitson Devries
Liturgist: Jonathan Shelby

Thursday, March 24

Seder Service for Christians

Preacher: Dr. Gamble

Sunday, March 27

Easter Sunday

Preacher: Dr. Gamble
Liturgist at 9:00 am: Carol Conger Vellekamp
Liturgist at 11:15 am: Jane Kendall

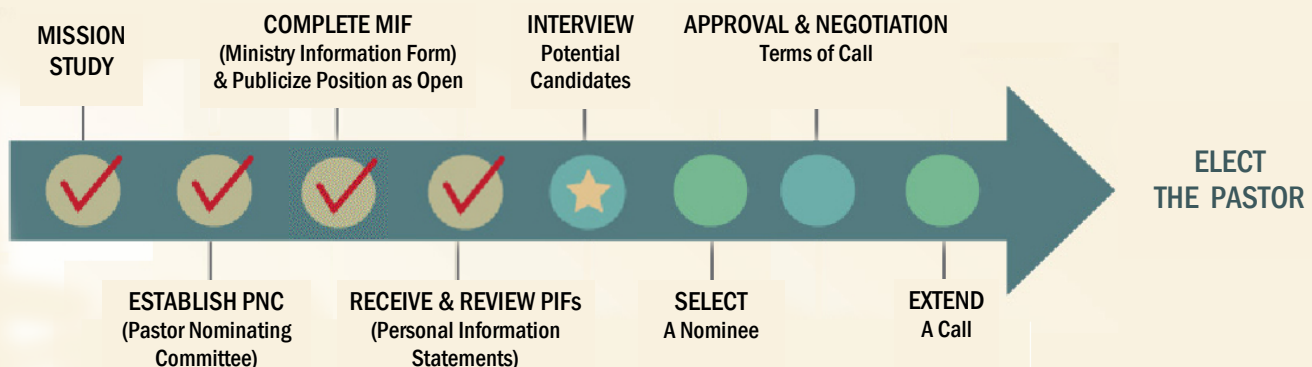


AN UPDATE FROM YOUR PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Your PNC is now very active in the interview stage of the pastor call process. We are impressed with the quality of applicants interviewed and their interest in a call to serve our congregation. We have developed a short list of candidates to now meet in person, worship and pray together.

We are still open to congregation "word of mouth" leads and encourage you to pass along our congregation's MIF, which can be found on the Home Page of our website: www.pcnv.org (on the top of the right-hand column). Thank you for your patience and prayers as we move through this process.

PASTOR CALL PROCESS OVERVIEW



The Pipe Organ

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

For I know the
Plans
I have for you,
declares the *Lord*
Plans to *Prosper* you
and not to harm you
Plans to give you
Hope and a *Future*
-Jeremiah 29:11

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday March 6

Guest Preacher: Erin Ann Jacobson
Sunday Speaker Series: Doug Simon

Sunday March 13

Guest Preacher: Leigh Whitson Devries
CLC St Patrick's-Themed Coffee Hour
Sunday Speaker Series: Brid Nicholson

Easter Sunday, March 27

6:30 am: Sunrise Service at Bayne Park
9:00 am: First Easter Service
10:00 am: Easter Breakfast
10:00 am: Children's Egg Hunt
11:15 am: Second Easter Service

E-mail Addresses

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

CHURCH OFFICE

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NEW VERNON, NEW JERSEY 07976

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