



# The Pipe Organ

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
New Vernon, NJ

VOL. 62 NO. 6

June, 2013

## Rick's Reflections

*"Jesus asked them, "Who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church."*

~ Matthew 16: 15-18

I was at a preaching conference last week. Much of the conversation was about the emerging church movement. I am still not sure exactly what that means. But it is clear that there is a major change taking place in our culture when it comes to church. And while I think too much was made of the demise of the mainline churches, there was some encouragement about a renewal of interest in church on the part of younger believers. I think it is up to us to see this not as a threat, but as a sign of hope that God is doing a new thing.

One of the primary marks of the emerging church is that it is not "anti." It is not building its identity on what it is against. So it is not anti-science or anti-gay or anti-change or anti-other faiths.

So what does an emerging church look like? It is open and affirming of all of God's people regardless of the way they choose to approach God. The emerging church does not give up the foundations of being followers of Christ. They built their identity on the strong model of Jesus rather than on what things they are against. They are not judgmental of others. They use the Bible as a liberating message of ultimate love rather than using it as a weapon or a tool to condemn others. In the emerging church, there is an emphasis on granting permission to question things and being in communion even when you are not sure about everything.

What really surprised me was that many of these qualities are already evident in our mainline Presbyterian Church. We are like Peter. We are the rock that people need. Jesus is the Christ, the son of

the living God. But we are also rocky sometimes. And change is hard sometimes. God is patient with us. God is working to rebuild our identity based on Jesus and not on what we are against. Peter was rocky throughout the gospel story. But eventually he gets it and really becomes the rock. Now we are doing the same thing with God's help. We are all, in a sense, emerging into what God is calling us to be. On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand.

Blessings,

**Pastor Rick**

Volunteer Opportunities & Thank You .....	2
Session Highlights .....	3
Gordon's Corner .....	4
Sunday School News .....	5
Celebrating You! .....	5
June Book Club News .....	6
Men's Prayer Breakfast .....	6
Old-Fashioned Church Picnic .....	7
Church Family Feud .....	7
Congratulations Graduates .....	8
Minister of Music Job Description .....	9
Member News .....	10
Willow Tree 5K Run & Dog Walk .....	11
Fire Department Dinner .....	11
Oklahoma Disaster Relief .....	11
Feedback from Gatherings .....	12-14
Myers-Briggs Program in Fall .....	15
Special Guest Preacher –Rev. Jeanne Radak .....	15
Morris Habitat for Humanity June Project .....	15
Morris Habitat Blitz Build Pictures .....	16
Gordon's New Book "Tracing Infinity" .....	17
With Thanks to Richard and Linda .....	17
Calendar & Worship Plans .....	18-19

**FPCNV Staff**

Richard D. Sweeney,  
*Senior Pastor*  
 Amanda Tsukamoto,  
*Minister of Music*  
 Richard Cox,  
*Minister of Music*  
 Debbie Hennessey,  
*Office Administrator and  
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 Gordon T. Ward,  
*Director of Youth and  
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 Susan H. Fischer,  
*Director of Sunday School*  
 Tony Rodriguez,  
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 Nancy Barrett  
 Tom Ewig  
 Bret Fischer  
 Kerra French  
 Ann LaPré  
 Larry Malm  
 Mike Phillips  
 Katherine Sheeleigh  
 Jonathan Shelby  
 Tricia Tiensch  
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 Erin Castner  
 Fenton Chaney  
 Lisa Chapman  
 Sandy Finlayson  
 Barbara Gill  
 Nancy Gockley  
 Susan Morris  
 Sue Nobleman  
 Judith Shelton  
 Prudy Sweeney  
 Anne Thomas  
 Eileen Urban  
 Anne Waite

**GREETERS NEEDED**

To volunteer, please use the  
 sign-up sheet in  
 Fellowship Hall  
 or  
 contact:

**Janet Bruns**  
 973-267-5023

**USHERS NEEDED**

To volunteer,  
 please contact the  
 Session Member  
 of the month.

June:  
**Larry Malm**  
 973-822-2276

**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS**

Volunteer to be a Coffee Hour host.  
 Bring your favorite snacks and help make  
 this time of fellowship a pleasant one for all.

A Deacon will be available  
 to help you on Sunday morning.

Contact the Deacon of the Month:



May:  
**Erin Castner**  
 908-204-9344

**Thank You,**  
**May Coffee Hour Hosts**

Special thanks go to Anne LaPré, Kathy and Matt Sheeleigh,  
 Martha and Doug Coy, and Prudy and Rick Sweeney for graciously  
 hosting Coffee Hour during the month of May!



## MAY SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



The following are highlights from the May 21, 2013 Session Meeting.

The meeting began with Anne LaPré reading devotions.

### Committee Highlights

**Adult Education:** June Tamburro's program on Prison Ministry has been rescheduled for October 27th. Programs for the fall include *Frankenstein's Cat*, which raises moral questions about transgenic species. Pastor Sweeney and Amada Tsukamoto will present a program on Hymns and Their History on September 15th after worship.

**Congregational Life:** June 2nd is Confirmation Sunday. Please join the Confirmands and their families at Coffee Hour for a celebratory treat. The Committee is hard at work planning the church picnic scheduled for June 9th at 4:00. A very big Thank You goes to the Sheeleighs for offering the use of their home once again!

**Membership:** The new membership section of the website has been submitted for posting—thanks to Anne Talcott: Some new programs are in the work for our church members. The Men's Breakfast Group has recently started to meet on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 at the Minute Man—all are welcome. Suggestions gathered at the Listening Sessions will be published in *The Pipe Organ*. The next new members' class will meet on June 9th.

**Youth Education:** The Blitz Build held on May 18th and 19th was a big success. Many of our young and adult members were able to assist in building a home on Budd Lake for a single mother and her two children. The house was completed in just two days! More opportunities for our congregants to participate in a traditional Habitat for Humanity project will be coming up on June 8th and 22nd.

**Worship and Music:** There was a tribute to the choir on May 19th during worship. The Committee is still in the process of interviewing for a new choir director. A heartfelt Thank You to Richard Cox for sharing his gifts with us over these past 16 years! He will be greatly missed!

**Mission and Outreach:** Kirkridge, a Christian retreat and study center, and the Mental Health Association of Morris County are two non-profits that have been added to the list of organizations for which we provide assistance. We have distributed a total of \$33,000 in funds to the 12 non-profits we support.

**Buildings and Grounds:** There are plans under way to paint Fellowship Hall; the Committee is currently researching the options. The Nursery School will be closed as of the end of June. The Committee is deciding how best to use the space going forward. The possibility of renting the space to generate revenue is being considered. Outstanding maintenance issues at the Brick Manse are being addressed; our renters have signed the lease for another year.

**Finance:** Overall the Church finances are in very good shape. The loss incurred by the Nursery School is less than what was expected.

**Stewardship:** The campaign for next year is currently being worked on. Stay tuned for this year's stewardship theme!

Communion will be served on Sunday June 2nd. The next Session meeting will be on Tuesday, June 18, 2013 at 7pm.

Reverend Sweeney adjourned the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Coyle – Clerk of Session



## St. Mick?

How many of us worry—worry about money, worry about our children, worry about our aging parents, school, jobs, etc.? Some people worry about making big enough strides in order to outrun their pasts, and others worry if they will be able to achieve goals in the future. Believe it or not, some of us even worry that we worry too much! Well, with summer coming on quickly and many of us making vacation plans and going our own ways, I want to leave you with a something to contemplate.

Mick Jagger, frontman for the band the Rolling Stones, sings these lyrics in one of the band's songs:

*"You can't always get what you want, but if you try sometimes, well, you might find you get what you need."*

Of course, Mick Jagger is no saint, but his words do echo a message that a carpenter's son from Galilee delivered 1,980 years ago. Read what's written in Matthew 6:25-34.

*"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore, do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?'... and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today."*

Perhaps it was said a bit more succinctly by Mick, but he was hitting the same chord as Jesus, so to speak. Now, I'm not for a second going to entertain the thought that Mick Jagger had the words of Jesus on his mind when he and bandmate Keith Richards wrote "You Can't Always Get What You Want." But don't you think this is one of those basic truths in life? There are certain veracities that creep into our collective consciousness, facts of life that rise to the top of our awareness.

First of all, there's a difference between want and need, and as most of us know all too well, sometimes the things we want are not really what we need. However, when we are able to distinguish between the two, we begin to realize that we get exactly what we need in God's plan for us—even if we don't understand it at the time.

The belief that God will provide for us is a tough one to swallow for some folks because belief is not physical. You can't wrap your arms around it. But I would argue that faith is tangible. For example, when you have faith that your spouse loves you, isn't it something you can feel in your chest, in your whole being? When a dear friend of yours promises something to you, you know it, you bank on it.

With that in mind, I'm going to leave you with this assignment until autumn. Take a leap of faith this summer. Take a good, hard look at the things you need... not want. After this, do some reflection. Do you remember that old hymn, "What a friend we have in Jesus"? Let's try and cut down on our worries because our God, our most dear and loyal friend, Lord, and Savior, promises to take care of every one of us, day after day.

"Therefore, do not worry."

"You get what you need."





## Sunday School 2013-2014

Believe it or not, it is time to think about our Sunday School program for 2013-2014. If anyone is interested in teaching Sunday School next year, please contact Susan Fischer at:

908-204-0820  
or shfischer@verizon.net

We are looking for teachers to volunteer one Sunday a month. Our curriculum is extremely user friendly. Teaching a class using this curriculum can be done easily without any prior teaching experience.

Our Sunday School program relies on volunteers to be successful. Please consider teaching, especially if you have children in our program.

## Help Us Celebrate You!

Please take a moment to fill in your birthday information below and mail it or drop it off at the Church Office. You may also email the information to Caroline Ford at [carolineford7@gmail.com](mailto:carolineford7@gmail.com).

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ MONTH: \_\_\_\_\_ DAY: \_\_\_\_\_

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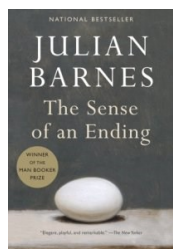
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# FPCNV Book Club

## June Selection: *The Sense of an Ending*

Tuesday, June 11 at 7:00 pm in the Library



### ***The Sense of an Ending* by Julian Barnes**

The story of a man coming to terms with the mutable past, Julian Barnes's new novel is laced with his trademark precision, dexterity and insight. It is the work of one of the world's most distinguished writers.

Tony Webster and his clique first met Adrian Finn at school. Sex-hungry and book-hungry, they navigated the girl drought of gawky adolescence together, trading in affectations, in-jokes, rumor and wit. Maybe Adrian was a little more serious than the others, certainly more intelligent, but they swore to stay friends forever. Until Adrian's life took a turn into tragedy, and all of them, especially Tony, moved on and did their best to forget.

Now Tony is in middle age. He's had a career and a marriage, a calm divorce. He gets along nicely, he thinks, with his one child, a daughter, and even with his ex-wife. He's certainly never tried to hurt anybody. Memory, though, is imperfect. It can always throw up surprises, as a lawyer's letter is about to prove. The unexpected bequest conveyed by that letter leads Tony on a dogged search through a past suddenly turned murky. And how do you carry on, contentedly, when events conspire to upset all your vaunted truths? ~ [julianbarnes.com](http://julianbarnes.com)

## Men's Breakfast

**Tuesday Mornings ~ Minute Man Restaurant**  
**7:30-8:30 am**

All of the men in the church are welcomed to attend a prayer and Bible study breakfast that continues to meet on Tuesday mornings throughout the month of June. We will meet at the Minute Man Restaurant from 7:30 to 8:30 am each of the following mornings.

June 4	June 18
June 11	June 25

Each man will order his own breakfast. We will do a brief Bible study based on a book by Eugene Peterson entitled, ***Run with the Horses: The Quest for Life at Its Best***. This is a study based on passages from the prophet Jeremiah. We will also spend time praying for each other each morning.

This will be a fine opportunity to get to know other men in the congregation as we seek to deepen our relationship with God. It also offers a wonderful chance to invite men who are not in our church to come with you. No reservations are necessary. We hope you will join us on Tuesday mornings at the Minute Man.

# Old-Fashioned Church Picnic

**Sunday, June 9**

**4-7 pm**

**At the home of**

**Kathy & Matt Sheeleigh**

**8 Sycamore Farm Road, New Vernon**

Burgers, dogs, dessert, and soft drinks provided.  
Bring something to share: an appetizer, salad, or side dish that will feed eight. Please bring your own chairs or a picnic blanket to sit on.

**To RSVP:**

Sign up at Coffee Hour,  
or Email response to:  
[laprefam@mac.com](mailto:laprefam@mac.com)



## Adult Education Presents

### Church Family Feud!

With host, Pastor Rick Sweeney



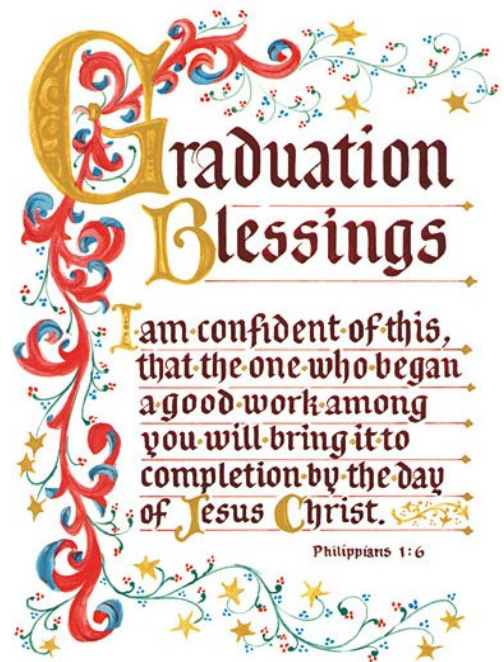
Now it's time for everybody's favorite game show—CHURCH FAMILY FEUD! On June 9<sup>th</sup> after worship Fellowship Hall will be the site of a match between two teams of eager contestants (play along please)! They will try to guess the most popular answers to questions about the Bible and the church.

Valuable prizes await the winning team (now you really have to play along), and fun will be had by all. Please join your host Rick Sweeney and his lovely assistant, Vanna (Prudy) Sweeney. This will be the best time of your life. (OK, you may not be able to play along with this one, but it will still be fun.)

# Congratulations



## Graduates!



# 2013

## A Note to Graduates from Pastor Rick

***Congratulations to all of our graduates!***

*This is an exciting time of celebration and transition. You successfully completed one important task. Now it is on to the next phase.*

*Always remember that there is a God who loves you the same in success or failure. Remember also that there is a church family that loves you and prays for you. All the best in what comes next,*

**Pastor Rick**



## Minister of Music

Richard Cox has announced that he will be retiring at the end of June as our Minister of Music, a position that he has held for 16 years. Although it will be challenging to replace him, the Music and Worship Committee has reviewed his job description and is beginning the search for someone to fill the position. The following information is currently available for download at the pcnv.org website at:

<http://www.pcnv.org/pdf/Minister-Of-Music-Job-Description.pdf>

If you know of anyone who might be interested in applying, please have them contact Tricia at the addresses listed below.

### POSITION INFORMATION

Position Title:	Minister of Music, Choir Director (part-time)
Brief Position Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work in conjunction with the Co-Minister of Music to create and manage new music program for the church each year.</li> <li>• Select and order music appropriate for a volunteer adult choir to enhance the worship service.</li> <li>• Provide special soloists and musicians, as required, to enhance the music experience for the congregation.</li> <li>• Enlist and direct volunteer assistants; e.g., Choral Music Librarian.</li> <li>• Direct two rehearsals per week for an Adult Choir; lead the choir at Sunday service.</li> <li>• Create special music programs for services such as Maundy Thursday, Easter, Christmas Eve, and Christmas.</li> <li>• Explore new musical approaches to appeal to a broader range of interests on the part of the congregation.</li> <li>• Attend meetings of the Music &amp; Worship Committee whenever possible.</li> <li>• Position requires the following qualities:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commitment to the Christian faith</li> <li>- Experience and competence in directing music groups</li> <li>- Working well in team setting with staff and other committees</li> <li>- Enthusiasm and ability to share this with the church</li> <li>- Degree in Music or equivalent experience required</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One service on Sunday at 10:00 am</li> </ul>
Music:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historically traditional, but seeking more diversification</li> </ul>
Hours per Week:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 hours</li> </ul>
Organ Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Casavant Freres 2-manual 24-stop pipe organ, well maintained</li> </ul>
Piano Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baldwin Model M piano, well-maintained</li> </ul>

### COMPENSATION

Annual Salary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid-teens, depending upon experience</li> </ul>
Paid Vacation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four weeks, based on a full year of service</li> </ul>

### HOW TO APPLY?

Application:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please mail or e-mail your letter of interest, resume, and letters of recommendation to the First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon, Attention: Tricia Tiensch, PO Box 218, New Vernon, NJ 07976 or <a href="mailto:office@pcnv.org">office@pcnv.org</a> (Subject: Minister of Music Position)</li> </ul>
Closing Date:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 30, 2013 or until the position is filled</li> </ul>

## Member News

### NANCY GOCKLEY HONORED BY HARDING TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Nancy Gockley is what is known as an “irresistible force” in support of both the Tunis-Ellicks house and the Harding Township Historical Society and she will be missed.

In furtherance of our charter to preserve the history of Harding Township, let me tell you a little about Nancy.

She has been at this “history stuff” for almost 40 years (far longer than most current board members and nearly as long as some board members have been alive!)

In 1974, she made a fateful decision to volunteer to serve on the “Bicentennial Committee.”

She served under Cynthia Robinson and alongside the likes of Swiss Schroeder, Dick Lynch, and Walt and Marianne Morris.

Nancy remembers their fundraising strategy. They held a number of “Jersey Lightning” parties. They put together a common party plan and organized 24 parties including nearly 800 neighbors and raising a substantial amount of money (more about that later).

After the Bicentennial, Cynthia conceived of and drove the creation of the Tunis Ellicks Restoration Committee and the Harding Township Historical Society. Nancy went along, first as a restorer and then as a trustee of the Society.

The Restoration Committee led to the

Tunis-Ellicks restoration of the early ‘80s and included Dorothy Adey, Sue Mitchell, Betty Willey, Jack Fritts and our own Pat Burke. It disbanded after the restoration of the TE kitchen in about 1990.

About the kitchen...

Nancy headed the Restoration Committee when its focus was the kitchen and is largely responsible for the discovery and reconstruction of the beehive oven, which is the kitchen’s centerpiece. Working with Peggy Thompson, they broke through a later fireplace back wall and discovered remnants of the earlier fireplace with enough detail (curve of laid bricks and bake-oven) to enable reconstruction of what

had been there originally. This work was financed with leftover funds from the “Jersey Lightning” Bicentennial parties.

Nancy’s tenure on the board has always been highlighted by a love for the Tunis-Ellicks House and its kitchen. She has done many of-the-period cooking demonstrations in that kitchen. As well, she was a strong contributor to our crafts sales and to the successful development of the Preview Party and Antiques Show and Sale.

On behalf of board and members, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to Nancy for her service and for her love of the Tunis-Ellicks House and the Society. ~ *Harding Township Historical Society Newsletter*



#### Janet Wood Gagliano

November 19, 1938-May 19, 2013

Janet W. Gagliano, sister of Keith Wood, passed away on Sunday, May 19. Please keep Keith and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

To send a card or note:

Keith and Patti Wood  
170 Lee's Hill Road  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

#### New Member Class

Sunday, June 9 at 8:30 am

There will be another New Member Class on Sunday, June 9 at 8:30 am. New members will meet with Session afterwards at 9:15 am and be received into the congregation during the Worship Service that morning.

If you would like to join at this time, please contact Pastor Rick at : 973-538-8394.



## 5K & 1-Mile Dog Walk

**USATF Certified &  
Sanctioned**

**July 20, 2013 at 8 am**  
4 Campus Drive  
Parsippany, NJ

**Register @**  
**[www.campuscore.com](http://www.campuscore.com)**



## NEW VERNON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



### ANNUAL STEAK & LOBSTER DINNER

Friday, June 7th ~ 6-10 pm  
Rain or Shine

Seating begins at 5:30 pm, and food  
orders will start at 6 pm  
at the firehouse on Village Road. (No strollers.)

Steak: \$20 ♦ Lobster: \$25 ♦ Chicken: \$15

Dinners include salad bar, French fries, bread, beer,  
wine, soda, coffee, and dessert. Also available for  
sale: steamed clams, corn on the cob, and burgers.

Please come support your New Vernon Volunteer  
Fire Department for a fun community event.

## Moore, Oklahoma Disaster Relief

On Monday, May 20, a tornado a mile wide with  
winds of 200+ miles an hour ripped apart the  
community of Moore, Oklahoma. Many were  
killed, including children from an elementary  
school that received a direct hit.

Please remember all who have been greatly  
affected by this terrible disaster in your prayers.

### Donations can be made in the following ways:

To send a check:

**Payable to: Presbyterian Church (USA)**  
**On Check Memo line:**  
**DR000015—Oklahoma**

Presbyterian Church (USA)  
PO Box 643700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

To pay by credit card: Call PresbyTel at  
800-872-3293

## Feedback Summary from Church Gatherings

### Membership:

The consensus seems to be that we are a “graying” church that is not attracting the younger generations. There is a cultural change that is affecting membership and participation in programs. Younger families are over-committed and too busy. The result is poor attendance in worship, educational opportunities, and congregational life offerings.

With regard to children, it is particularly noticed in poor Sunday school attendance, the absence of a Children’s Choir, and non-participation in youth activities in general.

### Stewardship/Finance:

We are doing a pretty good job in the area of Stewardship. Members don’t feel particularly pressured and like the low-key approach. In spite of that, however, there are those who are reluctant to pledge making it more difficult for the Finance Committee to develop a budget. It was suggested that the congregation needs to be updated more often as to our financial status throughout the year. People are quick to respond when there is a need, once it has been articulated.

### Mission and Outreach:

15% of our operating budget is designated for missions. Approximately \$90,000 will be distributed to local, regional, and international missions in 2013. Recipients of these monies come under the close scrutiny of a very dedicated Mission and Outreach Committee. In addition, there are many opportunities for members to get directly involved in outreach: Kentucky Care, Soles for Souls, Christmas Is for Children, Community Soup Kitchen, All Hands on Deck, and Habitat for Humanity, to name a few.

There seems to be substantial interest in more hands-on mission projects. This is a multi-generational opportunity that might re-activate younger families.

Communicating with the congregation when there is a special need gets a quick and substantial response. Continuing to do the Minute for Mission every month is an important way to acquaint the members with the various missions we support. New members have been attracted to our church because of our focus on mission.

### Music and Worship:

Most were very positive about the worship experience. The Moments of Celebration and Sharing the Peace have been well received and should be continued. Rick’s worship leadership, sermons, and sense of humor were seen as positives. Most of the negatives centered around the music, both selections and performance. The lack of enough voices and difficulty of music for the choir were cited. Hymns that are unfamiliar, hard to sing, or with too many verses are unpopular. One person thinks that too much music is included in the service. More contemporary music is thought to be more attractive to the younger members than “ancient” selections. Others suggested that the service be ended on a positive, upbeat note with a livelier hymn selection.

Concerns were voiced over and over again about the lack of children in worship and the absence of young families in attendance.

*(continued on next page)*



Special services like Maundy Thursday, for example, are not well attended. These services might attract people in the community if they were publicized more widely. The importance of attendance at and the significance of these services should be emphasized to the congregation.

The worship services are thought to be less formal and more relaxed than in the past, and that is seen as a positive.

**Administration:**

Debbie Hennessey, the Office Administrator, is seen as an asset as she interacts with members. She is viewed as helpful and accommodating. *The Pipe Organ* is also seen as a very comprehensive church publication.

It is thought that an ongoing effort should be made to update email addresses and keep the website up-to-date, as well. Having *The Pipe Organ* available online is also seen as a positive.

Gordon's emails are good for announcements and reminders. Some members are still not receiving them, however, or don't know how to find them if they go to Spam.

It was suggested that when items like Christmas ornaments or CDs are offered for sale in *News and Notes*, those items (and money for making change) need to be available for purchase during Coffee Hour; a designated "go-to" person should be in charge of this.

**Personnel:**

Even though the Deacon Board is made up of members and not paid staff, this group is seen as a profound strength of our church. They are the ones "on the scene" quickly for anyone in need. Their tireless efforts are recognized, as are the contributions of particular individuals within that group.

Gordon's job description needs to be more comprehensive because he does many things in addition to Youth and Family ministry duties.

The Music Director received positive comments for his efforts to provide the congregation with quality anthems in spite of having a small number of voices with which to work. However, the selections were thought to be too difficult for a choir of this size and that more contemporary pieces are needed.

Rick was praised for his knowledge of the members and his engaging manner with everyone. Worshippers like his sense of humor and the jokes that open his sermons.

Amanda, the new church organist, is seen as a wonderful addition to our church staff.

**Adult Education:**

Very positive feelings about how the Adult Education program has evolved. There are two Bible studies that are fairly well attended. Also, members like the variety, the length and the value of the seminars held after Coffee Hour. It was indicated that more programs might be provided by members of the congregation who have special expertise. The time slot after Coffee Hour might also be an opportune time to conduct a youth activity and encourage families to participate in various educational offerings that run simultaneously. A variety of "off campus" field trips for adults have had light participation.

## Feedback Summary from Church Gatherings ~ *continued*

### Youth Education

This is by far the weakest area of our ministry. Children are in a spiritual vacuum. Young families are not attending worship services or bringing children to Sunday School. We have been unable to promote Vacation Bible School. This needs to be examined more closely. It may be a cultural trend or just apathy that is undermining our children's Christian Education. Some creative ideas were offered as a way of closing this gap.

Gordon has been unable to sustain a typical youth group. The exception to youth involvement was *All Hands on Deck* work projects. This is a strong indication that mission trips may be more attractive to this age group and ultimately give them a richer experience than regular youth group meetings. There is also an indication that their parents may be interested in the type of ministry/mission work where the whole family can participate together.

There is an inclination by some members to "look backward" when it comes to youth activities. A cultural shift is taking place in this age group as well. Because teens tend to be over-extended, short-term commitments that also help them accumulate community service credits toward graduation might be more appropriate.

### Congregational Life:

It has been observed that, in spite of good planning and a variety of intergenerational events, attendance has been mediocre. This is especially true of evening events. The absence of young families at these events is notable. The lack of attendance is discouraging for this committee and its leadership.

Events planned that take place immediately following worship in conjunction with Coffee Hour are fairly well attended and enjoyed.

Personal phone calls to all families with young children failed to bring them out for a Christmas event to decorate cookies and meet Santa.

### Buildings and Grounds:

A question was raised about using the library space in a different way or for a different purpose. There will also be vacant space on the lower level when the nursery school is finished. How best to use these spaces in the future is something to be considered.

Because of the historical significance of the sanctuary building, there may be opportunities to involve the community more with tours and educational events. This could ultimately generate funds for future restorations.

### Nominating:

This past year the Committee had an easier time filling vacant Session and Deacon positions. We have a quality Session and Deacon Board as a result.

## Save the Dates!

### Myers-Briggs Program Led by Jane Kendall

**November 3, 10, and 17**

Adult Ed is setting up a Myers-Briggs program led by Jane Kendall. This will be a 3-part series on November 3, 10, and 17.

The first session will be 2 hours and include a light lunch. Participants must take the M-B instrument and purchase "Introduction to Type."

Costs for the above are about \$25 and will be borne by the participants.

## Special Guest Preacher Rev. Jeanne Radak Sunday, June 9

The Rev. Jeanne Radak will be our preacher on June 9. Jean is our new Newton Presbytery Leader. She is a graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania and Pittsburg Theological Seminary. Those are the same institutions attended by Pastor Rick (but don't hold that against her!).

There are a lot of other things happening that day. We will receive new members, there is a game after worship during fellowship hour, and the church picnic is later that afternoon. Please plan to attend worship that morning for a great sermon and a full worship experience.

## Morris Habitat for Humanity Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> Project

***Only 12 spots available! Sign up via E-mail or on the sheet in Fellowship Hall!***

We will be assigned to Lozier Road, Budd Lake where we will be working on a single-family home. This site is enclosed; however, participants are advised to dress according to the weather, as there might be some exterior work. As we get closer to this build day, we can expect a more accurate description of what we'll be doing.

A "construction day" is from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 pm. Volunteers are expected to be there all day; however, MH4H understands if this is not possible.

Here is a typical construction day schedule:

8:30 a.m.: Arrival/ hand in waivers/ safety talk  
9:00 a.m.-12:00 pm: Work  
12:00-12:30p.m.: Lunches  
12:30-3:00 p.m.: Continue work  
3:00-4:00: Clean-up

This is a calmer experience than the Blitz Build but just as rewarding.

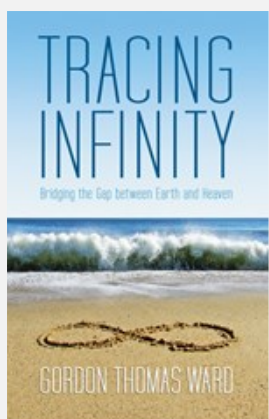


# Habitat For Humanity Blitz Build



Twenty members of our Congregation, youth and adults, gave of their time and effort to take part in the first ever Blitz Build for Morris Habitat for Humanity. An entire house was completed in two days, including the landscaping!





Gordon's new book is due out at the end of June in eBook and softcover formats!

## ***TRACING INFINITY*** ***Bridging the Gap between Earth and Heaven***

*Tracing Infinity* 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 teach you 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.

## With Thanks and Best Wishes to Richard and Linda Cox

Richard Cox has been a Minister of Music at FPCNV since 1996. He received vocal training in Munich, Germany while studying for a BA degree at the University of Maryland's Munich campus. His education continued on both undergraduate and graduate levels at several prestigious music schools and universities. In 1976, Richard began directing church choral groups. In 2003, he graduated Summa Cum Laude from Drew University with a Masters in Theological Studies. Linda Cox has sung in the choir, directed, and been Choir Librarian. In May they held an enthusiastically received, mostly music Choir Appreciation service.

This month, they will step down from their positions at the Church. They plan to relocate to Geneva, NY to be near their daughter and son-in-law, Erika and Charles King, and three grandchildren, Simon, Malcolm, and Phoebe. We appreciate their talents and thank them for their dedication, service, and so many years of wonderful music.



# June 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <b>7th Gr Pre-Confirmation</b> 9:00-9:30 am  <b>Communion Sunday</b>  <b>Confirmation</b>	3 <b>Women's Bible Study</b> 9:30-11 am	4 <b>Men's Prayer Breakfast</b> 7:30 am Minute Man	5	6 <b>Bible Study</b> 8:30-9:30 am   <b>Choir 7:30 p</b>	7  <b>AA Meeting</b> noon  <b>NV Fire Dept. Steak &amp; Lobster Dinner</b> 6-10 pm	8 <b>Habitat for Humanity Build</b> 8:30 am-4 pm
9 <b>New Members Class 8:30 am</b> <b>Rev. Jeanne Radak preaching</b> <b>Church Family Feud</b> <b>Church Picnic</b> at Sheeleighs' Home 4-7 pm	10 <b>Women's Bible Study</b> 9:30-11 am   <b>7:30 Deacons</b>	11 <b>Men's Prayer Breakfast</b> 7:30 am Minute Man  <b>Book Club</b> 7:00 pm	12	13 <b>Bible Study</b> 8:30-9:30 am   <b>Choir 7:30 p</b>	14  <b>AA Meeting</b> noon	15
16	17  <b>Finance Committee</b> 7 pm	18 <b>Men's Prayer Breakfast</b> 7:30 am Minute Man  <b>Session Mtg.</b> 7 pm	19	20 <b>Bible Study</b> 8:30-9:30 am   <b>Choir 7:30 p</b>	21  <b>AA Meeting</b> noon	22
23 <b>Faith &amp; Fitness</b> 12-2 pm	24	25 <b>Men's Prayer Breakfast</b> 7:30 am Minute Man	26	27 <b>Bible Study</b> 8:30-9:30 am   <b>Choir 7:30 p</b>	28  <b>AA Meeting</b> noon	29

## Worship at FPCNV ~ June 2013

### Sunday, June 2

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Communion and Confirmation

Preacher: Dr. Sweeney

Liturgist: Austin Steinmetz

**Sermon: *I Am Astonished***

Text:

*Psalm 96*

*Galatians 1:1-12*

### Sunday, June 9

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Preacher: Jeanne Radak

Liturgist: Dr. Sweeney

**Sermon: TBA**

Text: TBA

### Sunday, June 16

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Preacher: Dr. Sweeney

Liturgist: Linda Cox

**Sermon: *What Do I Owe You?***

Text:

*Galatians 2:15-21*

*Luke 7:36-8:3*

### Sunday, June 23

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Preacher: Dr. Sweeney

Liturgist: Jake Steinmetz

**Sermon: *The End of Them***

Text:

*Luke 8:26-39*

*Galatians 3:23-29*

### Sunday, June 30

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Preacher: Dr. Sweeney

Liturgist: Marion Hoffman

Three Sermons on the Apostles' Creed:

***Dash***

***Jesus Descended Into Hell! Really?***

***Your Heavenly Body***

Text:

*John 21:15-19, 24-25*

*Ephesians 4:7-10*

*I Corinthians 15:35-58*

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

## Highlights This Month:

**Saturday, June 2**  
Confirmation

**Tuesdays, June 4, 11, 18, & 25**  
Men's Prayer Breakfast at the  
Minute Man Restaurant ~ 7:30 am

**Sunday, June 9**  
Church Family Feud!  
Annual Old-Fashioned Church Picnic

Happy  
*Father's*  
Day

Wishing all of our Fathers  
a very Happy Father's Day!

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

## CHURCH OFFICE

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
NEW VERNON, NJ 07976-0218

Phone: 973-538-8394  
e-mail: [office@pcnv.org](mailto:office@pcnv.org)  
Fax: 973-538-3969  
website: [www.pcnv.org](http://www.pcnv.org)