

The Pipe Organ

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
New Vernon, NJ

VOL. 62 NO. 2

February 2014

“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”

I Corinthians 12: 27

Rick's Reflections

I think a lot about this part of the body of Christ. I think and pray that we as members of the body of Christ act in a way that gives credit to our Lord.

In cleaning out some old books, I came across a little monograph called *I Openers*. It's a collection of modern parables written by Herbert Brooking. Here are a few examples that got me thinking about our church.

Once there was a minister who wore a seed pod to church. Some people acted like they never saw it. One person couldn't stand it and she pointed to the dry boutonniere and shouted, "It's dead!" The minister walked around the church and gave everyone a piece. They all went home and planted it. That was all he had to say. They are still talking about it.

That story made me wonder if we need to be reminded that there is life in abundance ahead for our church. Even when it seems like something is dead, there is great life in it that is yet to be revealed. But it will only blossom when we are ready to accept change. Here is another parable.

Once there was a church that ran out of things to do. They had sung all the hymns and said all the prayers over and over. They knew all the festivals by heart and could recite psalms without looking or thinking. So they decided to celebrate the only thing left: Each other. Every week they celebrate one person. So many people are joining. It seems they'll never get done with what they're doing.

Do you think we could do that? It wouldn't be as if we were worshipping them. We would be worshipping God and thanking God for the gift of them. We could choose the names randomly so that nobody would be

offended. But we wouldn't stop until we had celebrated everyone in our church. Would you be OK with that? Would you be willing to try new things so that what seemed dead would live again? Might that be what it means to be the body of Christ, always rising from death to new life to celebrate each other in the name of the Risen Lord?

Blessings,

Pastor Rick

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Prudy Sweeney

Anne Thomas

Eileen Urban

Anne Waite

Monday Morning Women's Bible Study

**MONDAY MORNINGS****9:30-11:00 AM**

The Women's Monday Morning Bible Study is beginning a new adventure starting February 10th. In light of the

growing presence of Muslims in our country and the international conflicts surrounding Islam, the group felt that more knowledge of the origins and beliefs of this third religion "of the Book" would be fruitful.

The study to be used is another Great Courses 12 lecture DVD series called "Great World Religions: Islam, Faith and Politics, Women in Islam, and others." The lecturer is Professor John L. Esposito, who is Professor of Islamic Studies at Georgetown University.

This study group meets on Monday mornings, 9:30 am to 11 am and is led by the Rev. Barbara Aspinall. All women are welcome and there will be coffee!



Barbara Aspinall

**Thank you from my heart!**

I am so grateful for all of the special attention I have received since my "flight" down the icy front steps of the Manse, January 5th. Recovering from broken ribs has been more debilitating and painful than I ever would have imagined. My church family has run errands, shopped, prepared and delivered wonderful meals, sent beautiful cards and flowers, including messages of care and concern, and prayed me through it. I am healing and getting stronger each day in the good care of Rick, my wonderful nurse. I am also very thankful for our dedicated First Aid Squad that came to my rescue on a miserable night.

God Bless every one of you!

Prudy



JANUARY SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
will appear next month



God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help him.

Hebrews 6:10

We want to take a moment to say a special thank-you to our outgoing members of Session and Deacons. They have given a great deal of their time and effort to move our church forward in the last few years.

ADULT ED
February and March Events
SAVE THE DATES

February

- 9 *Learning From, and Communicating With, Others : Using MBTI as a Frame of Reference* - facilitated by Jane Kendall
- 23 *When the Man Comes Around* - Rev. Barbara Aspinall

March

- 9 *End of Life, Part I*
- 16 *End of Life, Part II*
- 17 *End of Life, Part III*

GET INVOLVED.
HAVE YOUR SAY.
MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



Youth & Children's Ministry Assessment

**SAVE THE DATE:
March 22-23, 2014**

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

We have invited Ministry Architects to visit us on Saturday and Sunday, March 22-23, 2014. (Learn more about them at www.ymarchitects.com.) Ministry Architects will spend the majority of their time listening to a variety of groups within the Church through focused listening groups. We hope to see participation in those groups from a broad spectrum of parents, volunteers, staff, and people who just love our young people. We want your insights, your frustrations, and your dreams to be heard.

After spending all day Saturday in these listening groups, the Ministry Architects team will prepare a report, sharing with us what they've heard about the youth and children's ministries—including assets, challenges, and how we compare to children's ministries around the country—and where it seems that God might be taking us next. On Sunday, March 23, 2014, the report will be presented to the congregation, laying out specific recommendations and a blueprint for how to move forward. If you would like to be part of this process and have your voice heard, please contact Kerra French, Youth Education Committee Chair, at (973) 644-3221 or kfrench@somersethillsymca.org.

**PLEASE WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION ON TIMES AND LOCATIONS
FOR OUR SATURDAY, MARCH 22 LISTENING GROUPS.**





All Youth Grades 6-12

Souper Bowl Weekend
Souper Bowl Pre-game
Fellowship Hall

Saturday, February 1
10:30 am-1:30 pm

Lunch will be provided

Bring 8 large Granny Smith apples
 & 2 sticks of butter each

We will bake the dessert for
 Sunday's Souper Bowl Luncheon
 and decorate Fellowship Hall

Sunday, February 2
After Worship Service

Come assist our Deacons with the Souper Bowl
 Luncheon and collect donations to benefit the
 Community Soup Kitchen.



For God so lo **V**ed the world
 that He g **A**ve
 His on **L**y
 begott **E**n
 So **N**
T hat whosoever
 believeth **I**n Him
 should **N**ot perish
 but have **E**verlasting life.



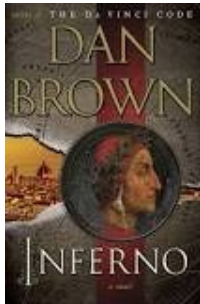
Youth Group Contact Info Update

We are updating our Youth Group
 contact information and ask that all
 parents and young people who are
 interested in receiving news about
 Youth Group meetings and events
 send us your current email address-
 es and numbers to contact you at.

Please send this information
 to
 Kerra French via:
officeadmin@pcnv.org.

FPCNV Book Club

Schedule



February Book Selection: *Inferno* by Dan Brown

Dan Brown, author of *The DaVinci Code*, *Angels and Demons*, and *The Lost Symbol*, returns to his element in *Inferno*, his highest-stakes novel to date.

In the heart of Italy, Harvard professor of symbology, Robert Langdon, is drawn into a harrowing world centered on one of history's most enduring and mysterious literary masterpieces...Dante's *Inferno*.

Against this backdrop, Langdon battles a chilling adversary and grapples with an ingenious riddle that pulls him into a landscape of classic art, secret passageways, and futuristic science. Drawing from Dante's dark epic poem, Langdon races to find answers and decide whom to trust...before the world is irrevocably altered.

Meeting Dates and Book Selections

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

- FEB 11** *Inferno* by Dan Brown
- MAR 11** *Spark: The Revolutionary New Science of Exercise and the Brain* by John J. Ratey and Eric Hagerman
- APR 8** *The Fish That Ate the Whale: The Life and Times of America's Banana King* by Rich Cohen
- MAY 13** *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini
- JUN 10** *House of Spirits* by Isabel Allende

New members are welcome.

From the Deacons



Souper Bowl Sunday

February 2
After Worship

Join in festive football fellowship

Soup

Chili

Salad

Bread

Delectable Desserts baked by our Youth

Freewill offering to benefit the Community Soup Kitchen.

Learning From, and Communicating With, Others Using MBTI as a Frame of Reference

Sunday February 9, 2014

11:30am - 1:00pm

Light refreshments will be provided

We laid the basic foundation for understanding our individual personality preferences in November. The question is: *Okay, so how do we use this information to be more effective in communicating and working with people whose preferences are different from our own?* They may be relatives, friends, or co-workers. The other thought is: *How can we learn from these mysterious people who sometimes say and do things that are very confusing to us?*

This will be an interactive, enjoyable workshop. You will walk away with some excellent tips from one another as well as from applied research (and me!).

Who can attend? Anyone with a basic understanding of type preferences, whether they attended the November sessions or not. Bring a friend or relative with you.

Please bring your *Introduction to Type* booklet with you. I will have others on hand for new participants.

Questions? Call the facilitator, Jane Kendall, at 201-400-8852, or email her at: janeakendall@att.net

Recycling Ink Cartridges

We are still collecting empty ink cartridges to recycle them while benefiting the Church Office supplies budget. We receive store credit at Staples for each cartridge and are allowed to recycle 20 cartridges per month.

If you wish to bring in your empty cartridges, the box for recycling is on the landing at the top of the stairs (outside of the Church Office.)



Pipe Organ Articles

The deadline for submission to *The Pipe Organ* is the 15th of the month for the next month's edition. We welcome your input and are always happy to announce your good news and special events and occasions. Committees, please keep us informed!

We also encourage our Committees and members to submit pictures to *The Pipe Organ* if you are present at an event, at Coffee Hour, or have a snapshot you would like to share. You do not have to be a professional photographer. We just wish to share the joy that you spot along the path.

Your input and images can be submitted to:
officeadmin@pcnv.org

What's a Per Capita?



We Presbyterians are a connectional church. We are part of something bigger than just our congregation. We are a part of Newton Presbytery. We are part of the Synod of the Northeast, and we are part of the Presbyterian Church USA. Each of these bodies is involved in mission and ministry at home and abroad. Presbytery is not “Them”. It is “Us”.

Our local church is able to do our work because you the members support the Church financially. But the Presbytery does not have any resources to do its work other than what the member churches provide. So the Presbytery and higher governing bodies depend on what we call a per capita assessment. Each church pays \$32.25 for each member. With that money, the Presbytery of Newton (us) and the Synod of the Northeast (us) and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA (us) are all able to do what God is calling US to do.

In most churches, individual members are asked to pay their per capita fee separate from their pledge. In our church, this has not been the practice until recently. In the last two years, we have asked members to pay their own per capita. A few people have done so. If more of us would do that, we would accomplish two things. First, we would make a strong statement that we are part of something larger than just ourselves. We would affirm our tradition as Presbyterians by being connected to the greater church. Second, we would take some pressure off our budget. Right now, we pay our per capita assessment from the budget, presently \$13,222 a year.

So here is the request. Would you consider paying \$32.25 per member above your pledge to keep us connectional and help our church have more resources to carry out our own mission and ministry? I think that is worth 35 cents a day. If you are willing to do that, please send your check to the Church Office marked “per capita”. It’s an easy and meaningful way to help make our church stronger. Thank you.

MEN’S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Resumes

First Wednesdays of the Month

The Men’s Prayer Breakfast will resume meeting on a monthly basis beginning Wednesday, February 5 at 7:30 am. Our first meeting will take place at the Minute Man Restaurant. We will consider a change of location for future meetings at this time. All men are welcome, and we hope that you will be able to join us.

Raise the Roof! Campaign Closing

You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

2 Corinthians 9:11-12

The “Raise the Roof!” Stewardship campaign comes to a close, but, as Paul writes above, our pledging is just one of “many expressions of thanks to God.” On behalf of the Stewardship Committee and Session, let me again express our thanks to all church members who have pledged and hope that your participation extends beyond the financial, that we see you on Sundays and at many of the outstanding church events. The pledge total now stands within shouting distance of our goal, and with some additional pledges this year, we anticipate getting closer to the \$500,000 mark we set. It is also very important that everyone review carefully the quarterly statements from the Church Office to ensure that the amounts are correct. If not, please call Darlene Cappel as soon as possible to reconcile the situation. Though surprising to me that Paul didn’t use “Raise the Roof!” in his beautiful writings, we can be proud that this theme came through so bountifully for our blessed church.

May God bless you.

Jonathan Shelby, Stewardship Chair

Church Email Database

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

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

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

Save the Date:

Sunday, April 6 at 5 pm

(Please note time change)

Min Kwon and Friends



Our member, Min Kwon, will be presenting a Spring Concert here at the First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon. Tickets will be sold, and Min will donate all proceeds to the FPCNV Piano Fund.

Please watch for more information in the March edition of *The Pipe Organ* and in the *Sunday News and Notes*.

SAY IT WITH FLOWERS...TWICE!

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

BUT, THERE IS MORE...

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

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

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

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



Meeting of the Congregation

Session has called a Meeting of the Congregation for
Sunday, February 16
immediately following the Worship Service.

The purpose of this meeting is to
elect elders and corporate officers.

Adult Education Presents:

The Man Comes Around

Sunday, February 23

11:30 am

*Please allow me to introduce myself
I'm a man of wealth and taste.
I've been around for a long, long year,
Stole many a man's soul and fate.*

We've all either said it ourselves or heard someone else say, "The devil made me do it." It is usually something of a rueful joke, but there is an important underlying theological question about evil. Where does evil come from? Is there an evil being behind the bad things that happen by human agency or otherwise? Is there such a thing as Satan? What does the Bible have to say about this?

On Sunday, February 23rd, our Adult Education program entitled, "The Man Comes Around," will consider the development of the idea of Satan through the Bible and some of the other influences that have brought us to the view of Satan prevalent today. Our discussion will be led by the Rev. Barbara Aspinall, Pastor at Meyersville Presbyterian Church and our own church's Monday Morning Women's Bible Study leader.

PCNV Outreach: CE Solutions



We received an update from Community Enterprise Solutions earlier in January. Here are some of the highlights from their newsletter:



In 2013, **143** children and youth attended 10 months of classes five days a week with a roughly 80% "graduation" rate

Bright Minds Program

A new program, "Bright Minds" has as its goal: goal to give children their first book, a solar light to read by, and a book exchange program.



The inauguration of Bright Minds brought out all of the children and families of the Centro.

144 children received the first book they had ever owned .

Healthy Meals, Snacks, and Education

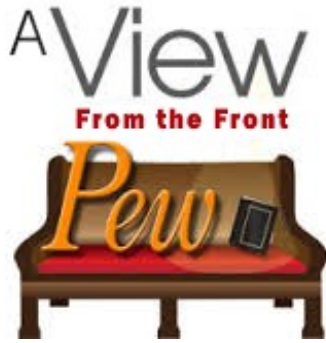
According to the World Food Program, Guatemala has the fourth highest rate of chronic malnutrition in the world.



In 2013, 24,738 healthy snacks and meals were provided for free and children were taught how to prepare nutritious food.

Kids learn how to cook with nutritious, local fruits and vegetables.





A View From the Front Pew

Recently, *The Upper Room* devotional booklet had a short essay that really rang true for me. It referenced a family who had moved many times. The following quote could describe many of us as well.

"When someone asks our sons where they are from, they have no quick and simple answer. This is because their father's career sent our family

packing every few years..."

The Sweeneys, like so many other families that we have known in the past and those that we know in our current congregation, have moved multiple times over the span of a career. The communities, homes, schools, and surroundings have varied. Local customs and traditions have varied as well. Becoming part of a congregation of believers has always made the transition to a new place smoother and less fearful for us. To quote again from *The Upper Room*, *"The fellowship we find with God's people has given us stability, comfort, and security wherever we have lived."* The common thread wherever we have gone has been Christian fellowship.

Few people these days spend their entire lives in one place. Rick and I often say that our children are "moving targets." When retirement finally comes, most of us would like to live near one of our children, but that could be anywhere. Their locations could change year-to-year. Even if we do manage to live in one place most of our lives, *"we don't manage to live very long without enduring some major life changes and the stresses that come with them."*

As a college student, away from home for the first time, I was very fortunate to have a roommate of the same faith. We found a welcoming congregation close to the campus and attended church regularly. We knew that, within that congregation, we had a "family" close by. When our children leave home, we need to encourage them to seek out a church as they move from place to place. If family is far away, they will have a faith community to lean on when (not if) a crisis comes or hardship overtakes them. As a parent, I am comforted by the thought that members of a faith community will be there for our children, if for some reason we cannot.

But how do we build that reliance on a faith community while our children are growing up? Bring them to church. Worship regularly as a family. Encourage them to get involved in age-appropriate activities offered by the Church and enroll them in Sunday School. Come to the Congregational Life events as a family. The annual church picnic and the fall Harvest Party are both family-oriented, fun-filled times, yet poorly attended by young adults and children. Teach them, by your participation, that church activities can be rewarding and fun. Build their fellowship base of other trusted adults on whom they can rely should the need arise. In doing so, you shore up your own fellowship base with people YOU can depend on. It is said that "no man is an island."

We all need the support systems that can be found in our church. It is more than a place to "hatch 'em, match 'em, and dispatch 'em." There is a lot of ground to cover in between those major life events and lots of places to stumble and get skinned knees. When we and our children are soundly rooted in a Christian community, there are many fellow believers who stand ready with the Band-Aids and a refreshing drink from the well of "living water."

Prudy

February 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Please take note of a change in meeting time: Deacons' Meetings will now begin at 7:00 pm						1 <i>Youth grades 6-12 Souper Bowl Pre-Game Party 10:30 am-1:30 pm</i>
2 Communion Worship Service 10 am Ordain & Install Elders & Deacons Souper Bowl Luncheon 11 am	3 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	4	5 Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:30 am Minute Man Restaurant Choir 7:30 pm	6 Bible Study 8:30-9:30 am Youth Ed. 7 pm	7 AA Meeting noon	8
9 Confirmation Class 9-9:30 am Worship Service 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am MBTI-Follow-up Jane Kendall 11:30 am	10 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am Deacons' Meeting 7 pm	11 Book Club 7:30 p Library	12 Choir 7:30 pm	13 Bible Study 8:30-9:30 am Staff Meeting 4:30 pm Finance Com. Mtg 7:00 pm	14 AA Meeting noon	15
16 Worship Service & Baptism 10 am Meeting of the Congregation 11 am Coffee Hour 11 am	17 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am Presidents' Day Church Office Closed	18 Session Mtg. 7 pm	19 Adult Ed 5 pm Movie Night Movie TBD 7 pm Choir 7:30 pm	20 Bible Study 8:30-9:30 am	21 AA Meeting noon	22
23 Worship Service 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am When the Man Comes Around Barbara Aspinall 11:30 am	24 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	25	26 Choir 7:30 pm	27 Bible Study 8:30-9:30 am	28 AA Meeting noon	

February 2014 Worship at FPCNV

Sunday, February 2

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Communion
Preacher: Dr. Sweeney
Liturgist: Ann Talcott
Sermon: *Blessed?*
Text:
I Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

Sunday, February 9

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Preacher: Dr. Sweeney
Liturgist: TBA
Sermon: *You Are*
Text:
Isaiah 58:1-9a
Matthew 5:13-20

Wednesday, February 16

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Preacher: Dr. Sweeney
Liturgist: TBA
Sermon: *But I Say*
Text:
Psalms 119:1-8
Matthew 5:21-30

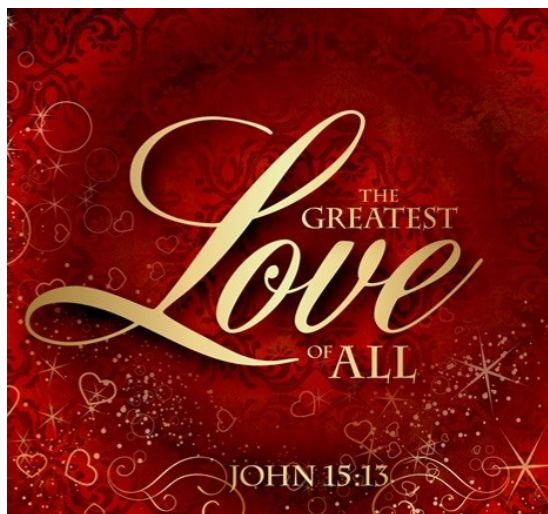
Sunday, February 23

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Preacher: Rev. Charles Thompson
Liturgist: Susan Fischer
Sermon: *You Shall Be Holy*
Text:
Matthew 5:38-48
Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

The Pipe Organ

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New Vernon, NJ 07976-0218



FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

Youth Group Bake & Decorate Party
Saturday, February 1 ~ 10:30 am-1:30 pm

Souper Bowl Sunday
Sunday, February 2 ~ Coffee Hour

MBTI Follow-up with Jane Kendall
Sunday, February 9 ~ 11:30 am

Meeting of the Congregation
Sunday, February 16
Immediately following Worship

The Man Comes Around
Sunday, February 23 ~ 11:30 am

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 office@pcnv.org or call 973-538-8394.

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