

# The Pipe Organ

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
New Vernon, NJ

VOL. 65 NO. 1

January 2015

## Robert's Reflections

Dear Friends,

A year comes to an end and a new one begins. This is the time to look back at the past and look forward to what lies ahead. Looking back may be difficult for some.

On the 4th of January we will have a worship service of closure. When a home is purchased, the term used is "a closing." Chapters of books come to a close. Doors close. You get the idea. But some things in life never seem to get resolved. Relationships end and people need closure; people change careers and need closure. People retire and can't seem to—they need closure. Tragedy comes our way, and we need closure. Think about where you need closure in your life. Some issues, events or times in life hang around for many years. In your bulletin that Sunday will be a piece of paper to write down a word, draw a picture or a symbol of the thing in your life that needs closure. Closure is a gift of God. I am going to offer you the opportunity to receive it. What you get out of worship, that Sunday will not depend on my sermon. It will depend upon what you write on that piece of paper, what you have the courage to write and the courage to admit to yourself and to God.

On the 18th of January we will have a worship service to remember our baptism. There are two sacraments in Protestant churches: baptism and communion. We celebrate communion once a month. In some churches, it is once a quarter; in others, every week. Baptism usually comes once in a lifetime, either as an infant or as an adult. Some churches immerse people in a pool of water, some have you stand while water is poured on you, and in others the minister cups the water with a hand and splash it on the head. There is a sacredness to these acts of ministry. We are blessed by them. We say that they are physical signs or expressions of the invisible grace of God. On the 18th we are not going to have a baptism; we are going to *remember our baptism* and be thankful.

Now and then, I get questions about what Yulia and I do

in Ukraine with *This Child Here*. After worship on January 25th, we will be giving a presentation on that work with video and slides. These are difficult times for Ukraine, economically, and politically. It is in every way a country that has been through one war and fears another, but we have never been more busy in our work there. Come see what life on and under the streets is like, what orphanages look like, what success looks like, and what joy looks like, in the eyes of a child.

Grace and Peace in this new year,  
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 Director*

Debbie Hennessey,  
*Office Administrator and  
Manager of Accounting*

Katherine Ann Newburg,  
*Interim Dir. of Sunday School*

Tony Rodriguez,  
*Custodian*

**Elders**

Jane Coyle, Clerk of Session

Nancy Barrett

Tom Ewig

Bret Fischer

Caroline Ford

Kerra French

Brenda Myers

Meg Richardson

Katherine Sheeleigh

Jonathan Shelby

Tricia Tiensch

Keith Wood

**Deacons**

Lisa Chapman, Moderator

Robyn Brown

Erin Castner

Fenton Chaney

Andrea Di Ruggiero

Sandy Finlayson

Olin Friant

Susan Morris

Rachel Newburg

Judith Shelton

Olivia Shelton

Anne Thomas

Eileen Urban

Anne Waite

# Monday Morning Women's Bible Study

**MEETINGS WILL RESUME  
MONDAY, JANUARY 8  
9:30-11:00 AM**



Barbara Aspinall

The Monday Morning Bible Study will continue in January with a brief detour from our Questions of Faith series to consider Leonardo DaVinci's masterpiece, *The Last Supper*. This will be a two-week group project with participants having an opportunity to contribute research. We will consider such questions as:

*What might Leonardo's purpose have been in creating this painting?*

*What, beyond the surface presentation, did he intend to portray?*

*What theological assumptions and principles underlie the composition?*

*What did Leonardo's scientific interests contribute to the painting?*

All women are welcome to join in this brief voyage of discovery into *The Last Supper*. Later in January, the focus will return to discussion of such large questions of faith, as "Why Worship?" and "What About Miracles?" These discussions are aided by a DVD series featuring Walter Wink, Frederick Buechner, John Spong, and Harold Kushner, among others.

The group meets on Monday mornings at 9:30 am and is led by the Rev. Barbara Aspinall.





## DECEMBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



The following highlights are from the December 16, 2014 Session Meeting. The meeting began with Nancy Barrett leading devotions.

### Committee Highlights

**Adult Education:** We can look forward to new programs starting in January. Among them are Robert's presentation on Ukraine and an informative session on Isis by Chris Taylor.

**Youth Education:** The Christmas pageant was on Sunday, December 7 during worship. Thanks to Katherine Ann Newburg, our Interim Sunday School Director, and seven of our youth, we were treated to a wonderful show! During the Christmas dinner, our youth helped to sell \$675 worth of beautiful glass nightlights and pendants, made by autistic teens, for the Kirkridge Center. They shopped for three girls from the *Christmas Is for Children* program and provided gifts for them.

**Congregational Life:** Our annual Christmas dinner was held on December 7. The Committee provided food, along with many tasty dishes brought by our members. The food was plentiful, and everything was delicious!

**Stewardship:** The challenge for this year's campaign was competition with the Sure Foundation Fund, which adversely affected the amount of funds raised.

**Membership:** Our annual membership roll review was conducted. Letters will be sent to members who we have not seen in a while.

**Mission & Outreach:** The Thanksgiving outreach effort was a great success. Many members gave generously. The next social for the Morris County Mental Health Association will be 1/27.

**Nominating:** The Committee presented the new slate for 2015 on December 14. The congregation unanimously elected four elders, five deacons, and one member each for Nominating and Auditing Committees. Thank-you to all who agreed to serve on these very important boards and committees. The committee working on the mission study will resume their work in January.

**Worship and Music:** The Christmas services will resume their traditional times of 5pm Family Service and 11pm Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve.

Communion will be served on Sunday, January 11. The next meeting of Session will be on Tuesday, January 20. Dr. Gamble adjourned the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Coyle, Clerk of Session



# SAVE THE DATE

**TUESDAY JANUARY 27, 2014**

**6:00PM-8:30PM**

## **FPCNV has invited the Mental Health Association of Morris County to a SOCIAL CLUB DINNER AND MUSIC**

Mission & Outreach is once again hosting the Social Club Dinner for the Mental Health Association of Morris County. We have invited their Social Club members to join us for a lovely dinner and music to be held in Fellowship Hall.

The previous two dinners were so fabulous we all wanted to invite them again. It was truly a magical and enjoyable evening for all. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour or call Kathy Sheeleigh at 973-214-4337 to join in the fun.

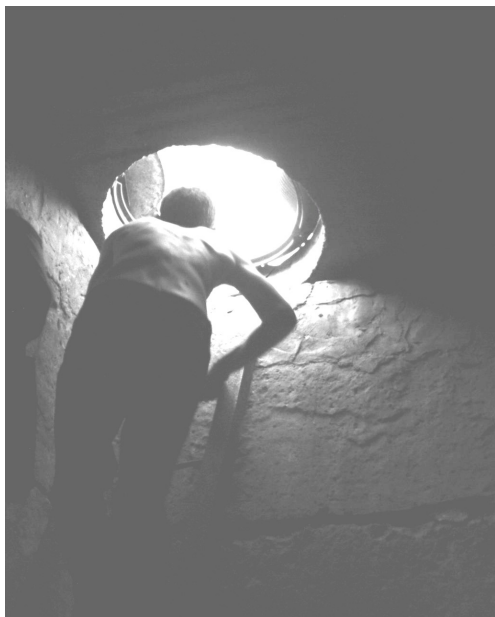
Everyone is welcome, and each person can contribute to the success of the evening in some special way.

### **OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE**

- 1) Table set-up & décor
- 2) Food for Dinner – select menu, buy food, prepare meal, and deliver to kitchen on 1/27
- 3) Head of Table – remains seated at table throughout evening to ensure our guests are comfortable and enjoying conversation. Does not require moving around or carry items (perfect for the less mobile).
- 4) Greeters – welcome guest at the door, assist with nametag, escort to table, and repeat for additional guests.
- 5) Waiters – one person from each table gets food for each guest at their table and serves the table.
- 6) Kitchen Help – assist with warming and final preparation of meal that evening
- 7) Servers – plate the meal and pass plate to Waiters
- 8) Entertainment – Musicians perform during dessert
- 9) Goodie Bag – a small take-away with small items may include a baked good or treat
- 10) Clean up Crew – Clear tables and clean up in kitchen







## Adult Education Presents Dr. Robert Gamble on Ukraine

Sunday, January 25  
11:30 am

Many have asked about *This Child Here*, the nonprofit that Robert and Yulia are involved with in Ukraine. Dr. Gamble will present video and slides about what life on and under the streets of Ukraine is like for the orphans and street children who live there, what orphanages look like, and what success and joy look like in the eyes of a child.



## January Movie Night: Tuesday, January 6 at 7 pm

### All The King's Men

1949, NR 110 Minutes

Willie Stark (Broderick Crawford) is a model politician -- until he's corrupted by the very system he tries to reform. Based on the cautionary Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, the film was nominated for seven Academy Awards. It won Best Picture, as well as Best Actor and Actress for stars Crawford and Mercedes McCambridge (later the voice of the possessed Regan in *The Exorcist*). Stark's character is based on Louisiana governor Huey Long.

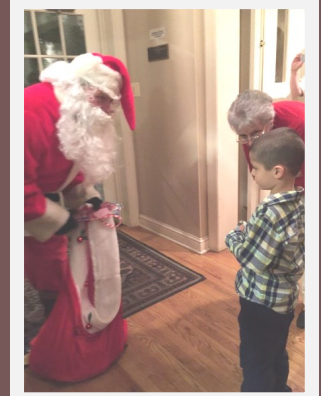


## Christmas Dinner Highlights





## Christmas Dinner Highlights



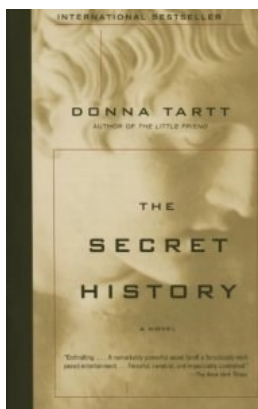
**CONGREGATIONAL LIFE HOSTED THE  
2014 CHRISTMAS DINNER  
on  
Sunday, December 7  
Fellowship Hall**

The Congregational Life Committee adeptly met the challenge presented by Worship Services being held in Fellowship Hall by hosting a Christmas Dinner this year (instead of the traditional Christmas Luncheon). The dinner was well attended, and all enjoyed the carolers, the delicious food, the time of warm fellowship, and the visit by Santa Claus himself. Thank-you, Congregational Life, for a wonderful meal and a joyous time together.



# FPCNV Book Club

## January Meeting and Book Selections



### January: *The Secret History* by Donna Tartt

Under the influence of their charismatic classics professor, a group of clever, eccentric misfits at an elite New England college discover a way of thinking and living that is a world away from the humdrum existence of their contemporaries.

But when they go beyond the bounds of normal morality, their lives are changed profoundly and forever, and they discover how hard it can be to truly live and how easy it is to kill.

Donna Tartt, winner of the 2014 Pulitzer Prize for her most recent novel, *The Goldfinch*, established herself as a major talent with *The Secret History*, which has become a contemporary classic

### Meeting Dates and Book Selections

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

JAN 13	<i>The Secret History</i> by Donna Tartt
FEB 10	<i>In the Shadow of the Banyan</i> by Vaddey Ratner
MAR 10	<i>Life After Life</i> by Kate Atkinson
APR 14	<i>The Power of Habit</i> by Charles Duhigg
MAY 12	<i>The Light Between Oceans</i> by M.L. Stedman
JUN 9	<i>The Secret Life of Bletchly Park: The WWII Codebreaking Centre and the Men and Women Who Worked There</i> by Sinclair McKay

**New members are welcome.**

### Stewardship Campaign Reminder

The 2015 Crossroads 500! Stewardship Campaign concluded on December 15. For those of you who made a pledge, we thank you! For those of you who have not, it is not too late to make a pledge for 2015. Please send in your pledge card today or contact the Church Office, so the Finance Committee can prepare the final budget for 2015.

In addition, if you have not already done so, please fulfill the balance of your 2014 pledge prior to the closing of the books on January 15th.

Finally, additional thanks go out to the hardworking Stewardship Committee members: Aimee Bloom, Nancy Burrows, Tom Ewig, and Tom MacCowatt. They made the calls that brought in the pledges!

God bless our church and all its members.  
Jonathan Shelby  
Stewardship Chair

*"We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another."* - Romans 12:5



# New Interim Sunday School Director



## ***Greetings New Vernon Presbyterian Church!***

I am very excited to be appointed as the Interim Sunday School Director for our church. I have been attending the Church for about ten years now and have been a member for seven years. I recently graduated from Seattle Pacific University with a degree in Elementary Education and a minor in English Literature; my schooling both provided a strong background in early childhood development as well as a strong biblical/church history background because SPU is a Christian liberal arts university.

I feel strongly called to serve the PCNV as Sunday School leadership and am excited to be a part of our growth and change within this interim year. My goals for the Sunday School program are to provide children with an understanding of the foundation our church was built on,

both biblical and liturgical, and to be a resource for families both during the regular worship time and outside of the traditional setting.

Blessings,  
Katherine Ann Newburg

## **ADULT EDUCATION**

### **Questions of Faith: *Who Is God?***

**Sunday, January 11, 2015**

**11:30 am in Fellowship Hall**

On Sunday, January 11 the Adult Education Committee will present the *Questions of Faith* series selection: *Who Is God?* followed by a discussion led by Dr. Robert Gamble. This DVD series covers the basic questions of belief and meaning that come to us again and again in our lives. If you are searching, striving to grow in faith and to relate belief to life, you will find these contemporary thinkers helpful and stimulating. Please join us in Fellowship Hall for this stimulating DVD and the ensuing discussion.

## Christmas Cantata



On December 21 the choir presented their annual Christmas Program at the well-attended service.

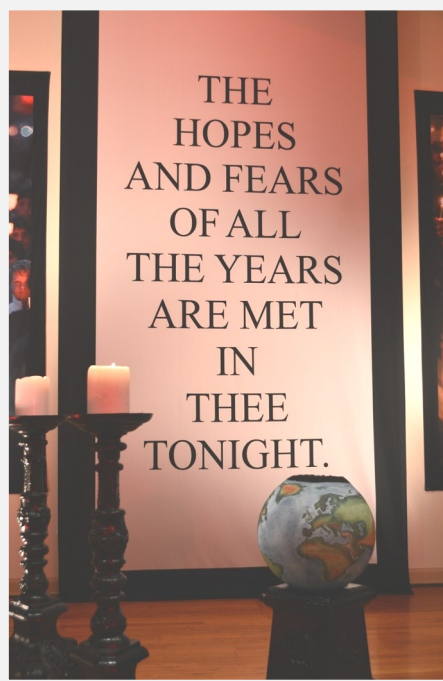




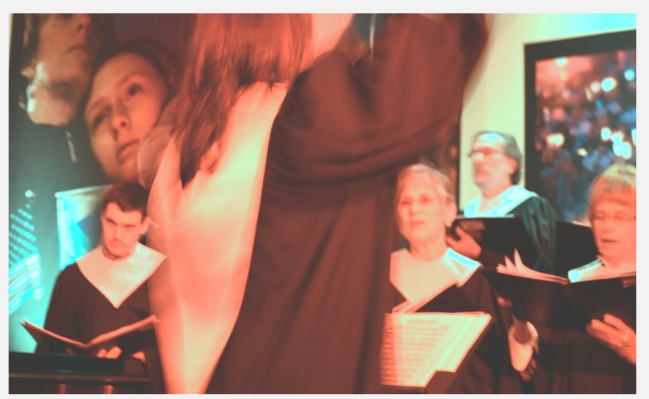




*Yet in Thy dark streets shineth, the Everlasting Light...*







On Christmas Eve large cloth banners depicting candlelight vigils from around the world lined the walls of Fellowship Hall. As the service neared its end and *Silent Night* was sung, we lit our candles and joined the vigil. *The hopes and fears of all the years are met in Thee tonight...*

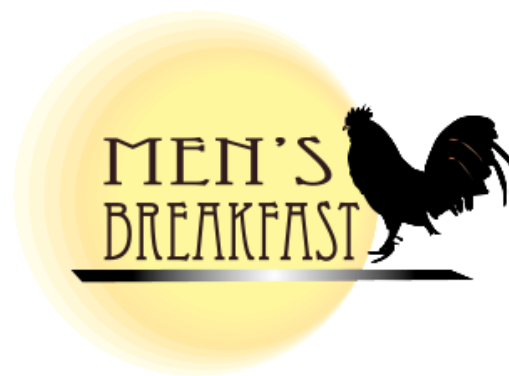


## Interfaith Food Pantry Needs

### 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.



### Next Men's Breakfast

Wednesday, January 14  
7:30 am

at

The Red Rooster Café  
New Vernon, NJ

### Thank-You Coffee Hour Hosts and Hostesses

#### November

Jane Coyle  
The Thorpe Family

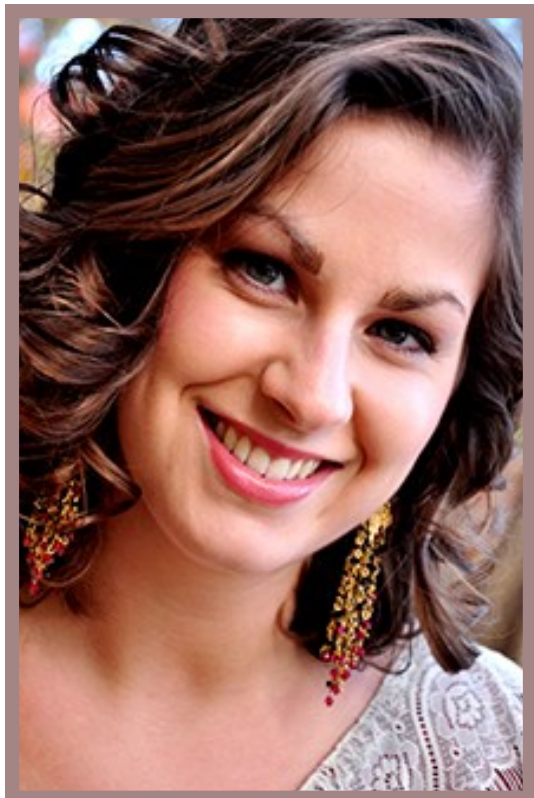
#### December

The Deacons  
The Conine Family  
The McCann Family

We are now in need of Coffee Hour  
Hosts and Hostesses for the New Year.







## Save the Date

### *Germaine*

**Saturday, January 31, 2014**

**8:00 pm**

*Germaine*, a new one-act opera by Wayne Walters, will be performed at St. Mary's Abbey located at Delbarton School, 230 Mendham Road, Morristown, NJ at 8pm on Saturday, January 31.

The performance will be in concert-version, with orchestra, conducted by composer Wayne Walters with:

Elena T. Bird, *Germaine*  
Patti Ruggles, *Hortense*  
Robert Long, *The Priest*

## Member News

### **Bonnie Saulnier December 2014**

Peter Saulnier's mother, Bonnie Saulnier, passed away in December after a short illness. A private service has already occurred. The family is planning to hold a Memorial Service in the late spring, and details will be provided when they are made available to us. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations be made in Bonnie's honor to the FPCNV Sure Foundation Fund.

To send Peter a card or note:  
555 Spring Valley Road  
Morristown, NJ 07960

## Youth Group News

On Sunday, December 7 the Youth Group helped raise funds for Kirkridge's Together It's Possible (TIP) Program by selling handmade glass art: nightlights, pendants, and barrettes made by autistic youth at TIP.



# Ordination & Installation of Elders & Deacons

## Sunday, January 25 During Worship

On Sunday, January 25 there will be an installation of Elders and Deacons during the Worship Service.

**Session**

Tod Claytor, Personnel Committee  
David Mitchell, Adult Education  
Phil Van Kirk, Buildings and Grounds  
Carol Vellekamp, Membership

**Deacons**

Aimee Bloom  
Janet Bruns  
Barbara Gill  
Rebecca Kipperman  
Eileen Urban

David Dietz will join us as an auditor, and Tom Ewig will cover nominating.

# Thank You

We have a new piano! If you were in worship on Sunday, December 21st, you may have been wondering why that large piece of brown paper with ribbon, a Christmas card, and a bow was covering the piano.

Thanks to the generosity of all those who gave to make this gift possible, we have a new Steinway B to enjoy now while we are in Fellowship Hall and later in the sanctuary when our restoration is completed. It is truly a beautiful instrument, one of the finest pianos made.

Merry Christmas!





## Mission Trip to Guatemala

April 6-11, 2015

GREAT NEWS! Greg Van Kirk is helping us organize a trip to Guatemala to experience firsthand the efforts of Community Enterprise Solutions (CE Solutions). Greg is the founder of CE Solutions and a longtime member of our congregation. His remarkable organization has received financial and prayer support from us for many years. Greg will be presenting information about the trip during Adult Education on December 14. Plan to attend to learn more about this special trip

and the exciting works of CE.

Be the first to sign up to join the trip to Guatemala next year; from April 6 through 11<sup>th</sup>. Please note that it has been scheduled during the public school vacation so student congregation members can also participate.

The itinerary is being refined, but generally the plans are:

April 6 – Arrive in Antigua, get settled at hotel, meet our team leaders, and attend group orientation

April 7 – Travel via microbus to Nebaj, stop at ruins and markets along the way

April 8 & 9 – Work in Centro Explorativo, visit local church, and guided hike to explore area

April 10 – Wrap up work project, reflect on our experience, and return to Antigua

April 11 – Fly back to USA

Community Enterprise Solutions' motto, "Changing Obstacles into Opportunities," is based on the premise that it is only possible to truly improve the quality of life in developing countries when you create opportunities for residents to provide solutions for their communities. Handouts of donated materials, although well intentioned, are often neither effective nor sustainable. Community Enterprise Solutions works closely with residents to nurture initiatives that provide long-lasting and positive economic and health impacts.

We will be working at Centro Explorativo, where our congregations directs our funding. The Centro Explorativo educational initiative is located in La Pista, Nebaj in the western highlands of Guatemala. It provides first-time access to the tools and resources necessary for underserved children and youth in the Ixil Region to improve their educational opportunities, personal growth opportunities and critical thinking, and to develop a love for learning and reading. What began in 2003 as a closet-sized library with 100 books is now a full-service education center operating in the towns of Nebaj and La Pista. This center has over 2,200 books and provides access to free computer and Internet classes. The only institution of its kind in the region, it holds free after-school classes for children and employs three full-time teachers.

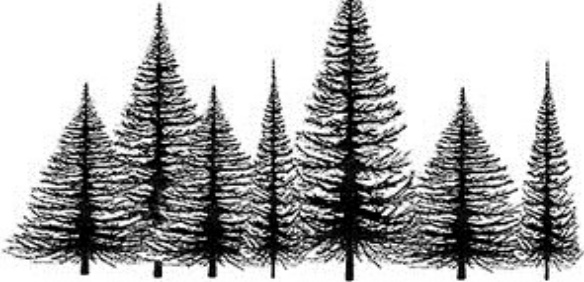
To learn more about  
Community Enterprise  
Solutions, please visit their  
website at:  
[www.cesolutions.org](http://www.cesolutions.org).

Please consider coming on  
this trip. It is certain to be  
an amazing experience for  
all who participate.





# January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>Church Office Closed</i>	2 <i>Church Office Closed</i>  AA Meeting noon	3
4 10 am <b>Worship</b> 11 am <b>Coffee Hour</b>	5 <b>Women's Bible Study</b> 9:30-11 am	6  <b>Movie Night</b> <b>At the Chaney's</b> 7 pm	7	8 <i>Bible Study</i> 9:00-10:00 am  <b>Choir</b> 7:30 pm	9  AA Meeting noon	10
11 <b>Communion</b> 10 am <b>Worship</b> 11 am <b>Coffee Hour</b>  Adult Ed: <i>Questions of Faith: Who Is God?</i>	12 <b>Women's Bible Study</b> 9:30-11 am  <b>Deacons Meeting</b> 7 pm	13  <b>Book Club</b> In Library 7:30 pm	14	15 <i>Bible Study</i> 9:00-10:00 am  <b>Finance Com. Mtg</b> 7 pm  <b>Choir</b> 7:30 pm	16  AA Meeting noon	17
18 10 am <b>Worship</b> 11 am <b>Coffee Hour</b>	19 <b>Women's Bible Study</b> 9:30-11 am  <b>Church Office Closed</b>  Martin Luther King Day	20  <b>Session Mtg</b> 7 pm	21	22 <i>Bible Study</i> 9:00-10:00 am  <b>Choir</b> 7:30 pm	23  AA Meeting noon	24
25 10 am <b>Worship</b> <b>Ordination and Installation of Elders &amp; Deacons</b> 11 am <b>Coffee Hour</b> 11:15 am <b>Adult Ed: Dr. Gamble on Ukraine</b>	26 <b>Women's Bible Study</b> 9:30-11 am	27  <b>Outreach MHAMC Social Dinner and Music</b> 6:00-8:30 pm	28	29 <i>Bible Study</i> 9:00-10:00 am  <b>Choir</b> 7:30 pm	30  AA Meeting noon	31

## JANUARY WORSHIP PLANS

### Sunday, January 4

Second Sunday After Christmas

Preacher: Dr. Gamble  
Liturgist: David Mitchell

### Sunday, January 11

Baptism of the Lord

Preacher: Dr. Gamble  
Liturgist: Matthew Mc Donald

### Sunday, January 18

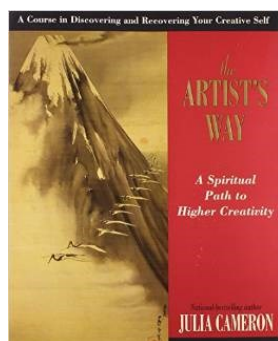
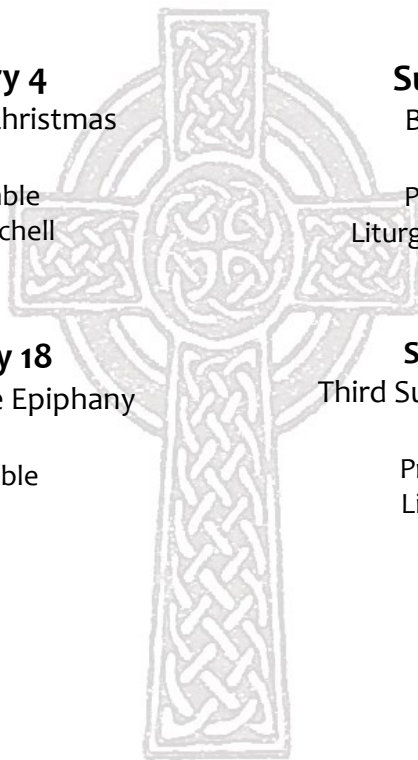
Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Preacher: Dr. Gamble  
Liturgist: TBA

### Sunday, January 25

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Preacher: Dr. Gamble  
Liturgist: Ann Talcott



## Coming Events

### *The Artists' Way*

David Mitchell is looking for other members of our congregation who might be interested in participating in *The Artist's Way*, a self/group-building seminar. The group will meet for 12-weeks and will explore ways to expand our personal spiritual lives with creative solutions. It is a great way to get to know yourself and to get to know, more intimately, the people around you.

If you would like to take part in this exploration, please contact David Mitchell to have your name added to the group list. More information will follow.

[davidstilllife@yahoo.com](mailto:davidstilllife@yahoo.com)

## **The Pipe Organ**

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

### **JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **January 11**

Adult Education:  
Questions of Faith: *Who Is God?*

#### **January 25**

Ordination and Installation of Elders & Deacons  
Adult Education: Dr. Gamble on Ukraine

#### **January 27**

Outreach Social Dinner and Music

#### **January 30**

Youth Superbowl Pre-Game

# **Happy New Year!**



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

## **CHURCH OFFICE**

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
NEW VERNON, NEW JERSEY 07976

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