

The Pipe Organ

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
New Vernon, NJ

VOL. 70 NO. 6

June 2019

Bill's Reflections

Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:1-2

In the ancient world, hospitality wasn't just about being pleasant. It was an essential part of maintaining social order—so much so that Roman, Greek and Jewish societies all outlined rules and expectations governing the welcome of outsiders and strangers.

Andrew Arterbury, a professor at Baylor University, explains that outsiders and foreigners entering a town or city were viewed with suspicion. It was not easy to determine whether or not the outsider was a threat to the community. And this made them vulnerable to attacks from locals looking to take advantage of them or run them out of town.

Hosts, offering hospitality, served a dual role of protecting their guest from abuse and also insulating the village from any attack or aggression by the stranger in their midst.

Each culture had its own take on the process of welcoming strangers. We read about early Jewish hospitality rituals in *Genesis* when Abraham welcomes three travelers to his tent by the Oaks of Mamre.

This is the event St Paul references in his letter to the Hebrews. "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."

Ancient Greek hospitality customs stipulated that before asking any questions about their guests' identity and their travels, a host needed to provide them with a meal. In some cases hosts would also wash their guests' feet. When their guests left, hosts were expected to send them along with enough

provision to last at least a day.

Hosts were expected to do all of this without knowing exactly who they were dealing with. This meant that hospitality was not only expensive, it was risky. Welcoming a stranger into your home had the potential to create a long lasting business relationship or a political alliance. But it could also be a dangerous and costly challenge.

In the first century, community and hospitality were essential to the success of the early church. And throughout its history, the welcome offered by the church has been a hallmark of its success. When it has abandoned or failed to embrace this attitude of welcome, the church's spirit and

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Margaret Greenway

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Michael McCann

Karen Pennett

Ben Thompson

Faith Winow

ministry has been diminished.

As the church today, we are charged with preserving this strong tradition of hospitality. Part of putting our faith into action, is making this a church where all people feel welcome and at home.

“See how far that little candle throws his beams! So shines a good deed in a weary world.”

Harvard political scientist Robert Putnam has written extensively on the breakdown of social connection in American culture. In his work, he has documented the decline of community institutions like rotary clubs, scout troops, and yes, even churches.

Yet despite the ongoing decline of the church, Putnam discovered that “people who are active in religious communities are measurably more generous and better neighbors.” Different people define ‘being a good neighbor’ in different ways, but here are some of the things that Putnam found.

People who are active in religious communities are more likely to work on community projects.

They're more likely to give to secular causes as well as religious.

They're more likely to volunteer. . . and to give blood.

They're even more likely to let a stranger cut in front of them in line!

But it turns out that virtually none of this behavior has anything to do with the content of people's theology. Surprisingly, what makes a religious person a good neighbor is not how deeply she believes in God or her particular doctrine, but the number and quality of her relationships.

Put another way, what Putnam's research shows is that having friends at church fosters neighborliness. And this is borne out across religious boundaries – Catholic parishes, Jewish synagogues, Protestant churches, and Islamic mosques all produce this same positive effect. Even people who are not very religious experience a civic boost if they are immersed in a religious, social network.

My prayer is that this church would continue to be a bright light in our world—welcoming all people, neighbors and strangers alike, into our church family, in the name of the God who first welcomed us.

To that end, our Session has created a Taskforce to look at how our church can enhance and improve the welcome it offers. Over the course of the coming year, we will be reflecting and praying together about how we can make sure all people know there is a place for them at FPCNV!



May SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

May 21st Meeting



The meeting began with Don Richardson leading devotions.

Pastor's report:

- Celebrated Easter with Christ the King at sunrise service in Bayne Park.
- Welcomed 5 new members on April 14.
- Welcomed 7 new members on May 19.
- Celebrated the baptism of Campbell Thompson on April 28.
- Celebrated the baptism of Emily Jane Taranto on May 19.
- Officiated at a memorial service for Rev. Dr. Wayne Boulton on April 14.
- Officiated at a memorial service for Harold Wild on April 15.
- Officiated at interment of Nancy Allocco and Jack Dugan on April 23.
- Attended memorial service for Jim Newburg on May 13.
- Officiated at a memorial service for Richard Urfer on May 18.
- Attended Presbytery on May 14- continuing to serve as co-moderator of PCT.

Bill then led Session in a discussion on how the Church can make all people, especially visitors, feel welcome. We discussed things that are working well (like the children's table at Coffee Hour and passing the peace in services) along with things that we can build on (like using social media more effectively, and more). The Session voted to create a working group that will further explore how our church can improve and enhance the welcome that it offers to all people.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Buildings & Grounds (Tom Ewig):

- Needs help on HVAC. Looking for someone with a knowledge of these systems as there are several in the church buildings that need oversight. The A/C for the church organ is 33 years old and needs to be replaced.
- Clearly defined the daily activities of Tony Rodriguez per Bill's directive to have defined employee schedules.
- Created a list of when contractors will be taking care of their responsibilities at the Church.
- A/C in the Deep Roots space is now complete.
- Paul Guerrio will finish the parking lot job.
- Don Vellekamp is working on a plan for the sanctuary basement space.
- We have shut down all furnaces for the summer to save on utilities.

Membership (Scott Noyes):

- Wants people Thursday night to call and remind members about the church picnic.
- Distributed a list of new members to the Church so far this year: Linda (Miller) Simonsen, Donald Miller, Ben and Courtney Thompson (parents of Augie & Campbell), Scott and Suzy and Kelly Carpenter, Eileen Bevan, Christine and Matt Taranto, Shane and Michelle Vince (parents of Wade), Robert Lecky. There are another 6-8 candidates expected to join this year.

Adjourned with prayer by Bill Stone at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jonathan Shelby, Clerk of Session

You're Invited!

Our annual church picnic is on Sunday June 9 at the home of Dave and Eunice Conine (across the street from Fellowship Hall). Everyone is welcome to come, friends, and neighbors included! It runs from 11am - 2pm.

You can sign up to bring a side dish or salad on the church website or on the sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Games for kids BBQ & Ice Cream Celebration!



Nursery Care Help Needed!



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

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

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



Men's Breakfast

Wednesday, June 26th @ 7:30 am
La Di Da Café

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

let's do lunch Monthly Luncheon

Wednesday,

June 26th at 12 pm

Let's Do Lunch! will be held in Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, June 26th at 12:00 pm. All are welcome. Please RSVP by June 24th to the Church Office at:

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



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF NEW VERNON

Spring, 2019

Building Blocks for our Youth 2019 Brick Campaign



Help build a solid foundation for our youth by participating in the 2019 Building Blocks for our Youth Campaign

Our church has made great strides over the past few years in strengthening our youth ministry program. We have introduced multiple new programs to support the children in our congregation and community including: Messy Church, Toddler Time and All Age Worship, as well as provided many child and youth service opportunities. We need your help to ensure these youth programs have the resources necessary to continue growing.

Please consider cementing your family legacy, memorializing a loved one or recognizing an organization close to your heart. Each donation is a literal building block to the success of our youth ministry and all bricks will be placed in the walkway leading to the sanctuary.

Details:

- The cost of each brick is \$300
- All engraving will be done in capital letters and be centered on the brick
- Engravings are limited to 3 lines, with 12 spaces each (punctuation and spaces included)

Compose the information below and return with payment to:

The First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon
PO Box 218, 2 Lee's Hill Road
New Vernon, NJ 07976
Or email to: officeadmin@pcnv.org

Please make check payable to: FPCNV with "Brick Campaign" in the memo line and submit by July 31

Brick Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Line1												
Line 2												
Line 3												

Please submit your form by July 31

Remember: Mr. Frosty?



Remember: Planned Giving
Remember: FPCNV



First Presbyterian Church Of New Vernon Cemetery

Our cemetery is reserved for current and past members of our church. There are no casket burial plots remaining for sale. There are 21 remaining vaults available for sale in the Memorial Garden for cremains burials, 10 double vaults and one single vault.

Anyone wishing further information about vaults is asked to call Carol Conger Vellekamp at 973-769-6904 or email her at carolconger75@gmail.com.



FPCNV Book Club Schedule

Book Club members will meet on Thursday, June 13th at 7:30 pm for a planning session for next year. Consider attending and let your choices be considered for the 2019-2020 year!

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



From Academy Award® Winner Barry Jenkins, comes this timeless love story set in early 1970s Harlem. Newly engaged 19-year-old Tish and her fiancé Fony have a beautiful future ahead. But their plans are derailed when Fony is arrested for a crime he did not commit. Now the pair must fight for justice in the name of love and the promise of the American dream.

Meet the Rev. Dr. Martin Richie



I was born in Edinburgh in 1972, to a family with roots in the north east of Scotland. My dad's career in the Bank of Scotland took the family all over the country, from North Berwick to Dingwall. After schooling in Kirkcaldy and Dingwall, I first studied at the University of Edinburgh, graduating with an MA in Scottish Historical Studies and Scottish Literature in 1994. I then worked for ten years in performing arts management, behind the scenes and on the front line of music, opera, and theatre with Scottish Opera, the Scottish Ensemble, and the Theatre Royal Glasgow. This experience, and my roles as an organist and choir director, created an enduring interest in the relationship between faith and the arts.

My formal journey of training for ministry began as an enquirer with Dr Browning at Morningside Parish Church. My first training placement was at St Bryce Kirk in Kirkcaldy. That was a rich experience where many in the congregation willingly took on worship and other leadership roles. The theology embraced modern and traditional thinking, and technology was much in evidence in worship. Like Greenbank, the buildings were used as a parish hub, and I gained huge insight into the potential for pastoral connections with parish and congregation.

Twice I have had training experience in churches overseas. I undertook a placement in summer 2013 with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ghana, a partner of the Church of Scotland. That gave much food for thought about how Christianity looks in different cultures. A chance meeting there led to me spending the summer of 2014 with a congregation of the Presbyterian Church of the USA at Tenafly, New Jersey. As well as involvement in general parish life, I was delighted to be involved in a summer *Festival of Faith and the Arts*.

My second main placement was with Richard Frazer at Greyfriars Kirk in Edinburgh. I experienced the Kirk's social enterprise, the Grassmarket Community Project, and was able to explore worship within a Reformed liturgical and musical tradition. Just as I was being encouraged to continue my academic training to PhD level, the opportunity arose to continue to work with Greyfriars in the project post of Artistic Associate, creating and managing the *Spark! Festival of Worship and the Arts*, marking the 25th anniversary of their magnificent Peter Collins pipe organ.

Then it was a time to get my head down on PhD research at New College on the worship experience of the Scottish Reformed Kirk in the period 1559-1617. This provided a tremendously rich insight into the distinctive character of the Kirk prior to the relative austerity which was the result of post-1617 strife in church and state. Anyone interested can quiz me further! And it was there I met my wife, Sarah, who came to undertake postgraduate study in science and theology at New College from her home in Michigan, via study at Princeton Seminary. We were married in Spruce Presbyterian Church, Caledonia Township, Michigan, in autumn 2015 with a reception in the family barn, epically renovated for the occasion by Sarah's dad and his local friends!

We graduated together at McEwan Hall in November, so are now the Doctors Ritchie! Sarah is currently working as a post-doctoral research and teaching fellow in science and religion at the University of St Andrews.

The 15-month long last lap in the training, as a full-time probationer, was the most richly formative. I was clear that I wanted a very "parish" experience in a community where I would have lots of involvement in pastoral care, working with families and the elderly, bereavement care and schools chaplaincy, to complement my other training experiences. St Mary's Haddington delivered everything that I had hoped for. Working within a congregation where there is a growing number of families and young people, and creating and leading worship in contemporary and traditional styles, has been excellent preparation for work in a parish such as Greenbank that seeks to offer a menu of worship experiences. When the Minister had to go on long-term sick leave, I became "first call" on most aspects of parish life under the wise direction of the Interim Moderator, the Very Rev. John Cairns.



I've been at Greenbank as Minister since March 2018, and am enjoying the busy Parish life of suburban Edinburgh. Exchanging pulpits with Bill for July will be a great chance for me to experience another congregation in New Jersey and for Bill and his family to visit all their friends in Edinburgh. Greenbank is very excited, as am I!

Calendar of Events 2019

JUNE

SUN 06/02 Communion

TUES 06/04 Committee Night

SUN 06/09 Church Picnic

SUN 06/16 Fathers' Day

MON 06/17 Finance Committee @ 7:00 pm

TUES 06/18 Session Meeting @ 7:00 pm

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

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

SEPTEMBER

SUN 09/08 WELCOME BACK SUNDAY!



A Note from Debbie Hennessey

When I learned on February 1st that my job here would become a part-time position on July 1, it was difficult news to assimilate. I went through a time of adjustment as I accepted that I would need to leave FPCNV to find full-time employment elsewhere. Having worked in the Church Office for 10 years, the question for me was how do I leave a job that I love, where the people I work for and with are like family? My question was answered, however, through my other role as keeper of the books for almost 15 years. This helped me understand the wisdom of this restructuring and the need to be laser-focused on the financial future of the Church. As I processed the information over the past few months, I came to fully support the decision, even though it has meant major changes for me.

Many of you have expressed support for me and felt sad that this is happening. But all is well. I truly believe that it is the right thing to do as I watch the Church fill with new members, fill out Baptism Certificates, hear the sounds of children laughing at Toddler Time, and see the great turnout for "Let's Do Lunch." Bill and Hayley are a wonderful team, and the Church is blessed to have them and their family here. I am heartened for the future of our beloved Church, and it is right and natural that the need for me on a full-time basis is now past.

Please know that it has been my honor and privilege to work here, to be a part of this Church Family for all of these years, and to play a small part in helping to hold the boat steady as we navigated some major transitions and changes. I also thank all of you who have prayed for my husband and me over the past months. Jude's surgery went very well, and he is now in physical therapy. I do ask for your continued prayers for him to find a new job soon, as his employment will end when he comes off disability. I believe your prayers can make all the difference.

Looking forward, it is bittersweet that I share the news with all of you that I have accepted a position at the Women's Association at Morristown Medical Center. I will be assisting the incoming President with the administrative functions there and working with a new team to support the worthy endeavors of that organization. I will miss working in the office here and being part of this team, but I will take each of you with me in my heart. And as I reviewed the member list of the Women's Association, I was thrilled to find so many of your names on the roster. I look forward to seeing you there and working with you still. To everyone, thank you for the times we have shared together. I have so many fond memories to bring with me when I start my new position at WAMMC.

Wishing all of you God's deepest blessings.

With love and gratitude, Deb Hennessey

Welcome New Members

Scott, Suzie & Kelly Carpenter



Suzie hails from Wyomissing PA, and moved to New Vernon with her family in August of 2017. She works privately as a nutrition and life coach, specializing in digestive health and

the gut/brain connection. She loves cooking, walking, writing, and spending time with family and their toy poodle Sofie.

Suzie's daughters are Kelly, 23, and Natalie, 25. Her book, *On The Bright Side: A Mother's Journey of Healing Through Her Daughter's Autism*, was published in December 2016.

Eileen Bevan:

Just a few things about myself.

I grew up in Morristown, have lived in NYC, Norfolk, England, and then back to the Morristown area since 1992.

I'm married to Richard Bevan, and we have two grown children: Kimberly in NYC, and Max currently in Cambridge, England.

I am a Chiropractor here in New Vernon after having a practice in Morristown for 25 years.



Christine & Matt Taranto

Matt and Christine currently live in Bernardsville with their 8-month-old baby, Emily.

Christine enjoys taking long walks with Emily, swimming, and doing yoga.



Matt manages investments for Everest Reinsurance Company in Basking Ridge and his hobbies include golf and gardening.

Courtney & Ben Thompson

Courtney & Ben Thompson moved to Harding in January 2017 and are busy raising their two young boys, Augie (age 5) and Campbell (age 2). Courtney's family (Urfers) have been part of the New Vernon community for the past 40+ years.

Ben grew up outside Boston, MA and is a producer for CNBC's *Squawk on the Street & Squawk Alley*. Ben and Courtney met while both living and working in NYC.





Pastor Bill with son, Ewan, and Father Brian Sullivan of the Church of Christ the King on Memorial Day.

Outdoor Fun During Toddler Time!

Over the last few months, the Deep Roots Preschool—renting space downstairs in Fellowship Hall—has transformed the Church’s playground. If you haven’t already seen it, the space is definitely worth a visit. Diana, the preschool director, and her team have incorporated natural materials and creative play areas like a mud kitchen, a storytelling circle, and a stage.

Our Toddler Time group has enjoyed using the playground on sunny afternoons and recently had our end-of-year party outside. Toddler Time is a play group for children aged five and under and is a wonderful way to connect with local families. We are taking a break over the summer but will resume in the Fall. Stay tuned for details!



MAY WORSHIP PLANS

Sunday, June 2

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Preacher: Rev. William H. Stone, III

Sunday, June 9

Day of Pentecost

Preacher: Rev. William H. Stone, III

Sunday, June 16

Trinity Sunday

Preacher: Rev. William H. Stone, III

Sunday, June 23

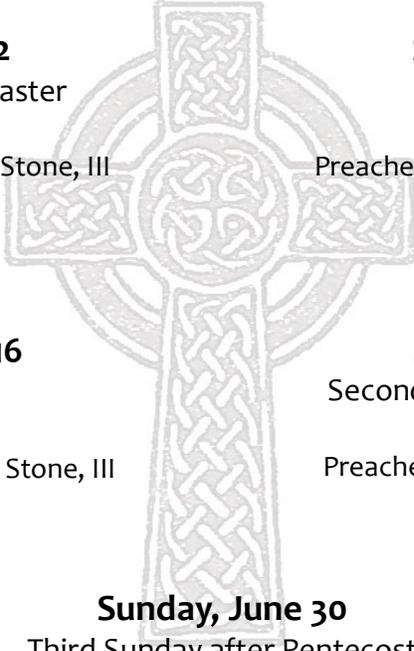
Second Sunday after Pentecost

Preacher: Rev. William H. Stone, III

Sunday, June 30

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Preacher: Rev. William H. Stone, III



WORSHIP
volunteer
OPPORTUNITIES



We Need Your Help!

LITURGISTS



USHERS



To volunteer to serve as a Liturgist or an Usher,
please contact the Church Office at:

973-538-8394 or officeadmin@pcnv.org

The Pipe Organ

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

JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

Church Picnic

Sunday, June 9, 11:00 am

Men's Breakfast

Wednesday, June 26, 7:30 am

Let's Do Lunch!

Wednesday, June 26, 12 pm

E-mail Addresses

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

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