

The Pipe Organ

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH New Vernon, NJ

VOL. 65 NO. 4

April 2016

Robert's Reflections

Dear Friends.

I have two things on my mind: first, your Pastor Nominating Committee is focusing in on your next pastor and could make a decision in the next few weeks. And second: Bill Walton's new book, which no doubt would make a good title for a sermon on Easter Sunday, *Back from the Dead*. It's ok to laugh. Google (ESPN, Bill Walton, Mike and Mike) and look for espnradio/radio. It aired on March 23rd. http://espn.go.com/espnradio/play?id=15049575

Whenever I end an Interim pastorate, I start thinking about words to leave with a congregation. The arrival of a new pastor is like "game day." You want as a congregation to be at the "top of your game." Here's a word: SELFLESS. It's not all about you as an individual, it's about you as a congregation. This is the way Larry Bird played the game. Walton says this about life. "It is," he says, "the one thing Larry Bird, coach John Wooden (UCLA), and Jerry Garcia (The Grateful Dead) have in common: Unselfishness leads to greatness."

Here are some words coach Wooden used: fitness, team game, fundamentals, footwork, fast break, relentless attack. That's basketball talk. I'm a soccer player where the same terms apply. Church? Spiritual fitness, teamwork, fundamentals, those words apply. I suppose that when considering the last three, I think of missions, ministry, peacemaking, and justice. You think of something.

Garcia brought joy. "Let's do it all. Let's try

something new." Walton calls it a culture of exploration, curiosity, and experimentation. Let's have the time of our lives. There is rarely enough of that in church. Taking words from a guy like Bill Walton, putting them into a newsletter and applying them to church life may sound like something new.

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FPCNV Staff

Dr. Robert Gamble, Interim Pastor

Amanda Tsukamoto,

Minister of Music/Organist

Elena Bird Zolnick,

Minister of Music/Choir Dir.

Benjamin Krumreig, Interim Choir Director

Debbie Hennessey, Office Administrator and Manager of Accounting

Darlene Cappel, Financial Secretary

Tony Rodriguez, Custodian

Elders & Deacons

Elders

Tom MacCowatt, Clerk of Session

Julia Buteux

Todd Claytor

Carol Conger Vellekamp

Caroline Ford

Kerra French

Jane O'Keefe

Meg Richardson

Peter Saulnier

Jonathan Shelby

Keith Wood

Deacons

Barbara Gill, Moderator

Aimee Bloom

Robyn Brown

Janet Bruns

Fenton Chaney

Lisa Chapman

Andrea Di Ruggiero

Olin Friant

Dave Mitchell

Sue Mitchell

Suzie Morris

Judith Shelton

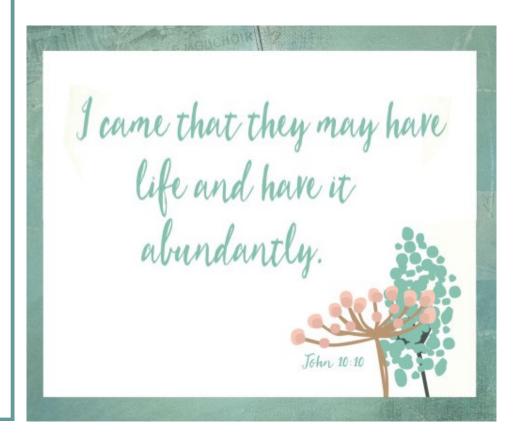
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Walton ended his interview mentioning tolerance, patience, perspective, and relativity. He didn't go into definitions, except to say they were not the words people would have expected him to say. I want to add two that he didn't say but rather embodied. And if you click on that link above and listen to him, you will hear them also: GRATITUDE and VULNERABILITY. I think he said it three times as he spoke about the support of his friends, family, and his dog Cortez: I am the luckiest man alive.

Whatever could all this have to do with church? Maybe it's what Jesus meant when he said in *John* chapter 10: *I have come that they may have life abundantly*.

You have a great future as a church, and so do Yulia and I. For the next weeks and months we are together, let's have the time of our lives.

Grace and Peace, Robert





MARCH SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



The following highlights are from the March 15, 2016 Session meeting.

The meeting began with Tom MacCowatt leading devotions.

Committee Highlights

Adult Education (Julia Buteaux):

- Doug Simon presentation on US Foreign Policy was well attended —33 attendees.
- Upcoming speakers:
 - ⇒ Larissa Kwong Abazia April 3rd.
 - ⇒ Jo-Renee Formicola will be discussing her most recent book, *Clerical Sexual Abuse: How the Crisis Changed US Catholic Church-State Relations*, n April 10th.

Youth Education (Kerra French):

- Summer mission trip has been scheduled at the Eastern Shore, Virginia through Youth Works from June 26th to July 1st Two adults and three youth will be going.
- Youth retreat at Camp Johnsonburg last week of February: 4 girls and 1 boy attended. Don Richardson chaperoned. Robert, Jane Coyle, Eileen, Kathrine Newberg also attended.
- Confirmation will be held Sunday, May 22nd.
- Saturday evening 6-week pilot services beginning April 23rd from 5:00-5:45 pm to better attract families. Come as you are in Chorba Hall. Still looking for a youth worship leader for these services.

Cemetery (Jonathan Shelby):

• Researching placing the cemetery on the National Register of Historic Places that would make the Church eligible to apply for grants.

Congregational Life (Meg Richardson):

- St. Patrick's Day-themed Coffee Hour was held on Sunday, March 13.
- Cinco de Mayo-themed Coffee Hour will be held in May.
- Working on a location for the picnic in June.

Finance (Keith Wood):

- Finances in good shape operating within budget.
- We have been notified of a bequest to the Church.
- Sanctuary project operating within budget.
- Water damage to the organ looking into insurance to cover cost.

Stewardship (Todd Claytor):

- Attended a discussion at the Newton Presbytery on stewardship. Discussion based on book entitled *Not Your Parents Offering Plate*.
- Looking into having an online giving button on the website that would make it easier to give, particularly for members unable to attend or out of town.

Membership (Jane O'Keeffe):

- Have collected 7-8 addresses from the pew pads and am following up with notes to those people.
 Suggestion to have ushers drop pew pad sheets in Debbie's box after worship.
- Suggestion was made to have member(s) of the Committee attend Adult Ed, music events, and any
 other occasions to mingle with non-members who attend these events rather than relying on a sign
 -up sheet.

Session Highlights continued on page 7



Youth & Children's Ministry Youth Ministry Activities Calendar

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

Saturday, April 30 Service Project – The Relief Bus

Saturday, May 14 Service Project—TBD

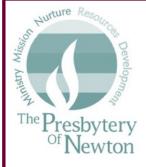
Saturday, June 4 Service Project—Car Wash

Sunday, June 5 High School Graduate Recognition Sunday

Saturday, June 11 Car Wash rain date

TBD Sr. High Mission Trip (Grades 9-12)





Tell me again - what is the Denominational Assessment?

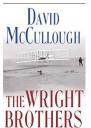
As lucky as we are to have our community of faith at the First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon, we often forget that we are part of a larger organization called the Newton Presbytery. We benefit in many ways from our Presbytery through their resources, guidance, and support to its member churches. More recently, a Presbytery representative was instrumental in providing direction and advice to Session in our search for an interim pastor. From this there is a financial obligation,

and many of our congregation are not aware that FPCNV is assessed an amount each year to fund the programs and staff at Presbytery.

Member churches ask their worshipers to pay this capital apportionment at the beginning of each year. This amount is \$34.00 per person and is shown on your pledge cards for Stewardship. Although purely voluntary, Session asks that you help us by paying your individual share of the per capita assessment. All of your contributions stand as a testament of your faith in the ongoing missions and ministries of our church, and for this we are thankful.

Todd Claytor Stewardship Chair

FPCNV Book Club



APRIL BOOK SELECTION
The Wright Brothers
by David McCullough

Two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize David McCullough tells the dramatic

story-behind-the-story about the courageous brothers who taught the world how to fly: Wilbur and Orville Wright.

On a winter day in 1903, in the Outer Banks of North Carolina, two unknown brothers from Ohio changed history. But it would take the world some time to believe what had happened: the age of flight had begun, with the first heavier-than-air, powered machine carrying a pilot.

Who were these men and how was it that they achieved what they did?

Meeting Dates and Book Selections

Where: Library When: 7:30 pm

APR 12 The Wright Brothers by David

McCullough

MAY 10 All the Light We Cannot See

by Anthony Doerr

JUN 14 Bach by Tim Dowlay

New members are welcome.

David McCullough tells the surprising, profoundly American story of Wilbur and Orville Wright.

Amazon.com



New Vernon Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary Chili/Soup Cook-off

Sunday, April 3 5:00-6:00 pm Fire House on Village Road

It's time again for the Auxiliary-sponsored "Homemade Chili/Soup Contest." For \$7.00 you can sample many different chilis and soups with fresh baked bread and coffee included. Homemade desserts and soda will be available for sale. Vote for your favorites! Prizes will be awarded. If you would like to enter a chili or soup in the contest, admission is free.

Please call Connie Cherrillo at (973)-539-9383 to let us know you will be entering a pot of chili or soup.



MARCH SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



Continued from page 3

Mission & Outreach (Jonathan Shelby):

- Grant funding applications being sent to the same organizations as last year. Given declining budget, no need to take on new organizations. Applications are due back on May 1, 2016.
- Next meeting will be held in early May to review applications and allocate funds.
- Mental Health Association of Morris County dinner event being planned to be held at the Church on Tuesday, April 26, 2016.

Nominating (Tom MacCowatt):

- A motion was made, in accordance with the annual requirement of the by-laws, electing the following as members of the Nominating Committee. *Moved, seconded and carried.*
 - ⇒ Tom MacCowatt, Chairman
 - ⇒ Jonathan Shelby
 - ⇒ Barbara Gill has been selected by the Board of Deacons to serve on the Nominating Committee.
 - ⇒ Two additional members of the Nominating Committee will be selected by the congregation at the upcoming congregational meeting. The Session is recommending that Jeff French and Eileen McDonald be the nominees.

Pastor's report:

- Session retreat update: working on date and time.
- Yulia was not seriously injured as a result of her fall down the stairs of the manse.
- Discussion of trip to Ukraine.

New Business:

- A motion was made, in accordance with the annual requirement of the by-laws, electing the following as officers of the corporation of The First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon. Moved seconded and carried:
 - ⇒ President: Todd Claytor
 - ⇒ Vice President: Peter Saulnier
 - ⇒ Secretary: Jane Coyle
 - ⇒ Treasurer: Keith Wood nominated (needs congregational approval to be elected)

A Special Meeting of the Congregation will be held Sunday, April 3, 2016 immediately after worship to approve by-law changes, elect the Treasurer, and elect two members to the Nominating Committee.

The next meeting of Session will be Tuesday, April 19th at 7:00 pm. Wood will provide refreshments, Shelby will lead devotions, and French is responsible for usher recruitment in April. Communion will be served on Sunday, March 24th by Wood,* O'Keefe, Buteux, and Ford.

*Team Leader

Dr. Gamble adjourned the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Tom MacCowatt, Clerk of Session

SUNDAY SPEAKER SERIES in APRIL



Guest Preacher & Speaker: Sunday, April 3 Rev. Larissa Kwong Abazia

Rev. Larissa Kwong Abazia will preach on Sunday, April 3 and also lead a program at 11:15 am. Larissa is the Vice Moderator of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Director of Church Relations at Princeton Theological Seminary.

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

April 10 at 11:15 am in Library Jo-Renee Formicola

On April 10, Seton Hall political scientist, media analyst and Madison resident, Jo-Renee Formicola will discuss her most recent book, *Clerical Sexual Abuse: How the Crisis Changed U.S. Catholic Church-State Relations*. Researching legal reports, church documents, newspaper accounts, and personal stories, Dr. Formicola demonstrates how canon law became challenged by civil law. She will review how this power struggle between the Catholic Church and the United States forever changed their relationship, but also "recalibrated" the Church. All are welcome to this latest Sunday Speaker Series.

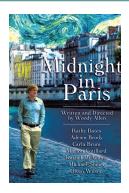


Jo-Renee Formicola, Ph.D, is a Professor of Political Science and former Dean at Seton Hall University in South Orange. She teaches courses on the conflicts, co-operation, and public policies that involve both Church and State. She is the author of four books on the church as well as co-editor and chapter contributor to *Everson Revisited: Religion, Education and Law at the Crossroads*. Dr. Formicola received her B. A. at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, New York. Her advanced degrees were earned at Georgetown (M. A.) and at Drew (Ph. D.).



April 24: Sheeleigh House Tour, 11:30 am

The words "climate change" generate a lot of reactions and opinions. As the scope of this phenomenon continues to be explored, the congregation is invited to tour the Sheeleighs' home on April 24th. The home, a LEED certified project, presents a beautiful blend of classic design with many new sustainable mechanisms and technologies. The Sheeleighs' choices are inspiring for all: this tour should not be missed.



Next Movie Selection: Midnight in Paris

Wed. April 20 at 7:00 pm at the Chaneys'

In this charming romantic comedy, legendary director Woody Allen focuses his lens on an engaged young couple whose experiences traveling together in Paris make them begin to question the kind of life they want to live.

Cast: Owen Wilson, Rachel McAdams, Marion Cotillard.

Thank-You Coffee Hour Hosts and Hostesses

March

The MacCowatts
Congregational Life Committee's
St Patrick's-themed Coffee Hour
Sue Nobleman
The Deacons' Easter Breakfast

We are now in need of Coffee Hour Hosts and Hostesses for the months ahead.





CME Academy Now Enrolling

CME Academy is currently enrolling students of all ages and levels. Adults are especially welcome. It is not too late to learn to play the musical instrument you've always dreamed of playing...

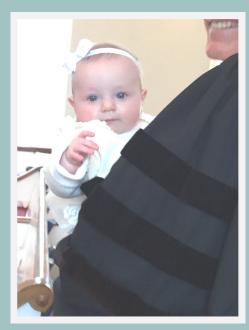
Students will be provided with high-caliber training by gifted faculty handpicked by CME Academy founder and director, Min Kwon. You may also purchase a CD featuring selections played by CME gifted young artists and some of the faculty at CME Academy from Debbie in the Church Office.

Learn more about the Academy at: CMEMusicAcademy.org

Questions? Call or email:

Phone: 973-500-8282 or E-mail: info@cmemusic.org











Palm Sunday & Easter Sunday

Parker Leigh Godfrey was baptized at the 11:15 Service on Easter Sunday. The children's Palm Sunday processional was led by Kerra French, The Deacons provided a lovely breakfast Easter Morning, and the day was radiant with the joy of family and friends at worship and enjoying fellowship.



11- The Pipe Organ









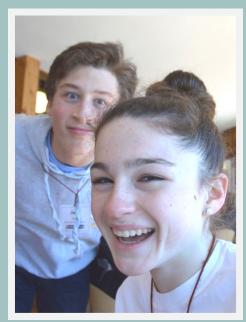






Photos submitted by Susan Godfrey, Andrea Di Ruggiero, Tony Rodriguez, Min Kwon, and Jane Kendall.











Confirmation Class Retreat

Dr. Gamble, along with the Confirmation
Class and their Mentors, went on a retreat
together during the last week of February at
Camp Johnsonburg.























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, April 13 7:30 am at The Nautilus Diner Madison, NJ

All men of the Church and their guests are welcome.

Next Women's Afternoon Tea

Wednesday, April 13 2:00 pm Village Bistro New Vernon, NJ

All women of the Church and their guests are welcome.



Come celebrate with

the Community Soup Kitchen and Outreach Center

Share the Bounty

Cocktail Buffet and Silent Auction

Thursday, April 14, 2016 at six in the evening The Madison Hotel

Caritas Award - Tom Ross,
President - Wealth Management Consultants
(Division of Peapack-Gladstone Bank)
Community Leadership Award Impact 100 Garden State



Save the date...

Cinco De Mayo-Themed Coffee Hour

Sunday, May 1



Annual Church Picnic

Save the date...



Outreach Focus: Mental Health Assoc. of MC

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday April 26, 2015 at 6:00 pm-8:30pm FPCNV Will Host the Mental Health Assoc. of Morris County

SOCIAL CLUB DINNER AND MUSIC



Ission & Outreach is once again hosting the Social Club Dinner for the Mental Health Assoc. of Morris County. We have invited their Social Club members to join us for dinner and music in Fellowship Hall. The events held in the past have been so well received that 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 Jonathan Shelby at 973-425-2344 to join in the fun. Everyone is welcome, and everyone 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 4/26. This must be coordinated with Meg Richardson.
- 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 Nancy Barrett is reaching out to musicians to perform.
- 9) Goodie Bag a take-away of small items, may include a baked good or treat. Nancy Barrett and Nancy Burrows are leading this effort. Please reach out to them with ideas!
- 10) Clean-up Crew Clear tables and clean up in kitchen.

James Franklin Swartz, Jr. March 11, 1930-March 23, 2016



Our dear member, Jim Swartz, passed away on March 23rd after a long illness. Please keep Mindo and family in your thoughts and prayers.

If you would like to send a card or note to Mindo:

19 Academy Road Madison, NJ 07940

Memorial Service Saturday, April 16 2 pm



Erwin Bruce Hallet, Jr. June 4, 1921-March 8, 2016

Former Member, Erwin Bruce Hallett, Jr. passed away on March 8, 2016.

A Memorial Service will take place here at the First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon Saturday, April 16 at 2 pm.



Our Heartfelt Congratulations!

Robert J. Hicks, former FPCNV member and student minister, was ordained and installed as Pastor of the Upper Spruce Creek Presbyterian Church on Sunday, March 20, 2016.

If you would like to send Bob a card or note:

Upper Spruce Creek Presbyterian Church 2620 Spruce Creek Road Pennsylvania Furnace, PA 16865

APRIL 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					AA Meeting noon	2
Communion Guest Preacher Sunday Speaker Series: Rev Larissa Kwong Abazia 11:15 am	Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	Women's AA Step Meeting noon Book Club 7:30 p Library	6	7 Bible Study 9:00-10:00 am Adult Ed 5 pm Choir 7:30 pm	AA Meeting noon	9
Sunday Speaker Series Jo-Renee Formicola 11:15 am	Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	Women's AA Step Meeting noon Deacons' Mtg 7 pm	Youth Ed 7 pm Library	14 Bible Study 9:00-10:00 am Choir 7:30 pm	AA Meeting noon	Hallett Memorial Service 2 pm
17	Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am Madison Garden Club 8am-3pm Finance Committee Meeting 7 pm	Women's AA Step Meeting noon Session Meeting 7 pm	20	Bible Study 9:00-10:00 am New Vernon Garden Club 9 am-noon Choir 7:30 pm	AA Meeting noon	23
Sunday Speaker Series Sheeleigh "Green" House Tour 11:30 am	Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	Women's AA Step Meeting noon Social Club Dinner 6:00—8:30 pm	27	28 Bible Study 9:00-10:00 am Membership 5:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	29	30 Youth Service Project TBD

April Worship Plans

Sunday, April 3

Second Sunday of Easter COMMUNION

Preacher: Larissa Kwong Abazzia Liturgist: Tom MacCowatt



Sunday, April 10

Third Sunday of Easter

Preacher: Dr Gamble Liturgist: Jonathan Shelby

Sunday, April 17

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Preacher: Dr. Gamble Liturgist: TBA

Sunday, April 24

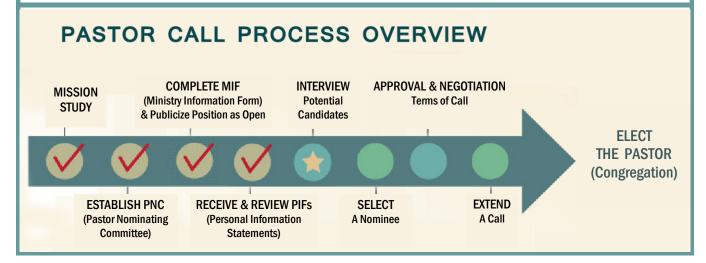
Fifth Sunday of Easter

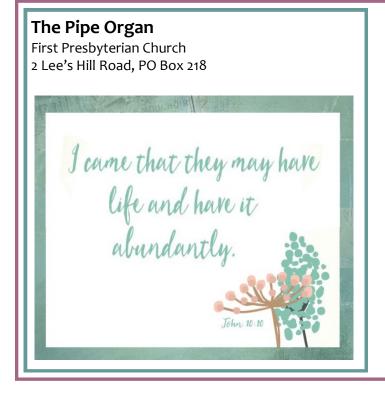
Preacher: Dr. Gamble Liturgist: TBA



AN UPDATE FROM YOUR PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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





APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, April 3

Guest Preacher & Sunday Speaker Series Guest Rev. Larissa Kwong Abazia

Sunday, April 10

Sunday Speaker Series Jo-Renee Formicola

Sunday, April 24

Sunday Speaker Series Sheeleigh House Tour

E-mail Addresses

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

CHURCH OFFICE

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