

# The Pipe Organ

# THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH New Vernon, New Jersey

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December 2016

In my beginning is my end. In succession Houses rise and fall, crumble, are extended, Are removed, destroyed, restored, or in their place Is an open field, or a factory, or a by-pass.
Old stone to new building, old timber to new fires, Old fires to ashes, and ashes to the earth Which is already flesh, fur and faeces, Bone of man and beast, cornstalk and leaf. Houses live and die: there is a time for building And a time for living and for generation And a time for the wind to break the loosened pane And to shake the wainscot where the field-mouse trots And to shake the tattered arras woven with a silent motto.

These verses begin the second of T.S. Eliot's four quartets, and vividly illustrate a cycle of renewal and decay that Europe had come to know all too well. Writing during the beginning of the Second World War, Eliot was not the only person to blame the harsh conditions of the Treaty of Versailles for creating an atmosphere in which military conquest once again became an attractive option for Germany. And this, it seems, is only the most recent iteration of a cycle that began even before memory.

Houses rise ...houses fall (Habsburg, Medici, Lancaster, Tudor, Stuart)...houses crumble...houses are extended, removed, destroyed, restored. In their place you might find an open field, a factory, or even a regional airport.

It is not just the seasons that repeat themselves; it is history itself. Thinkers from Cicero to Santayana have worried about this trend. Albert Camus even wondered if such a life was worth living at all. I...do not.

I worry about remembering to buy and write half of my Christmas cards early so I can get them to Scotland before the holidays. I worry about remembering to give Dougal his worming pills every three months. I worry about getting to church on time with a baby and a toddler who seem as if they'll never be ready to go. I worry...I make copious notes in my calendar...and I get on with life.

Last month Hayley and I led a contemplative retreat in rural Maryland for a group of young adults. While the days leading up to our departure were filled to overflowing with meetings, emails, and other preparations, our time there was spacious and wonderfully calm. I began the first day of our retreat quietly watching the sun come up over the mountains. It was wonderful to have absolutely nothing else to do, but part of me couldn't accept that this was the case. Surely there were some emails to answer. What am I going to say in next Sunday's sermon? Is my brother really happy at graduate

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#### FPCNV Staff

Rev. William H. Stone, III (Bill) Pastor

Amanda Napolitano,

Minister of Music/Organist

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** 

Tom Ewig

Caroline Ford

Kerra French

Jane O'Keefe

Meg Richardson

Peter Saulnier

Jonathan Shelby

Carol Conger Vellekamp

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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school? What if something goes wrong with the Church website? Are my parents going to retire soon? Where will they go?

These thoughts jumped in and out of my head all morning. Although I was staying in a place designed to be stress free, at a retreat with an intentionally open schedule, I found it hard to slow down. It was not until our group began its 12-hour silence that I began to process what was going on: I wasn't being present. I was at the retreat center, sitting in a circle with a dozen young adults, but my mind was somewhere between Maryland and New Vernon. And just as I had this thought, the ringing of a bell interrupted. The bell called me back...back to the retreat center, back to the circle where our speaker had just rung it to signal the end of our silence. "Every one of us needs an hour of prayer each day," she said, "except when we're really busy. Then we need two."

This sounds obnoxious at first, but I am more and more inclined to agree—if not with the literal truth of the statement, at least with its sentiment. The busier we are, the more we have on our minds, the more difficult it is for us to be really present. To really listen to the people we are with. To notice what's going on around us. To notice what's going on within us.

Presence—being open and aware—is the goal of contemplative spirituality. Being open and aware of yourself, of your surroundings, of others. And most importantly, being open to and aware of God's presence in all three of these. Contemplative prayer is the attempt to cultivate this openness and awareness. It can take many forms, but all of them have this basic intention: encouraging a pause, a break from business as usual, and helping us look at things from a different perspective.

On November 27 the Church marked the beginning of Advent, a season in the church year when we reflect on Christmas... commemorating Christ's birth many years ago and anticipating his return. Advent calls the CHURCH to be contemplative. It calls us to pause and look at things from a different perspective. It is a season when we reflect on how Jesus' birth, life, and death have changed the world. It is a season when we realize that God's activity in the world is not yet complete and that we are invited to join with God in the ongoing work of his kingdom until it comes again.

Eliot's poem begins in despair at the inevitability of life and history, but somewhere along the way the resignation fades. Science and industry HAVE changed the world. Mathematics is hailed as the purest language, and Science is nearing complete knowledge of the universe. But this, thinks Eliot, is not the ONLY way of knowing. Science and Industry have also made it possible to create death and chaos on a scale never seen before. There is more to knowing than numbers and mechanics. There is more to history than an inevitable repetition of growth and decay.

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### **NOVEMBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**



### **COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS**

### Adult Education (Julia Buteux):

- Margaret Ng will be making a presentation on December 4.
- Movie Night is back at the Chaneys' starting December 5.
- We continue to discuss potential speakers for the 2017-2018 year.
- 39 people attended Perry Leavell's presentation on Sunday.

### Youth Education (Kerra French):

- Eight children in Sunday School this past Sunday. May need to expand number of teachers if this positive trend continues.
- Inviting families with children to dinner on Friday night, November 18 at the Church. Don Richardson and Jeff French cooking.

### Congregational Life (Meg Richardson):

• The congregational Christmas luncheon will be held on Sunday, December 11 immediately following worship. Pot luck with Committee providing ham and drinks. Amanda will play Christmas carols. Please sign up for an accurate count.

### Finance (Keith Wood):

- As of 9 November, we have received \$164,000 in pledges. If the remaining people who pledged
  last year pledge this year, we would have an additional \$232,000, totaling \$396,000 and would
  meet our budget.
- Anthony Rodriguez accepted our offer to be the Church's permanent custodian.
- The following motion was moved, seconded, and carried:
- Contingent upon a determination of the adequacy of the Church's worker's compensation insurance to cover the full cost of Anthony Rodriguez's operation, the Pastor advises donors that:
- We intend drawing on the donations to pay Anthony Rodriguez for his lack of compensation from his employer, Dublin Maintenance.
- Funds remaining are intended for general use within the PIN Fund, as directed by the Deacons and the Pastor.
- Any donors who would prefer that their donation be returned are to advise the Church Office within two weeks of receiving the Pastor's letter.

### Stewardship (Keith Wood for Todd Claytor):

• Calls will be made in the coming weeks to those who have not yet pledged.

### Administration/Communication (Caroline Ford):

- Technology: looking with Bill into technology needs for the sanctuary.
- Will be looking at new technology for Servant Keeper and QuickBooks.

### Membership (Jane O'Keeffe):

- Cleaning up database, particularly with respect to adult children. 16 have been dropped from the rolls. Net decline of 17 members each year for the last few years.
- This year a number of people moved out of the area.
- Next Session meeting will present the adjusted roll number: likely a 44-member decline (larger than usual because of 16 children of members who are out of area) to 306 members.
- Two new active members were recently added to the rolls.

### Mission & Outreach (Jonathan Shelby):

- Mental Health fall dinner was highly successful. Good attendance by MHA and our congregation.
- Food drive for Thanksgiving—items for the Interfaith Food Pantry—Sunday, 11/20. Bring in a bag.
- Christmas offering, historically designated for children. Cornerstone Family Program (children of immigrants) will be the recipient this year.

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As we commemorate the birth of Christ, we also look forward to his return. Year after year, the season of Advent invites us to pause...to still ourselves...and to notice that God is STILL at work in the world. In pausing, in taking time to be open and aware, we are better able to notice the divine fingerprints that cover our lives, and in this realization we are able to declare that history is not bound by its beginning to be forever repeated. We

are able to declare that our world was begun with its end already in sight. Eliot's poem concludes by turning his opening line on its head: *In my END is my beginning*.

This Advent, let us give thanks to God and take time to be still. Every one of us needs an hour of prayer each day, except when we are really busy. Then we need two.



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### Nominating (Tom MacCowatt):

Formal slate to be presented at the December Session meeting.

### Worship and Music (Peter Saulnier):

• Co-minister of Music and Choir Director Search is in the later stages with several candidates being considered.

### Clerk's Report:

• Gathering feedback from Session and finalizing the revised instructions for ushers prepared by the Thomases at next meeting.

### Pastor's Report:

- Bill thanked the Session for their support at his installation service. Several members of Presbytery spoke with him about how much they had enjoyed the service.
- He has made a significant number of pastoral care visits to members at both Morristown Medical Center and ARI, in addition to home visits.
- He attended his first meeting as a member of Newton Presbytery and was warmly received by them.

### **OLD BUSINESS: None**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Margaret Ng has requested the use of Fellowship Hall for a Christmas bazaar on Friday, December 9
and Saturday, December 10 to raise funds toward the cost of her autistic son's service dog.

The next meeting of Session will be Tuesday, December 20 at 7:00 pm. French will provide refreshments, Claytor will lead devotions, and O'Keefe is responsible for usher recruitment in December. Communion will be served on Sunday, December 4, by \*Wood, MacCowatt, Buteux, Ford. \*Team Leader

Reverend Stone adjourned the meeting with prayer at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom MacCowatt, Clerk of Session



### **CHRISTMAS OFFERING 2016 RECIPIENT**

### **Cornerstone Family Programs**

The First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon has a long history of helping children and families in need. The Mission & Outreach Committee has selected Cornerstone Family Programs of Morristown to receive the 2016 Christmas offering. This is a dedicated group of people who truly make a difference in a community near to us. Enrollment in their Neighborhood House includes children of all ages, from toddlers to

high school. Preparing the little ones for kindergarten or tutoring high schoolers after school are all part of their daily schedule, as well as serving 600 meals a day! Children in the program come from low-income homes where typically both parents work; the program offers a safe, productive place to learn and grow.

**Cornerstone Family Programs** (formerly Family Service of Morris County) and Morristown Neighborhood House build better lives and stronger communities by helping individuals and

families who are confronting economic and other life challenges. Pre-school, after school, summer camp, recreation, tutoring and parenting education programs give children the best start in life and help youth reach their full potential.

Other Cornerstone efforts include military programs, youth and teen programs, addiction services, and the Pathway to Work program for employment counseling. They offer substance abuse prevention, recreation, work force



development, language and skill-building programs to build resilience in families. Adult day care centers, case management services and counseling and education programs help older adults remain independent in their homes. Cornerstone, founded in 1813, and the Nabe, founded in 1898, joined forces in 2013 to better serve the community. To learn more about this impressive organization, consult <a href="https://www.cornerstonefamilyprograms.org">www.cornerstonefamilyprograms.org</a>

The Christmas Eve Services are a beautiful and special time on our Christian Calendar. Please come and know that your offering is going directly to help many segments of the Morristown community.



### Installation Service November 13, 2016



Rev. William H. Stone, III, was installed as our Pastor at a service steeped in tradition and resounding joy. Area Presbyterian Pastors included Barbara F. Aspinall of Meyersville; Christopher Belden of Mountainside; Liz Johnson Blythe of Morris Plains; and Edward Halldorson of Chatham Township. Father Brian Sullivan of the Church of Christ the King also took part.





Bill's father, the Rev. William H. Stone, Jr., of Neshannock Presbyterian in New Wimington, PA, presented a charge to his son. Rev. Prof. David Fergusson, who with his wife, Margot, represented Bill's former congregation in Edinburgh, also took part in the service. Newton Presbytery participants included Lisa Gray & Mickey McDonnell. *Photo credits: Andrea Di Ruggiero & John Thomas*.



























# FPCNV Book Club December Meeting, Meeting Dates, and Book Selections

Café Beethoven
December 13
5:30 pm

**Meeting Dates and Book Selections** 

Where: Library When: 7:30 pm

**DEC 13** Café Beethoven Dinner

JAN 10 The Golden Notebook by Doris Lessing

FEB 14 D-Day by Stephen Ambrose

MAR 14 The Blackwater Lightship-Colm Tobin

**APR 11** The Short and Tragic Life of Robert

Peace by Jeff Hobb

MAY 9 The Round House by Louise Erdrich

JUN 13 A Confederacy of Dunces by John Kennedy Toole

## Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 18 at 10:00 am

### You Are Invited

The Christmas Spirit of Giving has arrived! Please consider giving some of your time and talent to our choir for Advent and Christmas. Rehearsals for Christmas music will begin December 1st.

Please join the choir on Thursdays from 7:30-9:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Singers of much, or even no experience are invited. Email Amanda for more information at:

amandatsukamoto@msn.com



### December Movie: Eye in the Sky



### Monday, December 5 7:00 pm Chaneys' Home

We will resume our FPCNV movie series with "Eye in the Sky" on Monday evening, December 5 at 7:00 o'clock at the Chaneys'. The movie stars Helen Mirren in an exciting exploration of the complex issues surrounding drone attacks and should stimulate a lively discussion following the film.

### The Congregational Life Committee Is Hosting

2016 Christmas Luncheon

# Sunday, December 11 Immediately following the Worship Service

Don't forget to reserve your place at the Christmas Luncheon.

When you sign up, please be sure to include your name, number attending, and whether contributing a side or salad.

The Committee will be supplying the spiral hams and beverages.

RSVP on the sign-up sheets at Coffee Hour or RSVP to Meg Richardson at <a href="mailto:nodgem@pcnv.org">nodgem@pcnv.org</a>



We wish everyone a Joyful, Healthy, & Happy Holiday
Season!

The Deacons

## Christmas Eve Services

Saturday, December 24 ~ 5:00 pm and 11 pm

There will be two services on Christmas Eve in our festively decorated Sanctuary. The first is at 5:00 pm. Many families with little ones attend this service. The second service begins at 11:00 pm and ends at midnight.

Both of these are candlelight services that will warm our hearts and help us all prepare to welcome the Christ Child into our lives.



# Sunday, December 11 5:00 pm

On Sunday, December 11 we will hold a service of Comfort and Joy at 5:00 pm. In the midst of all the celebrations around the Christmas season, it can be a difficult time for some. If you have lost a loved one or suffered other hardship this year, you know how the season can be a mixture of joy and sorrow.

All are invited to join us at this quiet and reflective service of readings, prayers, and music. As we acknowledge the difficulty and mixed emotions that this time of year can bring, we also remember God's presence with us as the light which shines in the darkness and that the darkness cannot overcome.



### **Ornaments for the Christmas Tree**

As we get ready to deck the halls for Christmas, you are all invited to help trim the Church's Christmas Tree. Please bring an ornament from home to donate at the Christmas Luncheon on December 11th.

These ornaments will create a visible reminder of our church family that will continue to grow over the years.



# 2017 Stewardship Campaign Reminder

The "Ushering In A New Generation" Stewardship Campaign for 2017 is well under way, and we hope to have participation from all members to show our newly installed pastor, Bill Stone, an active congregation and financially strong church!

A second mailing of pledge requests recently went to those members who have not yet pledged. Please show your dedication to our church and return your pledge without delay. The campaign closing date was November 30.

Todd Claytor, Stewardship Chair

## Holiday Bazaar ~ Shop for a Cause

Friday, December 9, 4-9 pm Saturday, December 10, 10-4 pm

### Shop for a cause!

An opportunity to do some holiday shopping while supporting local businesses.





# Deck the Hall!

Carol Conger Vellekamp is looking for volunteers to help decorate Fellowship Hall for Christmas.

If you are willing to lend a hand, please email Carol at:

carolconger75@gmail.com.

## The Church in Your Will

Have you considered adding the First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon to your will? A charitable bequest is one way to give, may provide estate tax benefits, and can be in any amount. By adding FPCNV to your estate plan, you can leave a legacy that will benefit our church community. There will be more on this after the first of the year, but in the interim, see Todd Claytor for information.

# Christmas Donations

### Morris County Correctional Facility

### **Drop-off deadline is December 11**

This year the prison ministry is handling their collection differently. Instead of each religious organization receiving a complete list of all items to be collected, they are asking each organization to provide one or two items for the entire inmate population.

They are asking our church to provide the following

- Men's white **crew** neck t-shirts in L, XL, 2X, and 3X (*no V-necks or pockets allowed*)
- ☐ Men's white (only) crew socks—230 pairs
- ☐ Women's white crew socks—30 pairs

The above items are the **only ones** that will be accepted by security. Please **do not gift wrap** your donations.

We will not be collecting cookies; two other churches have that assignment.

The holidays are an especially difficult time for inmates and their families. This is when your generosity will truly touch the hearts of the men and women who are incarcerated at MCCF. Your acts of kindness may be seen by a prisoner as the brightest beacon of God's love.



Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison...

Hebrews 13:3



### Next Men's Breakfast

Wednesday, December 14th 7:30 am Nautilus Diner

All men of the Church and their guests are welcome.

## Volunteers To Serve as Liturgists

If you would like to serve as Liturgist on a Sunday morning, please call Debbie Hennessey at (973) 538-8394 or email her at officeadmin@pcnv.org.

# Children's Christmas Program December 11 at 10 AM



If your child (K-6) or youth (7-12) would like to participate in this year's pageant, please let Susan Fischer know. There are speaking roles available for those who would like one and non-speaking roles for those who prefer to participate without speaking.

For questions or to sign up: shfischer@verizon.net





### **Christmas Eve Decoration Donation Form**

I would like my donation to be dedicated as follows:

Your Name:			
	☐ In Memory of	☐ In Honor of	



Thank-you to the Deacons for the delicious variety of pantry goodies you prepared for the Deacons' Pantry Sale. Your

dedication and your culinary talents are appreciated by all.

Thank-you to the Congregation, as well. Your purchases at the Pantry Sale brought in \$1,545 to the Person In Need (PIN) Fund.



# Bringing Hope to Ethan Sunday, December 4 at 11:15 am In the Library

Margaret Ng, our tenant and neighbor at the "little manse," will speak to us on Sunday, December 4 at 11:15 a.m. in the library about the family's project to obtain a service dog for three-year-old Ethan Ng who is autistic. The Ngs decided to become Ambassadors for Service Dogs by Warren Retrievers (SDWR) so that Ethan is guaranteed a place in the queue to receive a dog once stipulated ambassadorial duties have been honored.

Autism presents in numerous forms. Ethan, who communicates non-verbally, is often frustrated by his inability to make himself understood. He has no instinct for danger and struggles to sleep more than 60 to 90 minutes at a time, leaving the family exhausted. A service dog will help to ease these problems, to make Ethan more aware, to improve his verbal communication, and to calm him. SDWR believes in early intervention and offers a comprehensive program with inhome training and two years of support. Come to learn what these amazing animals can do.

### **FPCNV Youth**





2016 SERVICE WEEKEND



### **PIN Fund**

The PIN Fund (Persons In Need) was created to help meet critical financial needs of members of our congregation and residents of the greater community.

### Procedure:

A request for financial assistance is to be made through the Pastor and approved by the Pastor and one or more representatives from the Board of Deacons.

A voucher requiring two signatures (Pastor and Deacon representative) is then submitted to the Manager of Accounting for distribution of funds.

All requests are confidential.

Checks will be written to the creditor requiring payment—e.g., utility company, landlord, doctor, or medical institution—and never directly to the applicant.

THE PIN FUND IS SUPPORTED BY THE PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS OF OUR CONGREGATION

### **HERB Fund**

The HERB Fund is an endowment fund established to provide grants to the greater community, not confined to members of the New Vernon Presbyterian Church, who are in need of financial assistance for college, graduate school, and other post-secondary education expenses.

This fund is under the stewardship of the Board of Deacons and is allocated at the discretion of the Pastor in consultation with one or more Deacons. The investment responsibility resides with Session.

Detailed information on the process—such as deadline dates, grant criteria, and application forms—may be obtained through the Church Office and, in the future, from the website.

Application deadline for the Spring 2017 semester is December 15, 2016.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS WORTHY FUND ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

# December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tuo	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sun	Mon	Tue	vea	1 <b>Bible Study</b> 9:00 am <b>Choir</b> 7:30 pm	2 AA Meeting noon	<b>Sat</b> 3
4 Communion Family Sunday	5 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am  Movie Night at Chaneys' 7 pm	Women's AA Step Meeting 12 noon	7 Morristown Garden Club 8 am-1:30 pm	8 Bible Study 9:00 am	9 AA Meeting noon	10
Children's Christmas Pageant 10:00 am Christmas Luncheon 11 am Fellowship Hall Comfort & Joy Service	Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	Women's AA Step Meeting 12 noon  Deacons' Meeting	Men's Breakfast at Nautilus Diner 7:30 am	15 Bible Study 9:00 am	AA Meeting noon	17
5:00 pm  18  Lessons & Carols Worship Service 10 am	19 Women's Bible Study 11 am-1 pm at Gail's  Finance Com. Mtg 7 pm	7:00 pm  20  Women's AA Step Meeting 12 noon  Session Mtg 7 pm	21	22 <i>Bible Study</i> 9:00 am  Choir 7:30 pm	23 Church Office Closed  AA Meeting noon	24
25 Christmas Day 10 am Worship No Sunday School	26  Church Office Closed  No Bible Study	Women's AA Step Meeting 12 noon	28	29 <b>Bible Study</b> 9:00 am <b>Choir</b> 7:30 pm	AA Meeting	31

### DECEMBER WORSHIP PLANS

### Sunday, December 4

Second Sunday of Advent COMMUNION

Preacher: Rev. William H. Stone, III Liturgist: Eileen Urban McDonald 10:00 am Worship Service

### Sunday, December 18

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Preacher: Rev. William H. Stone, III
Liturgist: Susan Fischer
10:00 AM Choral Christmas Program

### Sunday, December 11

Third Sunday of Advent

Children's Christmas Program 10:00 am Comfort and Joy Service 5:00 pm

### Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve
Rev. William H. Stone, III
5:00 pm Family Service
Liturgist: Matt McDonald
11:00 pm Candlelight Service
Liturgist: TBD

### Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day Rev. William H. Stone, III Liturgist: TBD 10:00 am



This past spring, the Music and Worship Committee organized a separate Sanctuary Flower Committee whose responsibility it is to plan and install special decorations in the sanctuary as well as outside the Church's front doors—for example, at Christmas, Easter, and such special events as the recent pastoral installation service. It is also in charge of arranging for the flowers that grace the sanctuary each Sunday.

The new committee—consisting of Lisa Chapman, Ann Ewig, Bernice Paton, Ann Talcott, Louise Thorpe, Carol Conger Vellekamp, and Patti Wood—has been actively at work since late summer. We are deeply grateful to this group who so generously contribute to making our sanctuary a more beautiful and inviting space in which to worship.

### The Pipe Organ

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

### **DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS**

### December 11

Children's Christmas Program 10 am Christmas Luncheon 11 am Comfort & Joy Service 5 pm

### December 18

Lessons & Carols Choral Service 10 am

### December 24

Christmas Eve Services 5 pm and 11 pm

### December 25

Christmas Morning Worship 10 am



O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come, ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem!



### 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.

### CHURCH OFFICE

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