

The Pipe Organ

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
New Vernon, NJ

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MAY 2016

Robert's Reflections

Dear Friends,

Many years ago, I asked a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter pilot, "What's it like doing search and rescue in a helicopter?" He replied, "It's hours of boredom, interrupted by moments of sheer fright." I suppose that could be said about many things and some careers. If you watch the "market," you might feel this way. I believe it is true of what we call spirituality, or our lives as lived "in Christ."

For a time in my ministry, I avoided the term "spirituality." I had concluded that those who claimed to be the most spiritual of Christians were actually the most defensive, reclusive, and judgmental. I did not want to be that way. Over time, I have come to see that spirituality does not mean defending the faith or God, as if God needs to be defended. It does not mean going off to a monastery. It does not mean knowing something everyone else does not know. It is not a feeling or an attitude that one is better than another, or more holy.

Spirituality is, first of all, participating in life. It is hearing, seeing, paying attention, remaining awake to what is happening and to what God may be doing—not in a sentimental way, or in such a way that we are always looking for miracles. It is accepting people and things as they are and believing that God comes to us in the life we are living, as tragic, terrifying, routine, or humdrum as it may get.

The word for "spirit" in both Hebrew and Greek is the same as the word for "breath." I've said this before: This is how people judged whether someone was alive or dead. Are they breathing? We talk about "inspiration" as a burst of energy or insight in our lives or work or writing or faith in God.

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FPCNV Staff

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 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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The life of a church could be likened to periods of routine (even boredom) interrupted by moments of sheer fright, or joy, or moments when you need to put energy into what you do and *really* pay attention. One of those times is coming. By now you know that your Pastor Nominating Committee has selected your next pastor. You will hear him preach on May 8th and vote as a congregation. He and his family will arrive after the end of summer. The great temptation is to think, *Well now we have a pastor coming who will take care of everything and bring some life back into this church.*

Actually, the reverse is true. *Now we have a pastor and his family coming. We need to show them how much life we have in this church.* That means being open, engaging, and non-judgmental. It means treating all with respect, accepting all as loved by God. Don't just look at your minister for inspiration. Inspire your minister. Be life-giving to the minister and his family. Churches don't just hire, they *make* great ministers and pastors. You want a good preacher? You have a good preacher coming. You can make him great.

Spirituality means knowing life is a gift. Live it with courage, with openness, with hope, with acceptance. Spirituality in the Christian context is knowing God is present in all things and times and places. That is the gift of the birth of God into this lovely and beautiful thing called human existence. God lived such a life in Jesus.

Grace and Peace,
 Robert Gamble

*Spirituality means knowing life is a
 gift. Live it with courage, with
 openness, with hope, & with acceptance.*



APRIL SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



The following highlights are from the April 19, 2016 Session meeting.

The meeting began with Jonathan Shelby leading devotions

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Adult Education (Julia Buteux)

- Jo-Renee Formicola spoke on April 10 on her most recent book, *Clerical Sexual Abuse: How the Crisis Changed US Catholic Church-State Relations* – was publicized in the Madison Eagle newspaper.
- They will have the monthly speakers for all of next year by June 10 and publicize it in August.
- Sheeleigh House Tour rescheduled to May 15.
- Nutrition, parenting, and foreign policy are topics the Committee is looking to schedule.

Youth Education (Kerra French)

- Saturday, April 30 Relief Bus (non-profit organization): make soup, take bus to the Bronx, and youth serve the people.
- May 14 service project: Bill Paton – work around his barn, etc.
- Car wash scheduled for Saturday, June 4; rain date is Saturday, June 11.
- Summer High School Mission Trip is scheduled at the Eastern Shore, Virginia through Youth Works. Sunday, 6/26-Sunday, 7/1. Two adults and three youth going. Painting, yard work, bible camp, etc.
- Confirmation will be held Sunday, May 22.
- The start of Saturday evening services is postponed until further notice.

Cemetery (Jonathan Shelby) Commemorative insignias for veterans and graveside holders have now been placed in the cemetery.

Congregational Life (Meg Richardson)

- Cinco de Mayo-themed Coffee Hour will be held on Sunday, May 1.
- Picnic after Worship on Sunday, June 12 at the Church.
- Putting together a calendar for the year in June.

Finance (Keith Wood)

- Finances currently show no significant variations from budget.
- FFRF vs. Morris County Freeholders update – Churches receiving funds have now been added as defendants in the suit.
- The brick manse lease has been extended for two years to the current tenants.
- May 8 – special meeting of the congregation to approve the Pastor Nominating Committee's recommendation for a new pastor.
- Terms of call for the new pastor were approved by Session, as recommended by the Finance Committee. *Motion moved, seconded and carried.*

Stewardship (Todd Claytor)

- Attending a Servant Keeper workshop in June, to investigate how it integrates with Quickbooks.
- Paypal or credit card on the website is costly: 2.5-3.0% give-up. Limit to spontaneous or special donations, not regular pledges.

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Administration/Communication (Caroline Ford)

Problem with Church's Verizon email; use deb.pcnv@gmail.com.

Membership (Jane O'Keeffe)

- Working on re-engaging members.
- Working on a touch a member program to find talents of members that they can share in church.

Mission & Outreach (Jonathan Shelby)

- Next meeting will be held in early May to review applications and allocate funds.
- MHA dinner event to be held at the Church on Tuesday, April 26, 2016.
- Kirkridge – organization we support in PA, that works with autistic children. We donated a loom to the organization, and they made a communion table runner for the Church.

Nominating (Tom MacCowatt)

At April's Special Congregational Meeting, the congregation approved Jeff French and Eileen Urban McDonald as new members of the Nominating Committee.

Personnel (Carol Vellekamp)

The woman who runs the nursery on Sundays is leaving, and Carol Conger Vellekamp will be interviewing applicants for the position.

Worship and Music (Peter Saulnier – minutes of March meeting provided)

The organ has recently been tuned and repaired, including water damage repairs.

Clerk's Report

- The minutes of the meeting were approved. *Moved, seconded and carried.*
- Susan Godfrey's son was accepted into membership by re-affirmation of faith and his wife was accepted by affirmation of faith, and their daughter, Parker Leigh Godfrey, as a baptized member on Easter Sunday. *Moved, seconded and carried.*

Pastor's report

- Confirmation is scheduled for May 22. Session should be in Fellowship Hall at 9 am for breakfast.
- Funeral for Bruce Hallett, former member, Saturday, April 16th.
- We have WIFI in the sanctuary now.

The next meeting of Session will be Tuesday, May 17th at 7:00 pm. O'Keeffe will provide refreshments, Saulnier will lead devotions, and Vellekamp is responsible for usher recruitment in May. Communion will be served on Sunday, May 1st by Shelby,* MacCowatt, Richardson, and Claytor. *Team Leader

Dr. Gamble adjourned the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom MacCowatt, Clerk of Session

Congregational Meeting

May 8, 2016

Immediately Following Worship

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting to be held in the Sanctuary immediately following services on May 8, 2016.

The purpose of the Meeting will be to receive a report from the Pastor Nominating Committee and to discuss and vote on their recommendation to call the Reverend William H. Stone, III to serve as Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon. Reverend Stone will preach at the service on May 8 immediately preceding the meeting, but will be absent during the discussion period and the vote to be taken.

Background information for this important meeting has been mailed to each member household by the Pastor Nominating Committee. Copies will also be made available in the Church Office and, on May 8, in the Narthex. Session urges your attendance and asks for your prayers at this important moment in the life of our Church.

Thomas MacCowatt
Clerk of Session

Sunday Speaker Series May 15: Sheeleigh House Tour 11:30 am

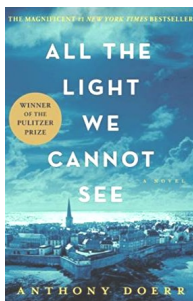
The words "climate change" generate a lot of reactions and opinions. As the scope of this phenomenon continues to be explored, the congregation is invited to tour the Sheeleighs' home on May 15th. The home, a LEED-certified project, presents a beautiful blend of classic design with many new sustainable mechanisms and technologies. The Sheeleighs' choices are inspiring for all: this tour should not be missed.



A Creative Volunteer Opportunity

The Music and Worship Committee is organizing a group to plan and decorate Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary for special Church-sponsored events and the holidays. If you are interesting in joining this creative venture, please call Bernice Paton at (973) 539-5168.

FPCNV Book Club



All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE

From the highly acclaimed, multiple award-winning Anthony Doerr, the beautiful, stunningly ambitious instant *New York Times* bestseller about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II.

Marie-Laure lives with her father in Paris near the Museum of Natural History, where he works as the master of its thousands of locks. When she is six, Marie-Laure goes blind and her father builds a perfect miniature of their neighborhood so she can memorize it by touch and navigate her way home. When she is twelve, the Nazis occupy Paris and father and daughter flee to the walled citadel of Saint-Malo, where Marie-Laure's reclusive great-uncle lives in a tall house by the sea. With them they carry what might be the museum's most valuable and dangerous jewel.

In a mining town in Germany, the orphan Werner grows up with his younger sister, enchanted by a crude radio they find. Werner becomes an expert at building and fixing these crucial new instruments, a talent that wins him a place at a brutal academy for Hitler Youth, then a special assignment to track

Meeting Dates and Book Selections

Where: Library
When: 7:30 pm

MAY 10 *All the Light We Cannot See*
by Anthony Doerr

JUN 14 *Bach* by Tim Dowlay

New members are welcome.

the resistance. More and more aware of the human cost of his intelligence, Werner travels through the heart of the war and, finally, into Saint-Malo, where his story and Marie-Laure's converge.

Doerr's "stunning sense of physical detail and gorgeous metaphors" (*San Francisco Chronicle*) are dazzling. Deftly interweaving the lives of Marie-Laure and Werner, he illuminates the ways, against all odds, people try to be good to one another. Ten years in the writing, a National Book Award finalist, *All the Light We Cannot See* is a magnificent, deeply moving novel from a writer "whose sentences never fail to thrill" (*Los Angeles Times*). Amazon.com



Sunday Speaker Series

Rev. Robert Corin Morris

The People of God in a Post-Christian Society: The Emergence of "Generative" Christianity
Sunday, May 22, 11:15 am

The *Sunday Speaker Series* continues on Sunday, May 22 at 11:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall library when The Rev. Robert Corin Morris, will speak on "The People of God in a Post-Christian Society: The Emergence of 'Generative' Christianity." How can we be faithful to Christianity when our society heads relentlessly deeper into secularism? How can we rediscover and deepen our understanding of it as a life-practice, a way of living that goes far beyond "going to church"? How can we appeal to those among younger generations who are, rightly and/or wrongly, disenchanted with organized religion? Don't miss this opportunity to welcome Bob back!

Bob Morris, D.D., is the retired Founder of Interweave, an interfaith center for wellness, spirituality, and the common good at Calvary Church in Summit. An Episcopal priest, he is a certified and active spiritual director, a leader in interfaith dialogue and cooperation, and is currently involved in a major anti-racism education and action project in Summit. A graduate of Yale and the General Theological Seminary, he is the author of three books, including *Provocative Grace: The Challenge in Jesus' Words*.



Stella Park



THE CENTER FOR MUSICAL EXCELLENCE

Min Kwon, Executive Director

CME Academy

Presents

A Mother's Day Recital

Sunday, May 8 at 3 pm

In the FPCNV Sanctuary

**MiJung
Cho**



Featuring Performances by
Students & Faculty of CME Academy

All are Welcome
Admission is free

**Rob
Grohman**



Student Participants

Nicole Izaguirre

Moriah Kam

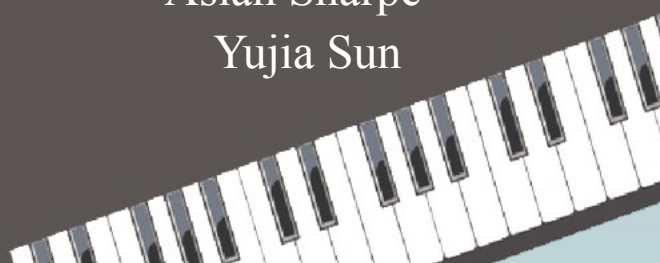
Lauren Lee

Sophie Lee

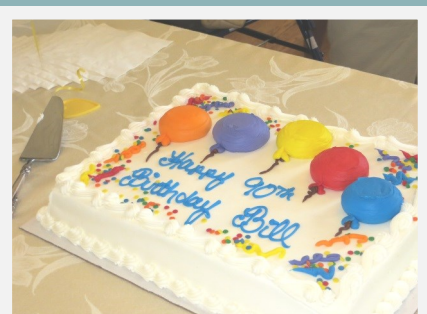
Lexa Naumovich

Asiah Sharpe

Yujia Sun

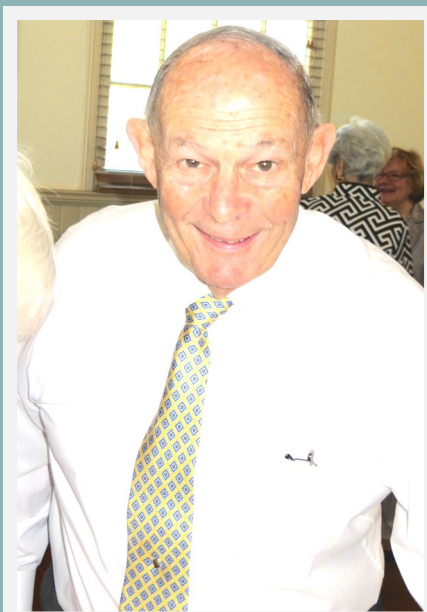


April Highlights



April was an eventful month. On the 24th it included a presentation by the PNC regarding their recommendation of the Rev. William Stone as our next pastor. Another highlight was the Coffee Hour celebration of Bill Bruen's 90th Birthday!

Facing page: Happy times continued with a colorful recognition of Cinco De Mayo on May 1.



Congregational Life's Cinco de Mayo Celebration on May 1



Thank you to our photographers: Anne and John Thomas, and Andrea DiRuggiero, for capturing these moments!



Fellowship and compassion abounded at FPCNV on April 28 when Church members embraced guests from the Social Clubs of the Mental Health Assoc. of Morris County. All were the better for it. The greeters, waiters, heads of table, servers, kitchen and clean-up crews, and the pianist and soloist were all on top of their game, and the event was enjoyed by all!



Our thanks to Nancy Burrows & Robert Gamble for these images that capture these meaningful moments in the life of our Church.

Youth & Children's Ministry

Youth Ministry Activities Calendar

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

Saturday, May 14	Service Project – Community Food Bank of New Jersey
Saturday, June 4	Service Project - Car Wash
Sunday, June 5	High School Graduate Recognition Sunday
Saturday, June 11	Car Wash rain date
Sunday, June 26-July 1	Sr. High Mission Trip to Eastern Shore, Virginia (Grades 9-12)



Deacons' Mothers' Day Bake Sale

Sunday, May 8 At Coffee Hour

The Deacons are hosting a Mothers' Day bake sale on Sunday, May 8 at Coffee Hour. Be sure to purchase a freshly-baked delectable delight! Proceeds will benefit the HERB Fund.





High School Graduates Recognition Sunday

Sunday, June 5

During the Worship Service and at Coffee Hour

The Youth Education Committee has designated June 5 as High School Graduate Recognition Sunday. There will be a special time of recognition and blessing for our graduates during the service and a celebration in their honor at Coffee Hour immediately following worship. Please make sure your graduate is included by emailing Debbie by May 27 at deb.pcnv@gmail.com.



YOUTH GROUP

Rain Date: June 11

FLAG DAY CAR WASH

Saturday, June 4
9 am-noon

The Youth Group will host a
Flag Day Car Wash

Proceeds will benefit their
Summer Mission Trip



Fundraiser

MAY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship 10 am COMMUNION Cinco De Mayo- Themed Coffee Hour 11 am	2 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	3	4 Youth Education 7 pm	5	6 AA Meeting noon	7
8 Pastor Candidate Preaching Congregational Meeting & Vote Deacons' Bake Sale at Coffee Hour 11:00 am CME Academy Recital 3 pm	9 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	10 Women's AA Step Meeting noon Deacons 7 pm Book Club 7:30 p Library	11 Men's Break- fast 7:30 am Women's After- noon Tea 2:00 pm	12 Bible Study 9-10 am Choir 7:30 pm	13 AA Meeting noon	14 Youth Service Project: Community Food Bank of New Jersey
15 Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11:00 am Sheeleigh House Tour: 11:30 am	16 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am Finance Committee Meeting 7 pm	17 Women's AA Step Meeting noon Session Mtg. 7 pm	18	19 Bible Study 9-10 am NV Garden Club 9 am Choir 7:30 pm	20 AA Meeting noon	21
22 Worship 10 am Confirmation Coffee Hour 11 am Sunday Speaker Series Robert Morris 11:15 am	23 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	24 Women's AA Step Meeting noon	25	26 Bible Study 9-10 am Membership Committee 5:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	27 AA Meeting noon	28
29 Worship 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am	30 Church Office Closed No Women's Bible Study Memorial Day	31 Women's AA Step Meeting noon				

May Worship Plans

Sunday, May 1

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Preacher: Dr. Gamble
Liturgist:
Zach McCann

Sunday, May 8

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Preacher: Rev. William H. Stone, III
Liturgist: Carol Conger Vellekamp

Sunday, May 15

Day of Pentecost

Preacher: Dr. Gamble
Liturgist: Ann Talcott

Sunday, May 22

Trinity Sunday

Preacher: Dr. Gamble
Liturgist: Marion Hoffman

Sunday, May 29

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Preacher: Dr. Gamble
Liturgists: Russ MacAusland

The Congregational Life Committee Invites You to The 2016 Annual Church Picnic

SUNDAY, June 12

**Immediately following Worship
Here at FPCNV!**

*The Congregational Life Committee will provide
hamburgers, hot dogs, dessert, and beverages.*

*Sign-up sheets for side dishes, appetizers, and salads will
be available in Fellowship Hall at Coffee Hour.*

Please RSVP to
Meg Richardson
nodgem@aol.com



The Pipe Organ

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

Happy Mother's Day

"She is clothed with strength and
dignity; she can laugh at the days
to come. She speaks with wisdom,
and faithful instruction is on her
tongue." PROVERBS 31:25-26



MAY HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, May 1

Cinco De Mayo Coffee Hour

Wednesday, May 11

Men's Breakfast at Minute Man Restaurant
Women's Afternoon Tea at Village Bistro

Sunday, May 8

PNC's Nominee is Guest Preacher
Congregational Meeting & Vote
Deacons' Bake Sale at Coffee Hour

Saturday, May 22

Confirmation
Sunday Speaker Series: Bob Morris

Monday, May 30

Church Office Closed for Memorial Day

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

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