
PresNotes



Dear Church Family,

It has been just two weeks (at this writing) since I returned from New Mexico, where I attended the annual gathering of church educators and pastors. There were actually two separate meetings during the first week in February. The training event which I attended as a Presbytery P.O.I.N.T. person....that's Presbyterians Organized in Nurture and Teaching took place on Tuesday and Wednesday. The national event for the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE) followed on Wednesday afternoon and ended on Saturday.

I need to tell you all that, although I was expecting a little milder winter weather when in Albuquerque, that was not the case at all. First of all, the journey to my destination was interrupted by a snowstorm in Albuquerque, and the small plane in which I traveled from Houston, needed to layover and refuel in El Paso until the storm passed. This was just the tip of the following frosty week!!!

Not allowing the freezing temperatures or the snow flurries to hamper the event, I joined with educators from across the nation, on Tuesday, for "Feasting on God's Abundance."

And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

2nd Corinthians 9:8

This was the theme of the P.O.I.N.T. meeting, as we were able to share with one another ideas and ministries in order to support the education program and faith formation in our congregations and presbyteries. As we progressed through the following hours, sharing meals at round tables, we also attended a total of four workshops. My choices included the introduction of a new lectionary based curriculum, other educational resources, faith practices, and the multi-age classroom. Since I, along with Dorothy VanderWerf, am a P.O.I.N.T. representative for the Palisades Presbytery, I look forward to sharing this information with other churches in our area.

Amidst the news that many were not able to get to Albuquerque because of the wild weather throughout the eastern half of the country, about 750 educators from Reformed congregations throughout the U.S. and Canada gathered for the opening worship on Wednesday afternoon. For me, this was the time to refresh and energize for the events to follow. Our keynote speaker was Rick Ufford-Chase, co-director at Stony Point Conference Center (which is just in our 'backyard'!)

March 2011

Worship Schedule

Sunday, March 6

Deacons Meeting

8:15 am

Worship and
Communion

**Preaching: The Rev.
Dr. Cleophus LaRue**

10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, March 9

Ash Wednesday

8:00 pm in Chapel

Sunday, March 13

Worship & Bible
School

10:00 a.m.

Bible School Chapel

Sunday, March 20

Worship & Bible
School

10:00 a.m.

Sunday, March 27

Worship & Bible
School

10:00 am

Continued on next page

Continued from first page:

During the four day event (“Walking in Balance”) to follow, we worshiped, sang (some in languages that I will never remember) songs, listened to Ufford-Chase talk about his journey to understand the apostle Paul, and the journeys of his life, and shared with those around the table in reflections of the topic.

There were workshops and tours of Albuquerque and the Menaul School, one of the mission recipients of our congregation. I was thrilled to be able to walk the campus and visit with the head of the school, Lindsey Gilbert. Menaul has been part of the Presbyterian Church for a very long time, and still is supported through our Christmas Joy offering. I will share more about this visit with you in the near future

I would like to thank our Pastor and Session for their support in my desire to attend this annual event. Staying connected with educators in the Presbytery and across the country has inspired me in my work with the First Presbyterian Church of Ramsey.

God bless you,
Florence

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March 2011

Pres Notes

A monthly,
newsletter of
The First

Presbyterian Church
The Rev. Beverly Dempsey
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**Editorial Submissions
Welcome!**

Send materials directly
to the church office:

ramseypc@verizon.net

You can also leave
submissions in the church office,
clearly marked *PresNotes* and
including your contact info.

IMPORTANT!!!

***PresNotes* submissions deadline
for the
April issue
will be**

**Tuesday
March 15, 2011**

Please submit your
material on or before the dead-
line date.

**Submissions
received after deadline
may not be included.**

Thank you!

WELCOME THE REV. DR. CLEOPHUS J. LARUE

Sunday, March 6, 2011



First Pres welcomes The Rev. Dr. Cleophus J. LaRue to our pulpit on March 6th. Dr. LaRue is Princeton Theological Seminary's Francis Landey Patton Professor of Homiletics. He specializes in the theory and method of African American preaching and worship. An ordained minister in the National Baptist Convention of America, LaRue is the former pastor of two churches in Texas as well as the former interim pastor of churches in Harlem and Jamaica Queens, New York.

Dr. LaRue received his B.A. and M.A. degrees from Baylor University, his M.Div. and Ph.D. degrees from Princeton Seminary. Dr. LaRue has authored and edited many noteworthy books on African American preaching and the African American preaching experience. He is a frequent speaker at churches, seminaries, and conferences throughout the country and is a member of the Academy of Homiletics.

A Study in the Word

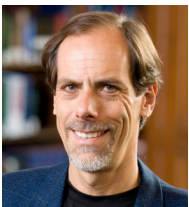
“How was the Bible Written?”

JEWISH, CHRISTIAN, AND HISTORICAL APPROACHES TO THE PSALMS

The fourth lecture of our five-part series with renowned Old Testament Scholar & author, Dr. David Carr..

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23RD AT 7:30 PM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 64 Passaic Street (CORNER UNION STREET), HACKENSACK
201-342-7570 www.fpchackensack.org



Professor David M. Carr is Professor of Old Testament at Union Theological Seminary (NYC). His research interests include the formation and shape of the Bible, sexuality and gender in the Bible, and the emergence of Scripture in the Jewish and Christian traditions. Dr. Carr has written prolifically on First Testament themes and is a wonderfully engaging presenter.

“Did you know that Jews & Christians have ordered the books we call the Bible differently? Did you know that Catholics and Protestants have different books that they include in the Bible? Come find out who assembled the book that various faith communities call - “The Bible” & why they did it in the way that they did.”

D. Carr

Music Notes

Special Thanks to LINDA SWEETMAN-WATERS, who has supported our music ministry these last few weeks with grace, talent, commitment and care. We look forward to her leadership in the future as an occasional substitute for our Interim Music Director.

On Ash Wednesday, we welcome ANITA BONTEKOE to our community. Anita will be our Interim Music Director, directing the choirs and playing the organ for a more extended period while we begin our search for a new Music Director.

The Search for our New Music Director is beginning. Our Human Resources Committee has fine-tuned the position's description and is identifying people to serve on the search committee. Our Request for Applications has been submitted to the American Guild of Organists and our first application has been received! Stay tuned for updates, or contact anyone on Human Resources for more information (Sharon Kroll, Chairperson).

Easter Music and Flower Fund:

We look forward to a season of fine worship services through Lent and Holy Week into Easter Morning. Our worship will be strengthened by the use of special instruments and vocalists and glorious flowers all around.

We would appreciate your additional financial support as we bring these special musicians and flowers to First Pres.

Please send your financial contributions to these funds to the Church Office, adding Music Fund to the memo line.



Thank you!

Lenten Season

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE FEAST IS MARCH 8TH (two seatings: 5 and 6:30 PM).

Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the ritual of shricing, when the faithful confessed their sins and received forgiveness before the Lenten season began. Historically Shrove Tuesday also marked the beginning of the 40-day Lenten fasting period when the faithful were forbidden to consume, meat, butter, or milk. However, if a family had a store of these foods they would certainly spoil by the time the fast ended on Easter Sunday....what to do...? Use up the milk, butter and eggs no later than Shrove Tuesday. So, with the addition of a little flour, voila, PANCAKES! So please join us in kicking off the Lenten season! Seating is limited so please purchase your tickets quickly! Tickets will be on sale in Fellowship Hall on March 6th (\$7 per adult and \$5 per child). You can also contact Karen Robator at karenrobator@yahoo.com. **See Pg 9 for more info.**



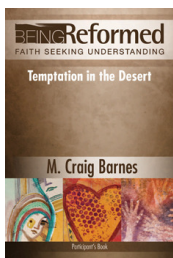
FROM FEAR TO LOVE LENTEN DEVOTIONAL GUIDE BY HENRI J.M. NOUWEN

is available in the Narthex or by Contacting Florence Ditko

From Fear to Love contains 46 reflections on the Parable of the Prodigal Son. The Reflection booklet is intended to be read daily from Ash Wednesday through Easter morning and will be sure to bring you encouragement and strength for your journey.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE OF PENITENCE AND HOPE IS MARCH 9TH in the sanctuary at 8:00pm

Ash Wednesday marks the first day of Lent. All are encouraged to attend, that we might begin together our Lenten Season of reflection and preparation with scripture readings, communion, prayer and song.



LENTEN REFLECTION AND BIBLE STUDY GROUP BEGINS *MARCH 16TH

Wednesdays through April 13th, from 7:00—8:30, in the Chapel.

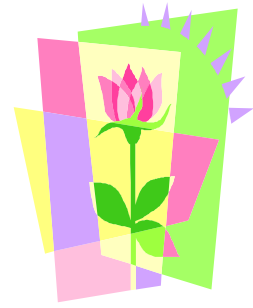
We will be working through the PC(USA) Lenten resource *Being Reformed: Temptation in the Desert*, which will be provided during our first session.

***Please note that *Being Reformed* will not meet on March 23rd, but will pick up on March 30th after a one week break to attend the FPC - Hackensack's Old Testament Lecture with David Carr.**

LENTEN REFLECTION EXHIBIT FROM MARCH 9TH THROUGH EASTER MORNING

Featuring select paintings by Lucy Janjigian. Each Wednesday, two new provocative paintings will be added to the Chapel to support your reflection. Notes about the texts used as basis for the paintings will be provided. DVDs of *Journey to Resurrection*, the collection from which the paintings have been selected, will be available for sale. Please see Beverly for more information.

We're beginning to 'think Spring' in the Bible School, as we look forward to the start of the new term on March 6th, with a new roster of teachers and assistants, and the joys of Easter and Pentecost, and our annual Sidewalk Art Day! We also anticipate the children celebrating Mother's Day in Worship.



Children's Chapel will be on March 13th for the Nursery Class through the 4th Grade. Our 5th-8th graders will go directly to class at 10 o'clock .

Please note that this is a second Sunday.

Our thanks to the Winter term teachers and assistants:

Thank you!

Bonnie and Stephanie Van Heest, Terri Peri, Laurie Spittler, Brittany McNaboe and Jacklyn Spittler, Meg Natale, Katie Vernon and Danielle Van Kampen, Laurie Tremblay, Margie Kaefer and Courtney Grothusen, Kenny Edler, Cheryl Oberson, Sarah and Chrissy Vita, and Tim Johnson and Hoover Chin. It is our great fortune to have such dedicated volunteers year after year, to bring the Word of God to life for our children in Nursery Class through the 8th grade. We have strong support of our program for children, and are always open to new volunteers interested in learning right alongside the children. Let your wishes be known to any member of the CE committee: Charlene Anema, Carolyn Blowers, Peg Kutner, Linda MacDonald, Cheryl Oberson , Cynthia Duell and Deacon rep, Sarah Vita. The CE committee welcomed Elder Paula Bartow at the February meeting and thanks Linda MacDonald for continuing as chair person.

Garage Sale (for a Cause...) Anyone?

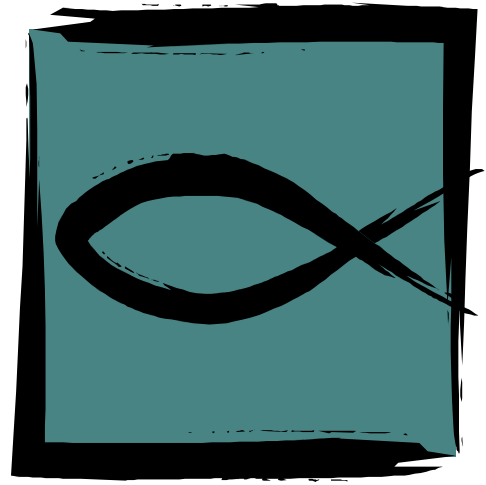
Save the date and save your treasures!

Saturday May 14th the Youth Group will be hosting a churchwide yard sale. You will have an opportunity to purchase a table and get rid of some of your unwanted treasures.

Stay tuned for more details.



One Great Hour of Sharing calendars and fish banks will be given to the children on March 20th. This program involves the whole family in that younger children will need assistance in counting and understanding the importance of sharing with our neighbors. Thank you parents for helping the children in this mission giving, and for bringing your children and fish banks to the Palm Sunday worship and Bible School on April 17th.



Think SUMMER and CAMP...



Our Presbyterian camp, Johnsonburg Camp and Conference Center in Western New Jersey has welcomed many of our present Bible school children and hundreds of former members and friends in the past. **Watch for a letter to all parents of our Bible school children (1st grade and up)**, if you haven't already received it. There will be brochures available in the Education Building and the Narthex for those who do not receive one in the mail. Partial scholarships are available to children in the Bible school on a limited basis, so please hurry and make your decision for your favorite activity and join in the fun at Johnsonburg this summer! Remember to give Peg Kutner, our camp registrar, your application information before sending it on to Johnsonburg.

Special Offering for Camp Johnsonburg There is a special envelope in the box that you received in January designated to go to our camp and conference center in Johnsonburg, NJ.

Please prayerfully consider your gift when you see this special envelope this year. Your gift may allow a child who cannot afford a wonderful week at camp to experience God in their life with other children.

Youth Corner and Happenings

The Jr. and Sr. High Youth Groups have now been meeting regularly as part of the Wednesday Midweek Program. Our new space in “The Barn” is fantastic, but is still a work in progress. We have been brainstorming new ideas and exciting things to happen in our space. Over the next few months we hope to see some of our ideas come to life! If you haven’t had a chance to come and check it out, please stop by the barn and see what great things are happening for our youth groups! Some things that we are looking to get out there now are game systems and computers. If any one has game systems or computers that they are planning on getting rid of, or would like to donate a new system please contact Karen Robator, karenrobator@yahoo.com!

Youth Group...

Youth group is a great place to hang out with friends, meet new friends, and explore your faith. We meet and discuss different topics from the Bible and from our own lives, go on outings, play lots of great games and watch cool movies. Please come and give it a try, and feel free to bring friends!

Youth Groups are an exciting part of MIDWEEK:

Jr. High Youth Group - Wednesdays
from 5:15-6:15 (dinner to follow)
Sr. High Youth Group - 7:00-9 with
dinner starting at 6:15.



March Events:

March 2: Regular Midweek Schedule

March 4-6: Confirmation Retreat at
Camp Johnsonburg

March 8: Pancake Dinner

March 16: Regular Midweek Schedule

March 23: Regular Midweek Schedule

Thanks to all who supported the Youth Groups efforts to raise money and soup for Souper Bowl Sunday. On February 6th we delivered 80 cans of soup and a \$256 donation to the Center for Food Action in Mah-



It's Chocolate Time Again!!!!

Back by popular demand the Youth Groups will be selling chocolates to help fill your Easter baskets! Chocolates will be on display to place orders down in Fellowship Hall on Sunday March 20th and Sunday March 27th. All chocolates will be ready for pick up on Palm Sunday, April, 17th. All profits from the chocolate sale go to support our summer mission trip to Maine.

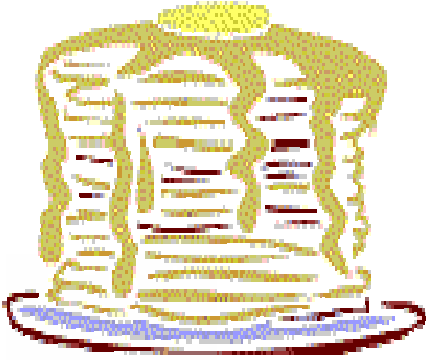
Please join us for a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Feast!

When: Tuesday, March 8th

Time: 5:00 and 6:30

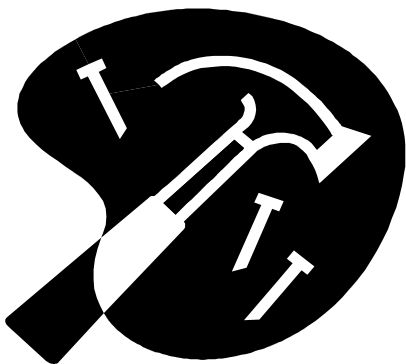
Where: The Metzger Room

Cost: \$7 per adult and \$5 per child



What is Shrove Tuesday? Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the ritual of shricing, when the faithful confessed their sins and received forgiveness before the Lenten season began. Historically Shrove Tuesday also marked the beginning of the 40-day Lenten fasting period when the faithful were forbidden to consume, meat, butter, or milk. However, if a family had a store of these foods they would certainly spoil by the time the fast ended on Easter Sunday...what to do...Use up the milk, butter and eggs no later than Shrove Tuesday. So, with the addition of a little flour, voila, PANCAKES!

So please join us in kicking off the Lenten season! There will be two seatings in the Metzger Room on the 8th. Seating is limited so please purchase your tickets quickly! Tickets will be on sale in Fellowship Hall on February 27th and March 6th. You can also contact Karen Robator at karenrobator@yahoo.com. We are looking forward to seeing you for what should be a great evening of good company and yummy pancakes!



Our dates for participating in **MISSION AT THE EASTWARD (M.A.T.E)** have been confirmed! We will be heading to Farmington, ME the week of July 23-30th, Please Mark your calendars and see the separate article in this issue of Pres Notes for more information!

Youth Group is about *you* and we would like all of you to be a part of it. Let your voice be heard in the church and come out and give Youth Group a try. It's really a lot of fun!



Please join us for a “vacation” you’ll never forget!
Mission at the Eastward (M.A.T.E.)

Mission at the Eastward cooperates as a parish of congregations and ministries located in West Central Maine bound together in Christ to witness and work by reaching out both locally and globally to individuals, congregations and communities by creating a place where God’s gifts and graces are multiplied and exemplified.

This summer a group of individuals from our church will be going to Farmington Maine the week of **July 23-30th** to take part in a wonderful mission opportunity. This group of people, 15 and older will help repair, rehabilitate, and construct the homes of elderly, handicapped, and low income people to help better their lives and the lives of the community. We will be staying on the campus of the University of Maine in Farmington and once again joining the group from Camp Hill, PA to work, play, and dine side by side for the week.

How can you help? By volunteering your time, tools, or donating to this wonderful cause. We need to have our group of 20-25 people together by May, and we need you to sign up to come with us! The cost of the week is still yet to be determined but will not exceed \$325.00 pp. We will be scheduling an informational meeting for April that you can learn more about the trip. If you have any questions regarding this trip before that, please contact Karen Robator by e-mail, karenrobator@yahoo.com or by calling her at the church.



Congregational Life

Congregational Life Committee takes on the important task of coordinating social events for the church family. Our traditional events include Fellowship Hour each Sunday, the Welcome Back Brunch in September, and the Church Picnic in June or July.

The Committee is looking to coordinate our traditional events, and to hopefully start some new traditions. Many in our Congregation have asked for more social activities to interact with others in our church family, and we are hoping to achieve just that. If you are interested and/or have suggestions, please join us at our next Congregational Life Meeting on Sunday, March 20th at 11:45 (following Fellowship Hour). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Chris Daly at 201-760-1483 or dalyc187@gmail.com.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Catching up with friends and making new ones is just one of the benefits of Fellowship Hour. People of all ages can enjoy coffee and tea, juice, and tasty treats, while socializing with fellow church members.

Special thanks go out to all the individuals and families who help host this important ministry of our church. If you believe hosting Fellowship Hour is a perfect opportunity for you to contribute to the church, please contact Chris Daly at 201-760-1483 or dalyc187@gmail.com. It requires a couple of hours of your time on one or two Sunday mornings throughout the year.

The following is a schedule for the upcoming weeks. As always, if the date does not work with your schedule, please switch with someone and notify Chris and Irma of the switch.



MARCH & APRIL SCHEDULE

Mar 6 - Clifford and Strangfeld

Mar 13 - Knipp

Mar 20 - Talarico

Mar 27 - Fitzsimmons

Apr 3 -

Apr 10 - Daly

Apr 17 - Palm Sunday

Apr 24 - Easter Sunday



THE LITERARY LADIES will meet Wednesday, March 30th at 10 am to discuss "Red Hook Road" by Aylet Waldman. Please join us. Questions: call Jane Moser, 845-504-5179.

Connections Book Group is reading "The Coral Thief" by Rebecca Stott for February. Set in Paris in 1815, it is the cat-and-mouse tale of a young Englishman in pursuit of a priceless coral specimen stolen from him by a notorious thief being pursued by the law. Our discussion will take place on Tuesday, February 15th at 7:30 PM in the Metzger Room. All are welcome. Any questions, please call Di French at 201-327-4596.

First Friday Fellowship!

Will meet **on the 1st Friday this month, the 4th, at 11:45 in the Metzger Room.** Sign up today at fellowship time, or call the church office by Tuesday, March 1st.

Threads of Comfort

Threads of Comfort has gotten off to a wonderful start and our thanks go out to everyone who has helped in both large and small ways! Please bring the need of a Prayer Shawl to the attention of any member of the ministry.

Our next meeting will be on **Monday, March 7th at 7:30 in the Metzger room.** The morning session is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 15th at 10 am.** If you would like to host a meeting, please notify Audrey Talarico or Meg Acer. This would most likely be held in the newly renovated "Barn" at the Church. If you are interested in attending the morning session, please speak with Audrey Talarico with your day preferences.

Please keep the **Threads of Comfort** in mind if you have any extra yarn that needs a home! We do request that the yarn be acrylic or polyester for easy wash-ability and less chance of allergic reactions. Donations can be made at any time and left at the Church office.



MEMBERSHIP CORNER

- Have you been worshipping here for a while or are new to our church?
- Do you want to get to know our church leaders more?
- Interested in Learning More About Our Church?

If you answer yes to any of the above, you have 2 opportunities this spring to share a meal with church leaders; and learn more about membership in our church.

Saturday, March 26th: Start your Saturday with coffee, breakfast and fellowship from 9:30-11:30

Friday, April 2nd: End the work week with dinner and fellowship from 7-9.

Please RSVP to the church office with number attending and if you need babysitter. Questions, contact Lisa Thompson 201-962-2554; ljt101@verizon.net

March VOLUNTEERS:

Many thanks to our Volunteers.

You make members and guests alike feel the welcoming spirit of our church!

March 6th

Presiding Elder: Rey Silitonga

Ushers: Bob & Kay Gray, Bill Petty & Bill Perkins

Communion Servers: Lind McDonnell, Nancy Drennen, Bob Drennen, Karen Clifford,

Terri Peri, Bob Gray, Mike Peri, Bill Petty

Coffee Hour:

Crib & Crawl: Bonnie Van Heest & Michael Kaefer

Counters: Margaret Wissler & Nancy Drennen

March 9th-Ash Wednesday

March 13th

Presiding Elder: Lisa Thompson

Ushers: Joanne Barg, Alden Hansell, Cynthia Duell, Carol Dorsey

Coffee Hour:

Crib & Crawl: Gina McDade & Melissa Young-Crozet

Counters: Judy McDonnell & Ralph Vita

March 20th

Presiding Elder: Lisa Thompson

Ushers: Carolyn Blowers, Nester & Celia Sagullo, Karen Clifford

Coffee Hour:

Crib & Crawl: Allison McLaughlin & Christina Vita

Counters: Robert Gray & William Petty

March 27th

Presiding Elder: Leisyl Kleinberg

Ushers: The Van Heest family; George, Bonnie, Stephanie & Stacie

Coffee Hour:

Crib & Crawl: Jamie Brisby & Danielle LoPresti

Counters: Polly Fitzsimmons and Di French



Celebrations

Birthdays in March

March 2nd: Amy Myers

March 4th: Ian Bruinooge

7th: Kyle Bruinooge

9th: Bobby Tommaney

15th: Jennifer Lundberg

17th: Alex Thompson

23rd: Dana Leone

29th: Connie Taylor

March Anniversaries

March 22, 1968 Myra and Jim Daw

March 26, 1983 Pat and Jack Linard

March 31, 1978 Linda and John MacDonald