

PresNotes

From The Pastor's Desk

The Christian Life As Journey

I am very thankful my journey of faith has brought me to Ramsey Presbyterian Church. As our paths intersect in the first few weeks and months, I look forward to beginning a relationship with you - a relationship that we can nurture through service, fellowship, bible study and worship.

During my first several weeks in the pulpit, I am going to take a closer look at our spiritual journeys and the ongoing nature of the Christian life. Do you remember when you made a commitment to follow Christ? Unfortunately, it is easy to assume that making the commitment is the end of the journey and not the beginning. Our commitment to follow Jesus is a life-long one, borne of our desire to respond to the love and grace shown to us in Christ.

One of the most important ways to respond is to share your faith with others. The way you live your life can be an invitation for others to follow Jesus. Our journey is for Christ, but it affects and is wrapped up in the lives of others. Jesus' life, in fact, was driven by his desire to lift up those who had fallen, heal those who were broken, and encourage those who struggled. What might it mean to live in response to this sort of Lord? What does it mean to follow Jesus? As we begin to answer these questions together, the shape of our journey will emerge. Wherever our journey takes us, Jesus' invitation to us is a simple one: "Come, follow me."

Reverend Steve Huston



FEBRUARY 2012

Sunday, February 5

Worship and
Scout Sunday

Sunday, February 12

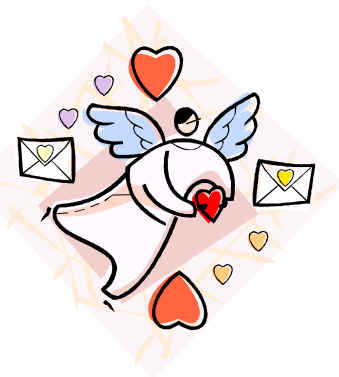
Worship and
Bible School Chapel
Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 19

Worship and
Bible School

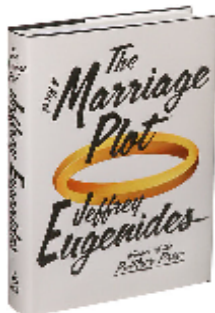
Sunday, February 26

Worship and
Bible School



Literary Ladies

The Literary Ladies will meet on February 29 at 10:00 in the McDermott Room to discuss "The Marriage Plot" by Jeffrey Eugenides. "The Marriage Plot" charts the emotional peregrinations of three slightly older characters, as they navigate their way through college and the uncertainties of the real world after graduating in 1982. Questions? Call Meg Bray at 845 357-2159.



Connections Book Group

Connections Book Group is reading "Homer & Langley" by E.L. Doctorow for February. It is the story about the infamous New York hermits, the Collyer brothers. Homer Colliers, blind, and his brother Langley, a WWI mustard-gas victim, become recluses in their Fifth Avenue brownstone, hoarding newspapers and collecting odd things, until they become imprisoned by their vast accumulations. Copies are available at the Ramsey Library. Our discussion will take place on Wed., February 15th at 7:30 PM in the Metzger Room. All are welcome. Any questions, please call Di French at 201-327-4596.



Pres Notes

A monthly newsletter of
The First Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Steve Huston
Pastor

15 Shuart Lane
Ramsey, NJ 07446
Office: 201-327-3879
Fax: 201-236-5095

**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 dead-
line for the
March issue will be
Monday, February 20, 2012

Please submit your material on
or before
the deadline date.
**Submissions received after dead-
line
may not be included.**
Thank you!

In this Issue of Pres Notes

Pastor Introduction	1
Book Groups	2
Birthday Celebrations	3
Christian Education News	4
Youth Corner	6
Congregational Life	8
Deacon's Corner	10
Greeters and Ushers Schedule	12
Worship Services Broadcast	12
Staff	13



February Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

Feb 1	Brendan Linard
4	William Hunt
3	Matt Desimone
5	Tanner Kleinberg
13	Gerald Duvall
13	Peggy Wissler
13	Gladys Terry
18	Mike Desimone
20	Daria Blanco
28	Nancy Desimone

Anniversaries

Nora & Paul Talarico February 10, 1979

Christian Education News

Children's Chapel

February 12th at 10 o'clock for Nursery through 4th Graders.
5th -8 graders will go directly to class at 10 o'clock



For parents attending the Annual Meeting: Please let the teachers know if you will be staying for the meeting. We will have an activity for children who remain after Bible School.

Adult Nurture

First Friday Fellowship (for the over 60 crowd) will meet on February 10th at 11:45 in the Metzger Room. **Please sign up** at Fellowship Hour or by calling the church office (201-327-3879) by Wednesday, February 8th if you plan to come.

Lenten Study for Adults will be led by Reverend Steve Huston on the Wednesdays during Lent. See the full page flyer in this issue, and return your sign-up form so that we have materials ready for each participant.

Bible School Happenings

The Bible School Mission Offering, collected on the first Sunday of every month, helps us in the Bible School "make a difference" in our neighborhood and in the world. **Please remember** that the **1st Sunday is Mission Sunday at Bible School**, and bring your gifts to class. Our mission offerings were donated at the end of 2011 to Ramsey Responds, the Center for Food Action and to the American Bible Society.

Preparing for the Season of Lent

Children in Nursery through Grade 6 will be given Lenten resources to be used at home with their families as you prepare for the holy season ahead. Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, begins the Lenten season.

It's that time of year again! **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. 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. Registrations can be done via the internet, but Peg still needs to have registration confirmation before scholarships can be given. We also need to have everyone's name to include them in the Commissioning Service in June.



A Lenten Study for Adults

“Looking to the Cross and Learning the Gospel”



Will you take up your cross and follow?

Prepare to enter into a season of reflection on the suffering of Jesus, as we turn to Romans, Ephesians and the Gospel of Matthew.

We must follow Jesus to Calvary.

Reverend Steve Huston will lead the study
on Wednesday evenings
February 29th, March 7th, 21st and 28th
and April 4th
at 7 o'clock

with an introduction to the study
on Ash Wednesday in worship at 8 pm

Please return this rsvp to the church office so that we will have study material ready for you. Thank you!

I will attend the Lenten Study on the following dates.....

____ February 29

____ March 28

____ March 7

____ April 4

____ March 21

Youth Corner and Happenings

The Jr. and Sr. High Youth Groups have now been meeting regularly on Wednesday nights. 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. If any one has game systems 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

February Events

February 1	Regular Midweek Schedule
February 5	Souper Bowl Sunday
February 8	Regular Midweek Schedule
February 15	Regular Midweek Schedule
February 21	Pancake Dinner
February 22	No Youth Group (Ash Wednesday)
February 29	Jr, High Youth Group And Confirmation



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 21-28th, Please Mark your calendars, and plan on joining us for this great

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



Souper Bowl of Caring

More than 20 years ago, Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:
“Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat.”

Since that day, more than \$71 million has been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around Super Bowl weekend into the nation’s largest celebration of giving and serving.

Through this mission, young people learn what it’s like to make a positive difference in the world – as they collect food, raise money and volunteer to work in charities that provide shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry and compassion to those in need.

Be part of this movement that is sharing God’s love with those in need. Please bring a can of soup and at least \$1 with you to church on Souper Bowl Sunday, February 5, 2012!

Please join us for a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Feast!

When: Tuesday, March 8th

Time: 6:00 pm

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 shriving, 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 of the Lenten season! Seating is limited so please purchase your tickets quickly! Tickets will be on sale in Fellowship Hall on February 5th and 12th. 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!

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

As we start 2012, the Committee is looking to coordinate our traditional events, and to hopefully start some new traditions. If you are interested and/or have suggestions, please join us at our next Congregational Life Meeting on Sunday, February 12th 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 Barb Abbamont and the church office of the switch. Many thanks in advance to our February hosts.

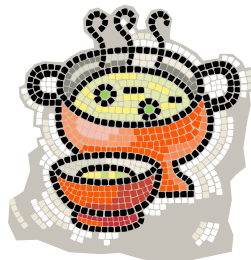
Feb 5 – TBA

Feb 12 – Pat and Bob Zimmerman

Feb 19 – Cerelia and Alexis Pellechio

Feb 26 – Jennifer Galichon

Soup Tasting Potluck: Pam and Ron Weaver have graciously offered to host the annual Soup Tasting Potluck dinner again this year. The date will be determined shortly. For anyone that has not attended before, it is a wonderful time with good friends, good conversation and most of all, good food! Come hungry!

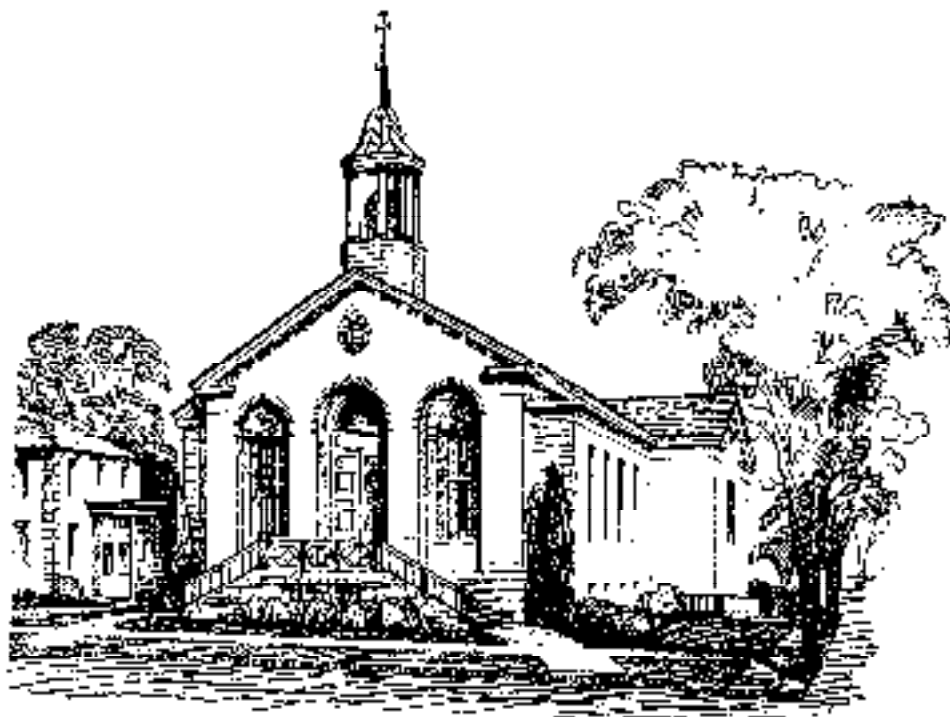


MEMBERSHIP CORNER

As we continue forward with the start of Steve's ministry with us, we anticipate more visitors than usual. I am looking for 2 people from Ramsey and each of the surrounding towns to take Welcome Bags to visitors. Having a friendly neighbor greet you and provide info on the church goes a long way towards considering active participation in the life of our church. Karen Hunter is baking banana bread to fill the welcome bags; please let me know if you could help. We'll freeze the bread so its available when a visitor attends. Please contact Lisa Thompson at 201-962-2554 or ljt101@verizon.net to volunteer!

A growing membership correlates to a growing church body. But it is not just the membership's committee's responsibility; it is all of our responsibility. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to attend a Sunday morning service. For those that are unchurched, sometimes attending a social function to "break the ice" prior to attending Sunday morning is more comfortable.

For those of you who are regularly attendees but not members, we will be scheduling an Inquirers Breakfast this spring. Stay tuned for more info!



Our Congregational Care Forum is back in February!

Join us Monday evening, February 6, 2012 at 7pm in the Chapel
Presentation by Sophia Heftler of Distinctive Care

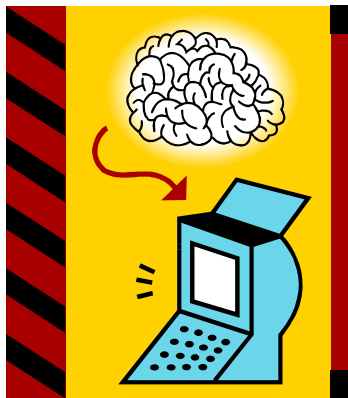
“Maximizing Your Memory”

Learn what memory is and how your memory works.

This seminar will discuss what simple things
can be done to improve your memory.

Find out what normal memory loss is and what it is not.
Discover when memory loss should be investigated further
with your physician and become informed
about some of the current medications used for memory loss,
Alzheimer's and the various other form of dementia.

Sophia Heftler, RN, MSN, CMC, CALA, CDP ®, founder of Distinctive Care, a geriatric care management practice, has specialized in working with older adults for more than 20 years. She has had experience as Director of Nursing Services at nursing homes, served as executive director at assisted living facilities and is a Certified Geriatric Care Manager & member of the National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers. She founded Distinctive Care Geriatric Care Management and also serves on the Board of Trustees of The Mental Health Association of New Jersey.



FEBRUARY 2012 DEACONS CORNER

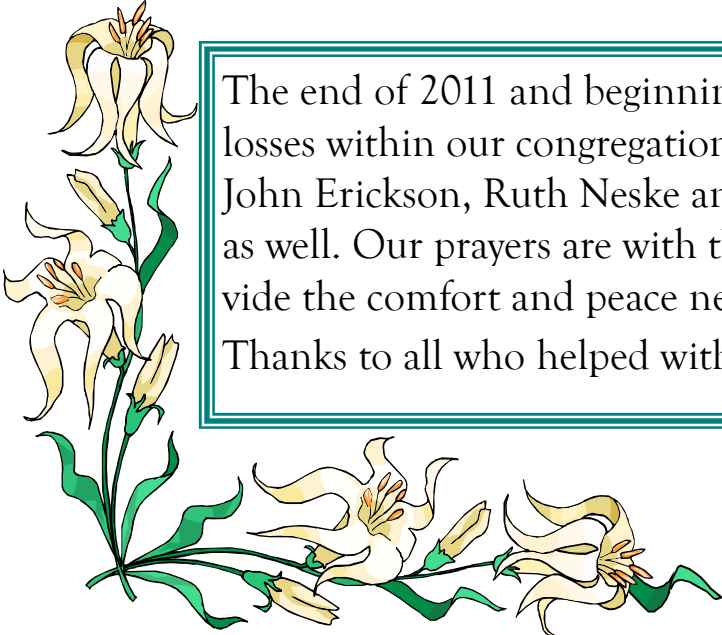


There's a chill in the air, but we are warming up for an exciting year with our new team of deacons. Our committees are kicking off plans for warming the hearts of those in need, too. Some of these are: Special Needs, Bereavement Services, Friends at Home, Flowers, Transportation, and Mission.

We are revisiting these committees to determine what is working well and what we can do better! With the new energy and experience combined, we hope to further prove we are a special church with a warm Heart♥! We welcome feedback from the congregation...if you have been "touched by a deacon" and would like to share your experience, please let us know ...drop us a note at the church office or in the collection, tell a deacon or email Kathy Checke, Moderator, chekat@optonline.net. We want to hear your positive experiences, but also welcome suggestions. Anonymous okay!

Deacon's Freezer Project

Talk about freezing temps!....We had a few glitches in the delivery of our new freezer so our launch of this program was somewhat delayed. But things are falling in place and you will be hearing of new ways you can help the deacons provide comfort and care to those in need. We plan to stock the freezer with family meals, individual meals, soups, breads and desserts. If you have a good idea for a recipe that freezes well or can help with meals or baked goods for the freezer, please let us know....call Special Needs chairperson, Carol Anderson at 201-327-7272.



The end of 2011 and beginning of 2012 unfortunately brought some losses within our congregation. We lost long-time friends and members John Erickson, Ruth Neske and Irene Bush. Pam Weaver lost her father as well. Our prayers are with these families and we hope they help provide the comfort and peace needed in these difficult days.

Thanks to all who helped with the Erickson reception.



February 2012 Schedule

	Ushers	Presiding Elder	Fellowship Hour Hosts	Crib and Crawl
February 5	Scouts	Jack Greenshields	Bob and Pat Zimmermann	Jaime Brisby Michael Kaefer
February 12	Jim Daw Myra Daw Ernie Lepori Phyllis Lepori	Chris Daly	TBA	Becky Drennen Alexis Pellachio
February 19	Jack Fitzsimmons Polly Fitzsimmons Rick Schoenlank Sharon Schoenlank	Joe LoPresti	Cerelia Pellachio Alexis Pellechio	Allison McLaughlin Alexa Clarke
February 26	Bob Zimmermann Pat Zimmermann Frank Hunter Karen Hunter	Sharon Kroll	Jennifer Galichon	Gina McDade Veronica Ditko



Services Broadcast

The First Presbyterian Sunday Service is broadcast by Cablevision on the Mahwah and Rockland County system on Wednesdays, Channel 76 from 3:00 to 4:00 pm. This is in addition to the 13 towns in our Ramsey area that can view the broadcast on Tuesdays on channel 76 from 5:00 to 6:00 pm.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
RAMSEY, NEW JERSEY

STAFF

Reverend Steve Huston, Pastor
Dr. Paul Undreiner, Organist and Music Director
Florence Ditko, Christian Education Director
Karen Robator, Youth Ministry Director
Meg Acer, Temporary Office Manager
John Yager, Custodian
Daniel Knipp and Will Peri, Sextons

SESSION

Class of 2011

Paula Bartow, Mission
Carolyn Blowers, Nominating
Chris Daly, Congregational Life
Jennifer Galichon, Finance, Stewardship, WW
Paul Knipp, Communications
Merrill Simpson, Worship and Music

Class of 2012

Chris Christiansen, Human Resources
Tim Edler, Youth
Judy Highberger, Mission
Lisa Thompson, Membership
George Van Heest, Operations
Ralph Vita, Christian Education

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class 2012

Kathy Checke, Vice moderator
Nancy Christiansen
Alberta Kulik
Joann Vita

Class 2013

Carol Anderson
Nancy Drennen
BoJane Heap
Lestra Litchfield
Mike Peri—Treasurer

Class 2014

Joann Barg
Polly Fitzsimmons
Peg Kutner
Claudia Monteith
Hope Quimby



First Pres Transportation Team is looking for drivers to take our otherwise homebound members to church, special appointments and maybe even to the grocery store. If you're willing to help even one time a month, please contact our Transportation Team Coordinator, Lestra Litchfield (201.684.0466) or e-mail 3LLITCH3@optonline.net. *The Transportation Team is just one more way our Deacons extend care and compassion throughout the church.*

15 Shuart Lane, Ramsey, NJ 07446
201.327.3879 www.ramseypc.org