
PresNotes



In the late 90s when my family was first forming, Joe and I would take his kids golfing on Sunday afternoons. This was a terrific way for the five of us to get to know each other without distraction from videos, gameboys and audio headsets. In between riding and walking, swinging our clubs and missing the ball, we got in a lot of laughs and created a few stories that have grown bigger than life. One story has especially good traction. It's about a guy we saw every Sunday trolling around the golf course on a cart. My step-kids would joke that he was "wandering around aimlessly for no apparent reason."

If a group of people would peer down the fairway at your life for any given span of time, would they think that you're wandering through life aimlessly for no apparent reason?

St. Catherine of Siena is attributed as writing, "Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire." There's plenty of room for each of us to prayerfully consider who God is meaning for us to be in order that we set the world on fire in his mission. Are we spending each moment of our lives to the glory of God, helping people to feel the love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ and the community of the church wherever we go?

At a Church Development and Evangelism Conference I attended in August, we talked about this a bit. Let's assume that the average Presbyterian spends 5% of her waking life in active mission in the church. That would translate into about 5 ½ hours a week spent attending worship and participating in programs, leaving 95% of our waking time – about 100 hours – for us to witness to Christ with our day to day lifestyle. Are all of our words and our actions, our activities and our spending, consistent with God's burning desire for each one of us inside and outside of the church.

As individual Christians and as members of the body of Christ, we have a role to play in setting the world aflame with delight in the Lord no matter where we are. Please don't wander around aimlessly, for no apparent reason! Wander around sharing the love of Christ with everyone you meet and help to light up the sky with Christian hope for all people.

On the following pages, you will see how our church committees and leadership are bringing you tremendous opportunities for spiritual renewal, personal growth in your biblical and theological knowledge, compassionate care for one another and plain, good fun. As we move into this new program year at First Pres, I pray that you will seize every chance you can get to come together for these refueling experiences in order to "rekindle the gift of God that is within you..." (2 Timothy 1:6, NRSV) and remain vital sources for magnifying our Lord wherever we are and with whomever we meet along the way.

Love,
Beverly



September 2011

Worship at 10:00 am

Sunday, September 4

AGAPE Communion
Worship at 10

Sunday, September 11

A Worship Service to the
Glory of God and in
Memorial of the 10th Anni-
versary of the Events of
September 11, 2001
At 10



Sunday, September 18

Worship and Bible School
Reopening at 10

Welcome Back Brunch
following worship

Sunday, September 25

Worship and Bible School
at 10

A Worship Service to the Glory of God and in
Memorial of the 10th Anniversary of the Events of
September 11th, 2001

September 11, 2011 at 10:00 am

All of life is a journey. Our experience on 9/11 and the years since have been a meaningful part of that journey. On September 11, 2011, First Pres will have a special, reflective service of scripture and music. During our time of worship, we will acknowledge our remaining fears and respect any haunting anger, and help one another move in faith and hope and love toward Christ's vision of a new heaven and a new earth.



Center for Food Action

Taking Action Against Hunger and Homelessness

The CFA desperately needs our help.

Please consider bringing at least one bag of non-perishable food per month.

Most needed items:

- Canned Meat (tuna, chicken, etc.)
- Canned Hearty Soup
- Canned Vegetables
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Cereal (low sugar kids cereal welcome)
- Dry Milk (e.g., boxed Parmalat)
- Canned Fruit
- Instant Potatoes
- 100% Juice
- Baby Formula & Diapers sizes 4, 5 & 6
- Bar Soap
- Toothpaste & Toothbrush
- Supermarket Gift Cards

THANK YOU!

Pres Notes

A monthly newsletter of
The First Presbyterian Church
The Rev. Beverly Dempsey
Transitional 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 deadline for the
October issue will be Thursday,
September 15, 2011**

Please submit your material on or before
the deadline date.

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

Thank you!

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Paul S. Undreiner, Ph.D.

Organist and Music Director

We are pleased to announce that **Paul S. Undreiner, Ph.D.**, has accepted our invitation to become the next Organist and Music Director at First Presbyterian Church.

Paul is currently the Music Director of First Presbyterian Church of Perth Amboy. He also sits on the faculty of the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University, from which he received his PhD in Music Theory and Composition. Paul has composed many liturgical pieces and has studied, conducted and performed around the world.

Paul is married to Caitlyn. He and Caitlyn have a 2 year old daughter, Clara. They live in Old Bridge, NJ, but plan to move to the Ramsey area as soon as practicable. Paul will begin to worship with us on Sunday, October 23rd.

Chancel and Bell Choirs—Stay tuned for more information about practice days and times. Watch your e-mail for a greeting from Paul, too. It will be a privilege and a joy to work with Paul! You'll want to extend him a hearty, First Pres welcome.

Thank you, members of the Choir and the Search Committee, especially Sharon Kroll, Chair, for all of your prayerful work and many hours spent.

PNC PROGRESS REPORT 8/15/11

Since its formation in February of this year, the Pastor Nominating Committee has been making good progress towards finding a pastor for our church. The members of the PNC are: Charlene Anema, Meg Acer, Steve Ditko, Paul Felice, Daniel Knipp, Nora Talarico, Michael Treni (chair), Ron Weaver, and Mee Lon Yee.

In March, the committee began work on updating the church's CIF (church information form). Normally a long and potentially contentious process, the writing of the CIF was completed in approximately four weeks. It was presented to the Session on May 4th where it was well received, but returned to the PNC for some minor revisions. The revised CIF was approved at the June meeting of Session and sent to the Palisades Presbytery for the required approvals and entry into the PCUSA Church Leadership Connection web site. The CLC web site matches the CIF of churches announcing a pastoral call with the PIF (personal information form) of those pastors looking for a new church. The CLC process matches past experience, desired salary, church demographics, geographic preference, and primary skills. Our church's CIF was posted on the CLC web site on June 8 and we began receiving PIFs almost immediately.

To date, the PNC has received responses from 53 pastoral candidates interested in learning more about our church and our position of Pastor/Head of Staff. The majority of these inquiries are the result of CLC matches, though we have received several self-referrals from pastors who have learned of our call through other channels. Of the 53 inquiries, we have conducted pre-screening calls with 10 candidates and conducted Skype video-conferencing calls with 5 of these candidates and the entire PNC. We continue to receive PIFs from CLC and will follow up with those candidates that meet the qualifications of our call.

Of the 5 candidates interviewed, we are continuing a dialogue with 3 of these candidates. Members of the PNC recently visited one candidate's church to observe a worship service. We are in the process of arranging a neutral pulpit exchange for this particular candidate so that the entire PNC can hear and meet the candidate in person. Visits and neutral pulpit exchanges for the other qualified candidates may soon follow.

Though we cannot and should not project a date for the calling of a new pastor, we feel that the committee is on schedule to complete its work within the time allotted by Session.

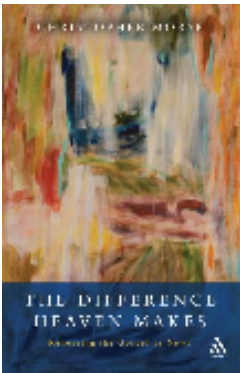
Sincerely,

Michael Treni
Chair, PNC

The Difference Heaven Makes

First Pres welcomes The Rev. Christopher Morse, PhD. for a book signing and discussion of his latest work:

"The Difference Heaven Makes: Rehearing the Gospel as Good News" OCTOBER 12, 7:30 PM IN THE CHAPEL



"The reason I titled my book "The Difference Heaven Makes" is that I find that the subject of heaven is trivialized today in both academic and popular contexts. Heaven becomes, as one author has written, "whatever we want it to be." We should work harder as theologians and scholars to convey as clearly and vitally as possible how it all really matters.

The core message of the Gospel regarding heaven...is that it's not about religion so much as about what we take to be "the real world." It's fascinating, when you think about it, that in the Bible heaven is referred to most often in terms of that which is now coming to pass in contrast to what Paul refers to as "the form of this world that is passing away." The most real thing about our present life on Earth now is heaven. If that is indeed the news of the Gospel, it's rather surprising to hear, isn't it?"

<http://www.salisburypost.com/Opinion/010911-insight-heaven-pic-qcd>

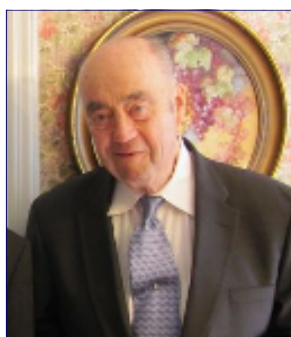
Professor Christopher Morse is Dietrich Bonhoeffer Chair in Theology and Ethics Union Theological Seminary (NYC). Dr. Morse is an ordained minister of the United Methodist Church. His field of research and teaching is systematic theology, with particular emphasis on developing the practice of dogmatics and ethics as a "testing of the spirits" in regard to formative Christian dogmatic traditions and to the contemporary significance and assessment of church doctrines.



Dr. Morse is one of Union Seminary's most highly regarded and dearly loved members of faculty. He is an extraordinarily captivating lecturer. You truly won't want to miss what promises to be an engaging and provocative discussion. First Pres is privileged to host Dr. Christopher Morse this October.

Dr. Morse's presentation on October 12th will be our first Midweek Adult Nurture Program of the church school year. Please plan to come to this and all of our upcoming events in the Chapel on the Second Wednesday evening of each month.

Thanks to Florence Ditko and our Christian Education Committee for their hard work in bringing tremendous educational experiences to us throughout the year.



World Communion Sunday, October 2, 2011

Celebrating the 65th Year of Ordination of The Rev. Donald P. Smith, D.D.

First Pres is privileged to have as our preacher for World Wide Communion Sunday The Reverend Donald P. Smith, Honorably Retired Minister of Word and Sacrament of the Presbyterian Church (USA). This year, the church is celebrating Dr. Smith's 65th year of ordination; we are privileged to count Don and his wife among us.

The son of a Presbyterian pastor and missionary, Dr. Smith was raised in the Philippines until he was 17 years old. He returned to live in Manila with his wife, Verna, just after World War II. Don served the Presbyterian Church as General Director of Vocational Agency and spearheaded the building of Stony Point Conference Center as a respite home for our Missionaries abroad. He is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, San Francisco Theological Seminary and Union Theological Seminary (NYC).

Of course, Don has served First Presbyterian Church several times as an Interim Pastor. Now, Don and Verna are active members of the Cedar Crest retirement community in Pompton Plains. They worship with us as often as possible. Don, who is the author of several books including his most recent, *We Survived War's Crucible* (Bloomington: Authorhouse, 2007), is currently editing Verna's latest book and working on his memoirs.

Please plan to attend worship for World Wide Communion on October 2nd.

Celebrate Christ, Our Peace

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY AND BIBLE SCHOOL OPENING DAY

Join us on Sunday, September 18th in worship at 10 o'clock, as we welcome everyone back to Bible School. The Nursery Class of 3 year-olds through 7th and 8th graders will meet in the Sanctuary. Our team teachers, assistants and Bible School support team will be introduced and the dedication of our entire education ministry team will take place. As is our tradition, children in the third grade will receive their Bibles before heading to class. For newcomers to First Presbyterian Church, registration in the Bible School can take place prior to opening day by calling Florence Ditko in the education office (201-327-3879 Ext.4). Registration forms will also be available at Fellowship Hour on September 4th and 11th.

Third Graders who will receive their Bibles are Ava Bajakian, Lindsay Clark, Caroline Johnston, Sean Kelly, Tanner Kleinberg, Michael Laino, Charleston (Charlie) Simpson, Kyle Springer and Solia Bommarito. If we have missed your 3rd grader, please let us know in the office.

Prior to the opening of Bible School, teachers will gather on Monday September 12th in the Social Room for Orientation at 7:30 p.m. All teachers and assistants are invited for this time of getting acquainted with the curriculum, meeting your grade team for the year, hearing about worship education for the children, and planning for opening day on the 18th. Curriculum for the fall term is available in the education office prior to the meeting. RSVP: 201-327-3879 x4.

Note to Parents: Curriculum for Nursery Class through the 6th grade is published especially for use in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) by Congregational Ministries Publishing in Louisville, KY. *We Believe* focuses on our Reformed heritage. In different ways, each age level includes content from Reformed creeds, confessions, catechisms and statements of faith. *We Believe* tells the stories of our faith in a variety of ways to allow for different learning styles as well as for age appropriateness. For those who have come to the Church from other faith traditions, the curriculum serves as a basis for understanding who we are and what Presbyterians believe. The 7th and 8th graders are using Standard Publishing's *Young Teen Encounter: Meeting God Face to Face*.

Bible School Missions are an important aspect of our program with the children. On the first Sunday of the month, our Bible School offering is designated for mission, both at home and abroad, instilling a way for the children to experience the kind of giving that their parents do in the larger church. We donate gift cards to the Center for Food Action and Bibles to the American Bible Society at Christmastime, and collect warm winter apparel for Ramsey Responds on our Mitten Tree. Our hands-on projects also include creating greeting cards for the Best Medicine Cart at Valley Hospital, and filling backpacks with donated school supplies for the Center for Food Action before the opening of school in September. Our classes support CFA with a food drive in October and an ongoing program for Menaul School in Albuquerque, NM with their food label collection. More on this updated project will be given out in September. The children are also involved in the One Great Hour of Sharing by filling fish banks during Lent, joining with the congregation to support missions near and far.

'Crib and Crawl' volunteers offer child care throughout the year for infants to 3-year olds, when they become eligible to 'graduate' to the Nursery class. Our coordinator, Danielle LoPresti, puts together a roster of adults and teens who care for the little ones during Worship. Danielle can be reached at daniellelopresti@hotmail.com.

Youth Corner and Happenings!

This is an invitation for all 6-12th Graders!!!!

Come check out Youth Group and some of the activities that we have planned for the year! Two Youth Groups (Jr. Highs 6-8th grade and Sr. Highs 9-12th grade) and the Confirmation Class meet at different times during Wednesday's MIDWEEK program. It doesn't matter if you live in Ramsey, Mahwah, Hawthorne, etc. We have kids from all different towns who attend youth group. We get together and have a great time every week, I encourage you to come and check it out! We also have fun activities that we would like to plan, and if you come to Youth Group, you can have a say in what we do!!! Please look over the rest of this newsletter so that you know some of the dates, and more details on what is going on! I look forward to seeing you all in September! Any questions? E-mail me (karenrobator@yahoo.com)!

**Karen Robator
Youth Ministry Director**

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. Come out and give it a try and bring along some friends!

Youth Groups are an exciting part of MIDWEEK:

Jr. High Youth Group - Wednesdays from 5:15-6:15

Sr. High Youth Group - 7:00-9 You won't want to miss it!

***We will have dinner together on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:15!**

Our Meeting Space

Last September we took over the "Red Barn" out back for the Youth Group Space. We have been working on making it a cool space, but it is still a work in progress!

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!

CONFIRMATION CLASS 2011-2012

For those of you entering 9th grade or above, you are invited to join this year's Confirmation Class! Confirmation is a time for you to study your faith, your church, and your commitment to both.

This year's class will meet from September through May. The kick-off meeting for Confirmands, Parents, and Mentors will be September 28th at 7:30 pm. Confirmation Sunday will be May 20th. Our classes usually meet the 4th Wednesday of the month from 7:30-9:00.

As part of the Confirmation Process, you will choose a mentor from our congregation who you will meet with regularly and hopefully develop a personal relationship with and they will help you through the confirmation process. There are also several requirements as part of the Confirmation class and some of them include attending a Session, Deacon, and Committee Meeting, completing service hours, being part of some mission projects, attending a weekend retreat at Camp Johnsonburg, and writing a Statement of Faith.

If you are interested in joining this year's Confirmation Class, please be in touch with Karen Robator (karenrobator@yahoo.com) by September 15, 2011. We are looking forward to a great class!

Confirmation Class Team Building Retreat

at the Church October 1st (Saturday)-October 2nd (Sunday)

From 7pm – 10am if you can't make it exactly at 7, you're still invited to come any time after that.

Pizza, Soda and a Movie will be provided

For more info and to register contact Kenny Edler at kenny.edler@yahoo.com

2011-2012 Confirmation Schedule

Sep 28:	Kick off meeting for Confirmands, Parents and Mentors 7:00-7:30	March 2-4	Weekend Retreat at Camp J-burg
Sep 28:	Session 1	March 25	Spring Fling Day for Shelter our Sisters and Congregation
Oct 16:	CROP Walk	March 28	Session 7
Oct 26:	Session 2	April 25	Session 8
Nov 16:	Session 3	April 25	Meet with Pastor Beverly and Karen to go over Faith Statements
Dec 14:	Session 4	May 14	Session (Mentors, Parents and Confirmands attend) Faith Statements will be shared
Jan 25:	Session 5	May 16	Worship Planning Meeting
Feb 29:	Session 6	May 20	CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

****All meetings will take place from 7:30-9 unless otherwise noted.**

We will go over more details at the September 28th meeting.

A Look at the Upcoming Year

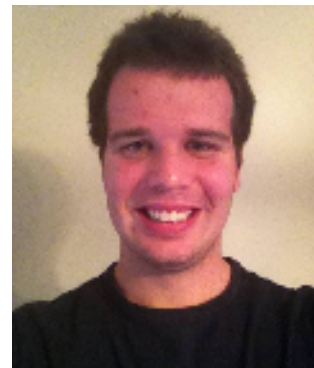
<p><u>September</u> 21: First Day of Youth Group 28: Youth Group and Confirmation Kick-Off</p>	<p><u>October</u> 5: Youth Group 12: Youth Group Dinner and Worship 16: CROP Walk 19: Youth Group 26: Halloween Party 5:30-7:00 and Confirmation</p>
<p><u>November</u> 2: Youth Group 9: No Youth Group 16: Youth Group and Confirmation 23: No Youth Group 30: Youth Group</p>	<p><u>December</u> 4: Caroling Supper 7: Youth Group 14: Youth Group and Confirmation 21: No Youth Group 28: No Youth Group</p>
<p><u>January</u> 4: Youth Group 11: Youth Group, Dinner and Worship 18: Youth Group 25: Youth Group and Confirmation Tubing at Campgaw</p>	<p><u>February</u> 1: Youth Group 5: Souper Bowl Sunday 8: Youth Group, Dinner and Worship 15: Youth Group 21: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner 22: No Youth Group (Ash Wednesday) 29: Youth Group and Confirmation</p>
<p><u>March</u> 2-4 Confirmation Retreat 7: Youth Group 14: Youth Group, Dinner and Worship 21: Youth Group 25: Spring Fling 28: Youth Group and Confirmation Chocolate Making</p>	<p><u>April</u> 4: No Youth Group (Holy Week) 11: No Youth Group (School Vacation) 18: Youth Group 25: Youth Group and Confirmation Movie Night</p>
<p><u>May</u> 2: Youth Group 9: Youth Group, Dinner and Worship 12: Plant Sale 14: Session with Confirmands 16: Youth Group and Worship Planning for Confirmands 20: Confirmation Sunday 23: Youth Group 30: Youth Group Jackals Game</p>	<p><u>June</u> 6: Last Day of Youth Group <u>July</u> 21-28 MATE Summer Mission Trip</p>

Thanks, Kenny!

First Pres “Interim Youth Group Leader” this Fall

Hi, My name is Kenny Edler,

I've been attending First Pres for my entire life and was confirmed here in 2005. I graduated from Barnstable Academy in Oakland, NJ in 2008 and currently work as a Fashion Merchandiser at Lord and Taylor in Paramus NJ. In addition to teaching Sunday School at First Pres and working at Lord and Taylor, I have been an office volunteer at church and helping with the Confirmation Class for a couple of years.



This fall, I will be filling in for Karen Robator in the youth program while she is out on maternity leave. I'm very excited about getting to work with the youth of the church in this capacity and outside of the Sunday School Classroom.

The best way to reach me with any questions regarding the youth program is by my email kenny.edler@yahoo.com. I look forward to working with everybody in these next few months!

WHY WORSHIP?: A Testimonial

by Elder Merrill Simpson, Chair of our Worship and Music Committee

A very wise and deeply spiritual man from First Presbyterian church suggested to me only a couple weeks ago that maybe the most meaningful discussion about the subject of worship is answering the question – Why do you worship? That same wise man then preached a sermon today about how it is just as important to worship privately in your own solitude as publicly with your church. I gain much from both types and thought I would share some of my why's and where's and when's with you.

Sundays are a special day for me, as they are for many of us. I try to take a day of rest as God suggested we do. I let my body recover from a week of exercise, and sleep in a bit cuddled up next to my husband. I let my mind release the schedules of three kids and instead weave into a great book that takes me to another life outside mine. And we have family dinner so most Sundays I don't even have to think about what to cook later on, just show up and enjoy catching up on a week of everyone's life. But most importantly, I come to First Presbyterian and spend a couple hours in meaningful worship and wonderful fellowship. For me, our service is a seminar each week during which I try to absorb and learn and better myself. I have little to no formal training with the bible or religious studies so I welcome the chance to hear interpretations of the Lord's Word and hopefully find ways to apply those lessons in my daily living. I relax into the structure and ritual of the service and glean inspiration from each part. I feel cleansed after the Prayer of Confession when I can admit all the small or large shortcomings from the week past and ask God to polish me up a bit so I can be a shining beacon of his love to the people I touch day to day. My heart fills during the Prayers of the People, as I share in joys and heartbreak of our church family and add my prayers to the healing chain that binds around them to give them strength. And I concentrate on the sermon to find the one phrase or charge or verse that I can use to be a little kinder or compassionate or forgiving in my week ahead. As the new head of the Worship Committee it has been revelatory to understand and help put each Sunday's worship service together, with readers and ushers and flowers and music and banners. Much goes into creating the service that I then try to take so much from. It is rewarding work and powerful work and humbling work, as I believe God means for it to be.

I haven't mentioned music yet, only because for me, personally, music is a completely separate type of worship. Perhaps the greatest gift that First Presbyterian church has given to me, other than all of you, is the honor and ability to worship through music. I do not have the most beautiful voice, but I can blend it with the voices of my fellow choir members and be part of something that at times has transcended mere notes on a page. Remember the Newark Boys Choir that came to us one Sunday in their darling bow ties and gifted us with their angelic voices. I had a moment singing with them that I will never forget. At times during our shared song, I couldn't sing past the lump that grew in my throat at the sheer beauty of their music and the communion I felt right then with God – he was with me so strongly it took my voice away! Ringing the bells is also a beautiful expression of God's plan for all of us. We come to bell choir as individuals with completely different backgrounds and stories and abilities, and each one of us is asked to take responsibility for just two or four bells. But to make beautiful music, we must work hard listening to those around us and chiming in at just the right time to form the perfect harmony that praises God and inspires our congregation. It doesn't work without each and every one of us: one person alone cannot physically ring all the bells, and even if we are all present but one, the song is not the same. I would still have music in my life without our church, but the way that I worship God would not be the same without the songs that I can sing and play from my heart.

Honest to God, though, my most powerful communions with God have been in solitude. I rarely seek them out, but rather feel them wash over me with such a rush that the world falls away for a moment and I feel at peace for one fragile window of time. I had one the other morning when I was running. I noticed how pretty the light was that morning as I was passing the Ramsey Library and was giving thanks to God for the world we live in, and the Light that wakes us each morning, and the ability of my body to move and carry me through the gift of each day. I turned the corner onto Main Street and I was bathed in a stream of sunlight that went straight to my soul. I could feel God answering my prayer, actually feel him with me in that beautiful moment. It didn't take my breath away, it filled me with breath and love and hope. I remember running home and wanting to share my story with Allie, my confirmand, because we had been talking so much to each other about what our faith meant and how we communed with God. And that is when I knew that God had also brought Allie and I together through First Pres for just such a sharing of deep spiritual connection. She later sent me a picture of a butterfly resting on her hand. She was out in her yard and in a moment of quiet watched a butterfly land on her hand and just rest for a few magical minutes. She knew I would love and understand that she felt God in her heart just as I had felt him in mine.

Allie once said to me that she thought a better word for worship was Praisement! And I believe she is right. I worship because I praise God through learning about his word, and I worship because I praise God through the beauty of music and song, and I worship because I praise God through witnessing the miracle of the world we live in and the gift of his love for each and every one of us!



As the lazy, hazy days of summer give way to the cool, crisp autumn air, we hope you have all enjoyed a happy, healthy summer and look forward as we do to a new church/school year.

The Board of Deacons consists of 15 members chosen by the congregation whose mission is to provide comfort and care to our church family and surrounding community. Although our monthly meetings were suspended for the summer, we have continued in our responsibilities providing care, transportation and meals as needed, distributing flowers after church services to brighten someone's day, handling the monthly communion preparation each month and making hospital and home visits to our friends at home. We also assisted at the recent meeting of the Presbytery at our church providing refreshments and manning the registration desk.

In anticipation of the fall renewal, we are planning the following:

- 1.- A Deacon's Leadership Retreat is scheduled for Sat, Sept 24 to kickoff our new season.
2. Subsequent monthly meetings beginning October 3 will be held on the first Monday of each month instead of early Sunday mornings.
3. Ongoing training and knowledge is important in guiding us in our spirituality and improving skills helpful in our service as Deacons, so we are planning a series of one-hour programs following our meetings with guest speakers and relevant subjects. Realizing that many of the subjects may be of interest to our congregation as well, we decided to open these presentations to all who are interested.

So, mark your calendars for our first two programs that will be held from 8pm – 9pm in the Chapel:

ALL ARE INVITED:

October 3; Hospital Visitation presented by the Valley Hospital Chaplain's Office

November 7; Good Nutrition presented by Anne Deatly, PhD and Presbyterian Elder

Serving as a Deacon is an honor and a great way to "give back" while nurturing your own spirituality. We encourage anyone interested in joining our board or helping out in any way to let us know. We'd love to have you!

Update on the 2011 Operating Budget: The Challenge, and Our Opportunity

Now that we have past the mid-point of our Church year, we'd like to provide an update on the 2011 Operating Budget. As you may recall, at the February 6 Congregational Meeting the 2011 Operating Budget was presented and the operating budget shown on the back of this page was provided.

The 2011 Operating Budget for First Pres projected a full year Net Income Deficit of \$27,972. This swing of nearly (\$33,000) vs. the year end 2010 Net Income is due mainly to the following factors: the provision for our pastor for a full 12 months, funding for the work of the Pastoral Nominating Committee, a reduction in Who's Who receipts, an investment in technology infrastructure & security, and an anticipated reduction in overall Pledging based on pledge commitments received. The 2011 Operating Budget was constructed using conservative assumptions reflecting historical patterns and any known circumstances which would impact planning.

Through the first six months of 2011, First Pres is tracking toward the 2011 Operating Budget. This means that anticipated costs and income are coming in on Budget. This progress is worth noting. However, it also means that we are indeed tracking toward the projected full year Net Income Deficit.

Clearly, we have a Challenge. Planning and Providing for the needs of a growing First Pres depends upon our ability to appropriately resource the programs that nurture our congregation and the communities we serve, provide for staff, and ensure ongoing maintenance of the church. The 2011 Operating Budget (projecting a full year deficit) would indicate that our giving is insufficient to meet the needs of a growing First Pres.

As with every Challenge, therein lies Opportunity. New programs and initiatives are sparking momentum in First Pres: there are many new faces each week, we have welcomed many new members into our church family, and our members are actively pledging their Time & Talents toward the work of our church. The Opportunity is for each of us to reflect on our personal 2011 Pledge Commitment and consider to what extent that commitment can be deepened between now and the end of the year. Immediate increases in our giving will enable First Pres to meet the needs of our growing church this year and set the foundation for the years to come.

What does this mean in practical terms? If each of us contributed an extra \$10 per week in addition to our already committed pledge – we would be well on our way to closing the deficit. These are individual considerations, and we are all acutely aware that they come amidst continued economic uncertainty.

We share this update with you as fellow members of First Pres, and thank you for your prayerful consideration.

In Christ's service and with gratitude for your continued support,

The First Pres Finance Committee
Jennifer Galichon, Nora Talarico, Frank Hunter

First Presbyterian Church, Ramsey, NJ

	2011 BUDGET	2010 BUDGET	2010 ACTUAL
	(1/31/11)		
<u>Income</u>			
Pledges	307,688	318,000	320,419
Who's Who	37,000	42,000	43,302
Facility Use	23,000	21,700	22,650
Per Capita	4,000	4,000	4,172
Plate	6,000	8,000	6,904
Union Cemetery	10,000	7,000	10,000
Other	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,300</u>	<u>1,703</u>
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>389,688</u>	<u>403,000</u>	<u>409,150</u>
<u>Expenses</u>			
Compensation	279,310	258,800	259,183
Insurance	12,000	14,350	11,230
Mission	22,000	22,000	22,000
Utilities & Building	27,000	27,000	26,274
Office Expenses & Fees	12,000	12,500	14,245
Who's Who Production	17,000	16,000	17,749
Per Capita - Presbytery	10,000	10,067	10,067
Pastor Vacancy	<u>0</u>	10,000	9,964
Committees (see below)	<u>38,350</u>	<u>37,700</u>	<u>33,600</u>
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>417,660</u>	<u>408,417</u>	<u>404,312</u>
<u>Net Income (Net Loss)</u>	<u>-27,972</u>	<u>-5,417</u>	<u>4,838</u>
<u>Comp. % Pledge</u>			
<u>Inc</u>	<u>Inc.</u>	<u>91%</u>	<u>81%</u>
<u>Committee Expenses:</u>			
Operations	7,750	15,500	14,942
Christian Education	6,400	5,000	4,876
Finance/Stewardship	6,200	6,200	6,086
Worship/Music	8,000	8,000	5,099
Congregational Life	500	500	397
Communications	1,000	0	0
PNC Expenses	8,000	0	
Building Preservation	0	2,000	2,000
Membership	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>200</u>
<u>Total Committee Expenses</u>	<u>38,350</u>	<u>37,700</u>	<u>33,600</u>

Plain Talk About Pledging

What is a Pledge?

A Pledge is a term we use to signify a member's intention to contribute his Time, Talents and Treasures to the life and work of the church. Through Pledging each of us designates a regular portion of what God entrusts to us to serve God at First Presbyterian Church. Pledges received benefit our immediate congregation and our wider community by supporting the ongoing operational needs of the church and the many nurturing programs we have come to appreciate.

This time of year, we ask for your Pledge as an estimate of your intended financial giving for the next year. It is not a contract; it is a statement of your intention. Generally four times per year, you will receive a statement from the church, reminding you of the amount of your Pledge and showing your progress toward meeting that Pledge.

Why should I Pledge? I give money whenever I can.

Quite simply, Pledging helps First Presbyterian Church plan better so we can provide better.

The programs First Presbyterian Church provides to nurture our congregation and the world around us depend upon our ability to anticipate our annual income. After we have a reasonable estimate of our annual income, our Session can allocate resources for these programs, staff salaries and the ongoing maintenance of the church.

Pledging to support the work of the church can be an important part of your life. Pledging is an important way for you to maintain a regular, on-going involvement with the programs and ministries at First Presbyterian Church by insuring their quality and their continuation.

I've never made a Pledge before. How much should I Pledge?

This is a very individual matter, and there are some good guidelines to follow. It helps to begin with an amount that is enough to be meaningful, but not so much that might become unaffordable or unsustainable for your personal situation. Consider an amount that can be given regularly, either weekly or monthly, that you can feel good about.

Many people find the practice of proportional giving to be a meaningful part of their spiritual lives as they return to God a proportion of all God has entrusted to us. Proportional giving is the offering of a chosen percentage of our income.

The biblical guideline for proportional giving is a tithe, or 10%. Most people begin more modestly, with 1% or 2% of their income, and strive to grow toward 5% or a 10% tithe. Once you determine the appropriate proportion of your giving to your income, you might allow this proportion to grow as your financial situation changes or the role of the church in your life grows.

What happens if my circumstances change?

If you find your personal circumstances have changed then just change your Pledge.

What role do special offerings play along with my Pledge to First Presbyterian Church?

Special Offerings are another way for us to live out our Christian faith. Funds collected through Special Offerings go directly to the particular charity or outreach – for example: the food pantry, The One Great Hour of Sharing, Christmas Joy, Peacemaking and Pentecost offerings. Special Offerings are a complement to Pledging.

Pledged contributions go directly to First Presbyterian Church to ensure that church has the resources to offer the programs we have come to appreciate and to meet the ongoing needs of our members and the communities we serve.

Other people have supported the Church until now. Why should I get involved?

First Presbyterian Church has always been the kind of church that depends on the support of many, many people. There are not just a few wealthy individuals or families who keep things going. The work of the church needs all of us. If you've been a part of things at First Pres Church but have not yet made a financial pledge, we hope that now will be the right time.

SESSION LEADERSHIP TRAINING

**September 17th 9:00 am – Noon
In the Chapel**

DEACON LEADERSHIP TRAINING

**September 24th 9:30 am – 11:30 am
In the Chapel**

Thank you to All of our Summertime Volunteers

OUR SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM, *Awesome Adventures: God's People on Mountains and Seas* was lots of fun. I am most grateful to the teachers and assistants who helped to bring these awesome stories to life: Margie Kaefer, Meg Natale, and Susan Parisi, and to assistants: Chrissy Vita, Matt Kaefer, and Stacie Van Heest and Mackenzie, Will and Parker Simpson for being with us during the summer. Overall, 21 children and visitors joined Noah, Moses, Joshua, Deborah and Jesus in the Old and New Testament adventures.

WOMEN'S SUMMERTIME DISCUSSION GROUP, facilitated by Linda MacDonald, chair of the Christian Education Committee, created a forum for women to learn and discuss issues related to building good health of body, mind and spirit. Thank you to Linda for creating this time of caring and sharing!

In the **CRIB AND CRAWL ROOM,** the following 'angels' kept our little ones busy on Sunday mornings since June. We give thanks for Shirley Branna, Susan Clayville, Becky Drennen, Mike Kaefer, Anthony and Terri Peri, Lisa Thompson, Courtney Grothusen, Stacie Van Heest, Karen Robator, and Chrissy Vita, who volunteered to serve once or twice this summer.

Florence Ditko, Christian Education Director



Adult Education Opportunities

First Friday Fellowship will begin the season on September 9th (the second Friday this month). We are a 'small group' of those admitting to be 60 and over, who enjoy fellowship and luncheon on the first Friday of the month (usually!). We create our own programs, learn from each other, and enjoy outside speakers on occasion. Sign up by calling the church office (201-327-3879) by Wednesday, September 7th.

"Midweek" for Adult Nurture will continue on the 2nd Wednesdays of the month, following supper in the Metzger Room at 6 o'clock. On October 12th, our speaker will be Christopher Morse, author of *The Difference Heaven Makes: Rehearing the Gospel as News*. Dr. Morse holds the Dietrich Bonhoeffer Chair in Theology and Ethics at Union Seminary, in New York City.

"Coeur" Bible study on Wednesday mornings twice a month, meets in the Metzger Room at 10:30. The group will begin a study of the Beatitudes on September 21st. Call Sue Silitonga for more information. 201-389-3356.

Book Discussion Groups:

"Connections" meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

The book for September 21st is *True Compass* by Ted Kennedy.

For more information, please call Di French at 201-327-4596.

"Literary Ladies" meets on the 4th Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.

The book for discussion on September 28th is *The Love of My Youth* by Mary Gordon.

For more information, please call Meg Bray at 845-357-2159

MEMBERSHIP

FALL BREAKFAST-Sat October 15, 9:30-11:30

Is someone you know looking for a new church home? Or have you been attending a while and want to know more about our church? All are invited to join us for an informal get together to find out more about our church; and get to know our church leaders. If you need a babysitter, please let us know.

[Lisa Thompson at ljt101@verizon.net](mailto:ljt101@verizon.net) or 201-962-2554.



Registration is now open for The New Park 'N Play 2011-2012 Season!

The New Park 'N Play is a not-for-profit, seasonal playspace located in Fellowship Hall, designed to keep children and their caregivers active and social during the winter months. Run by parent volunteers and funded by membership dues, the 2,200-square-foot space is filled with a variety of toys, games and play equipment to keep active preschoolers busy. There is an area for moms of newborns to feed their babies and plenty of space for parents to catch up with friends or make some new ones while their little ones do the same.

The New Park 'N Play is for children ages 5 and younger, and will be opening for the 2011 season on Tuesday, November 1st. A one-time Membership Fee of \$225 per family entitles you and your pre-schoolers to unlimited play Monday to Thursday, 9:30am to 5:00pm, through the end of April. Register by October 16th and take \$25 off the 2011 Membership Fee!

Please contact Melissa Daly at 201-760-1483 for more information, or go to our website at www.thenewparknplay.com

Congregational Life

Congregational Life Committee takes on the important task of coordinating social events for the church family. As we start a new school year, the Committee is looking to coordinate our traditional events, and perhaps “sprinkle in” 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 in attending a meeting and/or have suggestions, 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 are upcoming events for the church family.

Welcome Back Brunch

As the new school year kicks into gear, we invite you to join your church family at the Welcome Back Brunch on September 18th, following worship. Food and drink for all ages will be served as we chat with friends and hopefully make some new ones. Please sign up during Fellowship Hour if you plan on attending.



SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS:

Many thanks to our Volunteers.

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

USHERS:

- 9/4: AGAPE
Communion Service
- 9/11: David & Sue Ann Kolkka
Dorinda Checke
- 9/18: Nancy & Larry Peternith
Jack & Pat Greenshields
- 9/25: Dan & Lynn Bergin
Daria Leone

PRESIDING ELDERS:

- 9/4 Merrill Simpson
- 9/11 Sharon Kroll
- 9/18 Carolyn Blowers
- 9/25 Carolyn Blowers

COMMUNION SERVERS:

- 9/4 Agape Communion Service

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS:

- 9/4 Agape Communion Breakfast
- 9/11 Cerelia and Alexis Pellechio
- 9/18 Welcome Back Brunch
- 9/25 Jennifer Galichon

Celebrations

Anniversaries September

- 2 Kay and Bob Gray
- 9 Evelyn & Joe Shuart
- 19 Mary Lou & John Erickson -
69th Anniversary
- 22 Jonna and Daly Myers -
54th Anniversary
- 24 Marlene & Ralph Young
- 25 Dako and Tak Urabe
- 26 Di & Jay French
- 30 Chris and Nancy Christiansen -
55th Anniversary

Birthdays in September:

- 1 Linda Hunt
- 2 Nicole Kleinberg
- 2 Caroline Taylor
- 4 Marlene Young
- 4 Brooke Tommaney
- 8 Krysta DeVencentis
- 18 Cynthia Meeks
- 22 Joe LoPresti
- 24 Audrey Talarico
- 29 Nancy Peternith

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RAMSEY, NEW JERSEY

STAFF

The Rev. Beverly Dempsey, Transitional Pastor
Florence Ditko, Christian Education Director
Karen Robator, Youth Ministry Director

Irma DeMaio, Administrative Assistant
John Yager, Custodian
Daniel Knipp and Will Peri, Sextons

SESSION

Class of 2011

Dan Bergin, Operations
Hoover W. Chin, Communications
Tim Edler, Youth Council
Sharon Kroll, Human Resources
Lisa Thompson, Membership

Class of 2012

Paula Bartow, Christian Education
Christopher Daly, Congregational Life
Jennifer Galichon, Finance
Paul Knipp, Stewardship
Joseph LoPresti, Mission
Merrill Simpson, Worship & Music

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class 2011

Carol Dorsey
Judy McDonnell
Jane Moser, Moderator
Don Strangfeld
Ryan Weaver

Class 2012

Kathy Checke, Vice moderator
Nancy Christiansen
Alberta Kulik
Joann Vita

Class 2013

Carol Anderson
Nancy Drennen
BoJane Heap
Lestra Litchfield
Mike Peri



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