

PresNotes



Hello, Church,

With Easter hallelujahs resounding, I offer my heartfelt thanks for our year of ministry together. Interim ministry is a Presbyterian honored experience for a congregation to share as it moves between the old and the new. It's a time to take stock in who we are and discover ways we can continue to grow into the body Christ longs for us to be. It's a time to clean out and build up in preparation for the one who is to come.

Something I've learned over the course of the last twelve months is that First Pres does interim ministry well. Worship is vibrant, challenging and uplifting. We stick together – attendance is strong and growing. We're generous in as many ways as it's possible. We've tested new things to learn what works well (and what doesn't). We're a good, strong family, with all of the pleasures and pains that families experience.

One of the most powerful witnesses to our strength as a family has been the newly formed Office Volunteer Team. Each week, 10 or more members answer telephones, order worship flowers, prepare, print, fold and stuff the Sunday bulletin and inserts, greet visitors, accept parcels...What a wonderful Team, dedicated to the sound clicking along of the church in its day to day needs. We are so grateful for you! In *The Age of the Smart Machine*, author Shoshanna Zuboff reminds us of the interpersonal interdependencies in organizations even as we move into an age where we believe we can function efficiently and effectively without active human involvement. Our Office Volunteer Team is a prime example of how *people* are what keep a system running, with or without fancy equipment. We've learned that machines can break (oh, how we've learned), but a wide and diversely gifted body of people are what hold things together through laughter, love, wisdom, tenacity, trial and error, more laughter, and certainly prayer. What would we have done without you? God only knows.

In Acts 16:5, we are reminded of how God desires for the church to grow even in the midst of transition, "So the churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in numbers daily. (NRSV)" Through our total experience as a church – the joyful ones and the painful ones, God strengthens us for life together, emboldens us to share our experiences with one another and with those beyond our particular congregation and enables us to grow in faith and numbers.

First Presbyterian Church is ready to move into our next phase of interim ministry. The Pastor Nominating Committee will soon launch its national search for an installed pastor. As the committee moves through its search, let us move with them in prayer and encouragement that their difficult task be meaningful and rewarding. Let us pray for those who feel drawn to apply for our open position. And let us continue our prayerful discernment of who God is calling us to be as a church. One thing's for sure. God is calling us to faithful service. Whether we're serving in the office or serving the homeless later in the month, our service is what binds us together with Christ. Thank you for your active and joyful participation in all of our initiatives this last year. I look forward to continuing to grow with you for a while longer.

With love and eternal hope,

Beverly Dempsey, Transitional Pastor

Spring 2011

Worship at 10:00 am

Sunday, May 1

Worship with Communion

&

Children's Chapel

Sunday, May 8

Worship Led by

Sunday School

Youth Plant Sale

after worship

Sunday, May 15

Come learn about MATE!

Sunday, May 22

Worship at 10

Sunday, May 22

Worship at 10

Family Promise arrives in the afternoon & will be in Fellowship Hall each night thru 5/29

Sunday, May 22

Worship at 10

Special activity for Children from Nursery through 2nd grad after the Children's chat

Memorial Day

The Church Office

will be closed on

Monday, May 30th

Hosting the Homeless, May 22 – 28th

First Pres will be hosting homeless women and men in Fellowship Hall from May 22 – 28th. This is an extraordinary opportunity for each one of us to show our love and compassion to a clearly needy community.

Your help is needed:

Overnight hosts: 2 per night (one woman and one man)

Breakfast: Drop off breakfast food for our guests (for example: bagels and juice, cereal and coffee)

Dinner: Prepare, serve and eat dinner with our guests

Lunch: Bring supplies for our guests to prepare a sack lunch.

Please contact BoJane Heap (ehheap@co.bergen.nj.us or 201.327.1535) with when and how you're able to help.

Center for Food Action Food Drive: Please help!

The CFA desperately needs our help. *Please consider bringing at least one bag of non-perishable food per month.* Thank you!

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Spring 2011

Pres Notes

A monthly newsletter of
The First Presbyterian Church
The Rev. Beverly Dempsey
Transitional Pastor
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Ramsey, NJ 07446
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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 Summer issue will be Tuesday, May 23, 2011

Please submit your material on or before the deadline date.

Submissions received after deadline may not be included.

Thank you!

BIBLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FOR THE WINTER TERM CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PERFECT AND FAITHFUL ATTENDEES!

PERFECT (no absences)

NURSERY CLASS
Nicholas LoPresti

1ST GRADE
Tommy Groehnert
Angela Natale

PRE-KINDERGARTEN
Jacqueline Groehnert
Jason Groehnert
Kaylee Robator



FAITHFUL (one, two or three absences)

KINDERGARTEN
Jeremy Clayville
Kiernan Daly

2ND GRADE
Sean Kelly
Charlie Simpson

3RD GRADE
Parker Simpson
Scott Tremblay

4TH GRADE
R.J. Grothusen
Will Simpson

5TH GRADE
Nikki Kleinberg
Dana Leone

6TH GRADE
Jackson Galichon
Matthew Kaefer
Peter Hunter

7TH GRADE
Ian Bruinooge
Conor Dobson

8TH GRADE
Anna Marie Nielsen

Thanks to our May Crib & Crawl Volunteers!

5/1: Danielle LoPresti and Heather Clark
5/8: Melissa Daly and Alexis Pellechio
5/15: Bonnie Van Heest and Courtney Grothusen
5/22: Allison McLaughlin and Katie Vernon
5/29: Jamie Brisby and Christina Vita

BIBLE SCHOOL HAPPENINGS...

Our final term of the year is well underway, and May and June will be fun for the children and the congregation as well.

Special days this month....

- Chapel Worship on May 1st at 10 o'clock. We'll be rehearsing for Mother's Day in church, so PLEASE be part of this special day!
- On Mother's Day, May 8th, the children will be participating in worship, and the Chapel Singers will take part in the service. *There are no Bible School classes on Mother's Day.*
- Memorial Day weekend, May 29th, the children will attend worship to begin the day, and then Nursery Class to 2nd graders will leave the sanctuary after the Children's Time for an activity in the Metzger Room. There are no Bible School classes on this day.



We hope that you will join us for the special days in May!

Looking ahead to Summertime



We will be registering the children (present Nursery Class through children entering 5th grade) for Summer Sundays (June 19th thru August 28th) with the theme this year, "Awesome Adventures...God's People on Mountains and Seas." Look for the registration table in Fellowship Hall or call the church office. "Guides" for the summer program are needed to give our children a great experience. Won't you consider being part of our adventures with Anna and Jake. We had a great time last year on their adventures and this year will be fun too. We'll meet right here in the Social Room every Sunday morning following the Children's sermon in worship. Please call Florence (201/327-3879) if you can give some time to this summer ministry for the children.

Crib and Crawl Volunteers

Volunteers (adults and teens) are needed for the July and August Sundays so that we can welcome even the youngest of our members with a place to be cared for during the service. Please sign up on the door of the Crib and Crawl Room in the Education Building, and know that you are doing a great service for the families of the church.

Danielle LoPresti will be coordinator of the Crib and Crawl volunteers schedule for the '11-'12 school year. Invitations to serve and response forms will be in the mail soon. If you don't receive a letter and are interested in serving in the Crib and Crawl Room, please call the church (201-327-3879) or email scdramsey@aol.com. Thanks for helping us set up this schedule before the summer is upon us. Many thanks, Florence Ditko



Youth Corner and Happenings

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!

Congrats Confirmation Class, Mentors,
and Youth Director, Karen Robator,
for your leadership on 5 Mission Projects:

Thanks to the congregation for your generous support of their work...

CHURCH GARDENS CLEAN UP DAY The grounds look beautiful! *Special Thanks to Brian Brisby Landscaping Design and Development for his guidance, donated services and materials.*

96 CHURCH WORLD SERVICE HYGIENE KITS were packaged to benefit the Japanese in the aftermath of last month's earthquake and tsunami.

BOOK DRIVE TO AID LITERACY IN RURAL KENYA – We've collected hundreds of books!

JOHNSONBURG CLEAN UP DAY – Good Friday, April 22.

SPRUCE UP PROJECTS – Helping members with yard work and projects around the house.

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 5:15-6:15 p.m. (dinner to follow)

Sr. High Youth Group

Wednesdays 7:00-9:00 p.m. with dinner starting at 6:15.

You won't want to miss it!

May Events

May 4: Regular Midweek with Dinner!

May 11: Regular Midweek Schedule

May 18: Regular Midweek Schedule

May 23: Confirmands meet with Session
to read their Faith Statements

May 25: Regular Midweek Schedule with
Confirmation

A look ahead:

June 12: Confirmation Sunday!

Jackal's Game outing to be planned!

Our Annual Plant Sale

DATE: Saturday, May 7th

WHERE: Church parking lot

WHEN: 9-1:00

Stop by to purchase your hanging
baskets, flats, and

more to help sup-
port the MATE
summer mission
trip!



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

Saturday, May 14th (rain date: May 21st)

WHO: The Youth Group will sell you a table for \$25.00

WHERE: First Pres Parking Lot

WHY: To support our youth AND get rid of some of your old stuff!

Reserve your table by contacting the church office (201.327.3879) or e-mailing
Karen Robator: karenrobator@yahoo.com



The Confirmation Class spent a great weekend together at Camp Johnsonburg March 4-6th. We participated in large and small group discussions and activities to help grow in faith, and learn more about what it means to become a member of the church. Everyone had a great time!

Please see the next page to see some of the great mission projects that the Confirmands and their Mentors have put together. This great group of 13 Youth will be Confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, June 12, 2011!



MATE Informational Meeting, Sunday May 15th!
Mission at the Eastward (M.A.T.E.)

Please join us down in Fellowship Hall directly following worship to learn more about our summer mission trip to Maine and how you can join us!

This will be a “vacation” you’ll never forget!

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 per person. 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.



THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

is looking for members who are interested in creating programs for our children and adults. The committee meets once a month, usually on the first Sunday of the month. Come and share the wonderful gifts God has given you and offer them to this ministry of nurture and education. Won't you let us know who you are??? Please speak with Christian Ed Elder, Paula Bartow, Linda MacDonald, chairperson, or Florence Ditko with questions.



THE LITERARY LADIES will meet on Wednesday, May 25 in the McDermott room at 10 am. The book for discussion is "The Vanishing of Esme Lennox." Please join us for a review of the book. Questions? Please call Jane Moser at 845-504-5179.

CONNECTIONS BOOK GROUP is reading *Mao's Last Dancer* by Li Cunxin for the month of May. It is the autobiography of a Chinese boy who was taken from his home in a desperately poor village in northern China by Madame Mao's cultural delegate to study ballet, and became one of the greatest ballet dancers in the world. Books are available at the Ramsey Library. Our book discussion will take place on Wednesday, May 18th at 7:30 PM at Betty Kearney's at Cedar Crest in Pompton Plains. All are welcome. Any questions, please call Di French at 201-327-4596.

First Friday Fellowship! May 6th in the Metzger Room at noon. Come for a Pot Luck lunch and celebration of our 4th year together. We will also celebrate Older Adult Week with a sharing of the greatest influence in your life! If you have never joined us, please call the church office or sign up at Coffee Hour for our next meeting and beyond. Looking forward to another fun year together!

MIDWEEK ADULT NURTURE

"Keep Hope Alive" - Wednesday, May 4th In the Chapel at 7:30 p.m.



Elder Paul Talarico returned from 15 days in Israel and the West Bank where he participated in the "Keep Hope Alive" olive tree planting, a peacemaking mission sponsored by the YM/YWCA of East Jerusalem-Palestine. The group of 50 from nine countries planted 1200 olive trees, met with human rights groups and academics, and toured throughout the West Bank and Israel. Paul will narrate a powerful photographic presentation of his experience for us. *Dinner will be provided before the presentation beginning 6:00, in the Metzger Room.*

MIDWEEK ADULT STUDY on the *Temptation in the Desert* will continue on Wednesday, May 11th in the Metzger Room at 7:30 pm. Please read Session 4...*The Temptation to Be Certain.*

From the Christian Education Committee, with much appreciation to the Who's Who committee for their continued support of the education program of the Bible School through the production of the town telephone directory. Many thanks also to all in the congregation who helped on May 1st (Distribution Day), to the many who volunteered to deliver the books this year, and to the CE committee members who provided the wonderful buffet for the workers.

Congregational Life

THE ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday, June 26th: More information to follow as the date approaches.



MAY FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE

Seeking Fellowship Hour Hosts... An important aspect of each church service is the time spent following worship in Fellowship Hall. Fellowship Hour provides many of us the ability to catch up with friends and fellow church members, as well as enjoy coffee, juice, and treats. Right now, we are looking for new volunteers to host Fellowship Hour. We like to limit the hosting duties for each volunteer to twice a year (at the most). But to accomplish that, we need to increase number of volunteers in our current "rotation". If you aren't already in the hosting "rotation" and are interested, please contact Chris Daly at 201-760-1483 or dalyc187@gmail.com.

For those of you who already volunteer, our heart-felt thanks go out to you! Chris Daly, Congregational Life Committee

The following is the schedule for hosting Fellowship Hour.

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| May 1 st | Christian Ed Committee - Who's Who Sunday |
| May 8 th | Nancy and Bob Drennen |
| May 15 th | Pam and Ron Weaver |
| May 22 nd | Maureen Miele and Carol Dorsey |
| May 29 th | Miranda Mizen and Judy McDonnell |





MAY Ushers and Presiding Elders:

Many thanks to our Volunteers.

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

USHERS

5/1: Nancy & Bob Drennen and Susan & Joe Moran

5/8: Bible School children

5/15: Robert Barton, Ryan Weaver, Ron & Pam Weaver

5/22: Alberta Kulik, Peg Kutner, Sharon Kroll, Char Anema

5/29: Damian Parisi, Maureen Miele, Fran and Karen Hunter

PRESIDING ELDERS:

5/1: Chris Christiansen 5/8: Tim Edler

5/15: Tim Edler 5/22: Chris Daly

5/29: Peggy Wissler

Celebrations

May Anniversaries

Joann and Ralph Vita: May 8, 1976

Bob and Pat Zimmerman: May 16, 1964

Birthdays in May

1 Ryan Young

8 John Thompson

9 Danielle LoPresti

14 Joe Shuart

17 Paula Bartow

18 Karen Robator

20 Bill Letcher

20 Meg Bergemann Natale

23 Christine Kowalski

25 Joe Peri

29 BoJane Heap

31 Kevin Grzybek

CABLEVISION BROADCAST NOW ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

CABLEVISION will broadcast our Sunday services in the Mahwah and the Rockland County area on **Thursdays**, Channel 77 from 4 to 5 p.m. The 13 towns in our Ramsey area can view the broadcast on Tuesdays, Channel 76 from 5 to 6 p.m.

MUSIC NOTE: *Welcome* ANITA BONTEKOE, our Interim Music Director.



Anita Bontekoe joins us as Interim Director of Music and will be with us through our search for a permanent Director of Music. For the past 10 years Anita has shared her talents with several churches serving as their Interim Director of Music including: The Zion Lutheran Church, Westwood; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Glen Rock; St. Andrew-Holy Communion Episcopal Church, South Orange; First Congregational Church (UCC), Montclair; All Saints' Episcopal Church, Glen Rock; Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Mahwah; and The Upper Ridgewood Community Church, Ridgewood. Her experience includes serving as an organist and choir director, conductor of handbell and chime choirs, accompanying vocal and instrumental professional musicians, integrating your instruments and instrumentalists into music ministry, producing and directing sacred youth musicals, participating in worship planning, working with paid choirs and accompanist/continuo organist for twice yearly Bach Cantatas.

Anita received her BA in Church Music from Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana and has participated in continuing education through the AGO, ALCM and AGEHR in liturgical studies, handbells, Orff instruments, conducting, liturgical dance and hymnology.

Anita is a former Dean of the Northern NJ Chapter American Guild of Organists (NNJAGO), is currently Chair of Professional Concerns for the NNJ AGO and is an active member of the Association of Lutheran Musicians. Please welcome Anita Bontekoe to our church as she leads our music program over the next several months during our search for our permanent Director of Music.

THE SEARCH FOR OUR NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR is beginning. Our Human Resources Committee has begun to interview fine candidates. Stay tuned for updates, or contact anyone on Human Resources for more information (Sharon Kroll, Chairperson).

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RAMSEY, NEW JERSEY

STAFF

The Rev. Beverly Dempsey, Transitional Pastor
Florence Ditko, Christian Education Director
Karen Robator, Youth Ministry Director
Anita L. Bontekoe, Interim Director of Music and Organist
Irma DeMaio, Administrative Assistant
John Yager, Custodian
Peter Bruinooge & 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
Daria Leone
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