



THE SPIRE

BOONTON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • MARCH 2011

Faith, Hope and Love in **ACTION!**

DEAR SAINTS,

In Mathew 11 Jesus says, ***“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”***

I love this text and I find it so comforting anytime of year but especially as we approach **Lent**.

Lent **can** be a very fruitful time of rededicating oneself to prayer, increasing one’s devotion and attention to God, giving up of something that we regularly enjoy, and/or clearing away some of the behaviors that get in the way of our discipleship.

For some though, Lent seems heavy, burdensome or even ‘depressing’ due to current life/ faith struggles or personal grief. Some even avoid Lent entirely until Palm Sunday.

Regardless of where you are in your faith journey, I want to encourage you to

consider looking at Lent differently this year with a theme of **“Small Surrenders.”** This idea is taken from Emilie Griffin’s book by the same title.

I love the idea of “small surrenders” because, for me, it seems to remove the oft’ heavy feeling that sometimes can come with Lent and offers a helpful reframing of the season that literally means springtime.

This is not to say in any way, that I want anyone to ‘skim through Lent’ like stones skipping across a pond. Rather consider taking small, daily intentional steps that are both manageable but also intentional efforts to surrender; to our wills and our desires to God.

small Surrenders

Small Surrenders can be done in a myriad of ways:



You might consider attending **Ash Wednesday Worship** for the first time, especially if you have had negative associations with the concept of Ash Wednesday in the past.

You might consider **praying again daily** or for the first time.

You might consider using a **daily devotional** either by yourself or with a spouse or friend. (I have compiled a list of new titles that are easily ordered online (see inside pg 3).

You might consider joining one of the **Lenten bible studies** that will be offered this Lent.

Or perhaps coming to the **Seder**, and/or the **Holy Week Services**.

Only you know what it is that you are dreading or avoiding in your relationship with God. Lent is a wonderful time to surrender even the avoidance!

My hope and prayer for all of us is that we can be open to surrendering ourselves to God in whatever way we are being drawn, especially because it is God who wants to draw near to us.

Surrendering with you in Christ,

Jen

Consider Eugene Peterson’s modern translation of Mathew 11 in *The Message*: **“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”**

Annual

Mission

SUNDAY — MARCH 6th

This year our annual **Mission Sunday / Mission Fair** will be held on Sunday, March 6th, a day we set aside to get to know some of the missions supported by First Church. As we did last year, we will be including both missions that we financially support, as well as those who receive benefits from us in other ways — be that through the use of our facilities or through other donations, such as food or clothing, provided by the congregation. This will be a day to learn how our mission dollars are put to work, and will provide an opportunity for us to get to know each other a little better. When we consider the missions we

desire to support, we look at groups that concentrate on one or more of the following: spreading the Gospel, feed & clothe the poor, provide shelter or provide fellowship. The missions selected and approved by the session for this year certainly fit these goals — as you will witness on the 6th.

For the Mission Fair we will have the opportunity to learn more about these groups through participation in our worship service, as well as an opportunity to meet with mission representatives during coffee hour, where they will be available to share in more detail their goals, challenges and how our support helps their

efforts. Their message can be very powerful so **don't miss the chance to learn firsthand what great work they are doing.**

As we have agreed to bring the mission funding back into our annual budget, and have increased the funding targets for 2011 to \$15,000, **this day will provide us with insight into how our gifts are going to be spent.**

So come meet some of the recipients of our mission gifts, either financial or non financial in nature, on the 6th of March. ♥

The Mission Interpretation and Stewardship Committee

Dear First Presbyterian,
Enclosed is a check for The Memorial Fund in memory of Gladys Mazzei - Gordon's sister. She was a member of the church for many years before moving to Tennessee.
We send you greetings from sunny and warm Florida - temps are in the high 70's to 80's this week. Hope to see many of you this Summer when we "snowbird" to PA.
Nancy & Gordon Nicholson

LUCILLE H. ROCKIS
SOCIAL SERVICES (973-402-9410 x634)
Dear First Presbyterian Friends,
Many thanks for the generous supply of food and personal care items which you donated to the food pantry. We are grateful for your help, as are the recipients of your concern and thoughts.
Through your sacrifice, we are able to continually appease the hunger of those unable to provide for themselves or their families. Please also remember them in your prayers. Again, thank you.
Sincerely yours,
Robin and Lucille

NOTES FROM SARAH

MARCH 2011

<http://www.fpcboonton.org>



*"O sacred Head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns, thine only crown:
How pale thou art with anguish,
With sore abuse and scorn!
How does that visage languish
Which once was bright as morn!"*

HEAR YE, HEAR YE!

As the Lenten season begins on **Ash Wednesday**, March 9th, so too does a time of reflection during which we experience the anticipation of the glorious **Easter Season**. During this time of reflection, the members of the music ministry at First Presbyterian are diligently rehearsing for Lenten worship services, as well as preparing for **Palm Sunday on April 17th**, and **Holy Week services on Maundy Thursday, April 21st and Good Friday, April 22nd**.

The Chancel Choir will be debuting the cantata "*The Rose of Calvary*," by Joseph Martin, during holy week in April. This cantata will be presented in segments, beginning on Palm Sunday and concluding on Easter. It will feature the Chancel Choir and readers from the congregation. **If anyone is interested in singing with the choir for this cantata, please begin attending Thursday evening choir rehearsals at 7:30PM in the choir room during the months of March and April.** Come one and all to enjoy this enriching musical experience during the season of Lent and Easter.



PLEASE MAKE A NOTE:

Children's Choir will resume on Sunday, March 6, 11:15AM – 11:45AM. The children will be working on songs to sing for a spring Music Sunday on May 8th. All interested children and parents are encouraged to attend! Music packets will be distributed at rehearsal.

March Rehearsals as follows:

Chancel Choir, Thursdays,
7:30 - 9PM

Hand Bell Choir, Thursdays,
6:30 - 7:30PM
(March 3, 17, & 31;
April 14 & 28)

Children's Choir, Sundays,
March 6 – May 1,
11:15 - 11:45AM

If you are interested in becoming a member of any of the above-mentioned choirs, please call or e-mail the organist/choir director, Sarah Frederick (973-334-3535, ext 18, bableon247@yahoo.com). Hope to see you at the next rehearsal! ♥

Book List

Small Surrenders: A Lenten Journey
– Emilie Griffin

40-Day Journey with Dietrich Bonhoeffer,
– Ron Klug, editor

A Clearing Season: Reflections for Lent
– Sarah Parsons

Bread in the Wilderness: Spiritual Famine or Gospel Feast?
– Kenneth H. Carter

Living with the Mind of Christ
– James A. Harnish

Show Me The Way: Daily Lenten Readings
– Henri J.M. Nouwen

PRAYER TO GO

Beethoven's Prayer

O God, give me strength to be victorious over myself, for nothing may chain me to this life.

O Guide my spirit, O raise me from these dark depths, that my soul transported through Your wisdom may fearlessly struggle upward in fiery flight.

For You alone understand and can inspire me.

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827), after he realized that his deafness was incurable, Germany

World Day of Prayer
March 4

MISSION SUNDAY
Mission Fair
March 6

SODA BREAD for SALE
March 13

SOUP SUPPERS
Tuesdays in MARCH
Begin 15th

“Get Away With God”
April 8–10

Save the Date!
SEDER DINNER
April 21

SODA BREAD FOR SALE



On March 13th. PW will be selling soda bread for your Corn Beef and Cabbage dinner on St. Patrick's Day. We will be baking at the church on Sat. the 12th. if anyone would like to come and help make it.

There will be two sizes: Large: \$5.00 and Small: \$3.00.








“Get Away With God”

On April 8th. thru April 10th. the PW of Newton Presbytery will be hosting a “Get Away With God” weekend at Villa Pauline 350 Bernardsville Rd., Mendham. Come for the whole weekend or just Saturday. The leader is the Rev. Judy Kolwicz. Bring an item that represents your Mom or Grandmother’s special way to celebrate Easter (recipe, table item). Also bring Bible, towels, soap, personal items and leave your worries at home. Cost for two nights/five meals is \$155; One night/three meals \$105. Deadline for Registration is March 25th. There is a flyer posted on the PW bulletin board outside the church office for more information with how to register and telephone number. Talk to Marisa Crozier if interested. ♥



MARCH

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1 ...Adelaide Keoppel | 11 ..Judy Caggiano | 24 .Dan Keoppel |
|Amanda Roberts | 16..Sandy Albert | 25 .Lisa Hordnes |
| 3 ...Jean Lobb | 18..Luke Hettrich | 27 .Theresa Charlton |
| 5 ...Glenn Lobb |Bonnie Lobb | 29 .Chloe Harris |
| 9 ...Carina DeLaro | 19..Casey Reed | |
|Zachery Keoppel | 22 .Donald Coe | |
|Karl Philippoff |Bob Dencker | |

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>MARCH 2011</p>		<p>Scholarship Forms 1 Deadline</p> <p>10:00 Needlers (at Sophy's)</p> <p>7:00 Bullying Seminar</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:45 PresbyAires Merry Heart</p> <p>6:00 Morris County Conservatory</p> <p>7:30 PW Board Mtg.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:30 Hand Bell Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Denville Methodist</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>9:00 Confirmation Class 6</p> <p>10:00 Worship COMMUNION MISSION SUNDAY</p>  <p>11:15 Coffee Hr</p> <p>11:15 Children's Choir Mission FAIR</p> <p>7:00 A.A.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:30 Evangelism Committee Mtg.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>3:00 Presbytery Meeting</p> <p>7:00 A.A.</p> <p>7:30 MI & Stewardship Meeting</p>	<p>9</p> <p>ASH Wednesday 8 pm Worship Service</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:00 Cubs - Tigers</p> <p>7:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>11</p> <p>4:00 Girl Scouts Troop 57</p> <p>6:00 Cubs - Wolves/Weblos I</p>	<p>12</p> <p>PW Baking Soda Bread</p> 
<p>Daylight Savings Begins 13</p> <p>9:00 Confirmation Class</p> <p>10:00 Worship-First Sunday of LENT</p> <p>11:15 Children's Choir</p> <p>11:15 Coffee Hr.</p> <p>Soda Bread Sale</p> <p>7:00 A.A.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:30 SESSION</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>10:00 Needlers (at Sophy's)</p> <p>6:30 LENTEN Soup Supper</p> <p>6:45 PresbyAires Arden Courts</p> <p>7:00 Deacons Meeting</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:00 Morris County Conservatory</p>	<p>17</p>  <p>St. Patrick's Day</p> <p>6:30 Hand Bell Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>18</p> <p>4:00 Girl Scouts Troop 57</p> <p>7 pm Cub Scouts Pack 201</p>	<p>19</p> <p>12:00 Girl Scouts - 453</p>
<p>9:00 Confirmation Cl 20</p> <p>10:00 Worship- Second Sunday of LENT</p> <p>11:15 Children's Choir</p> <p>11:15 Coffee Hour</p> <p>3:00 ASAP Support Group</p> <p>6:00 Morris County Conservatory</p> <p>7:00 A.A.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:30 Christian Education Meeting</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:30 LENTEN Soup Supper</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:00 Morris County Conservatory</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>9:00 Confirmation Cl. 27</p> <p>10:00 Worship- Third Sunday of LENT</p> <p>11:15 Children's Choir</p> <p>11:15 Coffee Hour</p> <p>7:00 A.A.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:00 Worship Comm. Meeting</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:30 LENTEN Soup Supper</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:00 Morris County Conservatory</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:30 Hand Bell Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir</p>	 <p>Watch for all Lent and Soly Week Events</p>	



BUDGET 2011:

- Income is tracking ahead of budget.
- The expenses are tracking below budget.
- The additional contributions to the restricted funds total \$3,550.55 for the period.

The 2011 Stewardship “*Renewal*” Campaign has resulted in 58 pledges to date. An increase over 2010. We **encourage** all to commit a “pledge” of support for next year, which will make our budget planning process much simpler.

JANUARY 1 – JANUARY 30, 2011				
	Pledged	Non-pledged	Plate	Expenses
2011 Budget	13,461.54	5,961.54	384.62	23,534.71
2011 Actual	18,428.00	3,702.00	279.00	20,464.17
2010 Actual	19,257.00	3,771.00	279.00	

TRINITY FUND:

- The Trinity campaign was officially closed at the January 23, 2011 Congregational meeting.
- The amount remaining in the account is \$39,281.72.
- Historical Preservation funds will augment the additional the cost of improvement needed.

MISSION CAMPAIGN:

- A \$15,000.00 line item has been added to the 2011 Budget.
- \$2,064.26 has been contributed to our Mission Budget to date.
- New Mission envelopes are now available in every pew of our sanctuary.
- We encourage you to use these envelopes when supporting our Mission Program. ♥

Please Join Us - Save the Dates!

ASH Wednesday

*Join us for
Worship Service
March 9, 2011
8 pm*

LENTEN Soup Suppers

*Each TUESDAY
Evening
Beginning
March 15, 2011
In the Library*

PALM/PASSION Sunday

*Join us this year
April 17, 2011
9 am*

*Hosted by FPC - We will again
share a joint Palm Parade and
Breakfast,
We will parade from FPC to
St. John's and back again.*

AND GOD SHALL GRIEVE WITH ...



THE HAMILTON-HOLCOMBE FAMILIES — Win's maternal grandfather, Myron Hamilton, was called home to his Lord at the age of 91. Prayers are asked for Win as well as his grandmother, Edna Hamilton, and the rest of the family.

THE FAMILY OF ED KALBFLEISCH — friend of the Whipple family. Ed was called home to his Lord after battling with cancer. Prayers are asked for his wife, Becky; his children Carly and Zack; and all the Kalbfleisch family.

CARMEN RUTA AND FAMILY — friend of the Ficaro family, Carmen's 20 year-old son died suddenly in a car accident. Please hold them in your prayers.

IN OUR PRAYERS: Concerns

THE PEER FAMILY — aunt, uncle and cousins of Rebecca Nickel, had a devastating house fire in Flanders, NJ, that destroyed their home. God kept them safe. The Red Cross is providing initial support. Prayers are asked for strength, patience, and an enduring positive spirit for each of them as they sort out and rebuild.

FRANK REITZ — is recovering from shoulder surgery. Please pray for Frank's healing and swift recovery.

HENRY & VIRGINIA APELIAN — Henry is at home, resting and recovering after surgery; Virginia will have complicated eye surgery on March 15. Please keep Virginia and Henry in your prayers.

BOBBIE VIDA — The knee surgery was successful and Bobbie is doing well on the road to recovery. Please pray for a full and speedy recovery.

FRANK AGNELLI — friend of Donna Kurley, is hospitalized with Pancreatitis and other health issues. Please pray for healing and swift recovery.

BRENNA HASSELMANN — 10 year-old granddaughter of Tom and Louise, diagnosed with Lymphangiomatosis, is home from hospital and glad to be with family. Brenna will attempt to resume life activities, including school, as she is physically able. More treatments and testing are still to come. Please continue to pray for Brenna and her family

GAIL COE — Please hold Gail in your prayers for relief from constant sciatic pain.

THE PEOPLE OF EGYPT, LIBYA AND ALL THE THE MIDDLE EAST — Please pray that God may bring peace amidst the conflicts.

OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM — Let our prayers be with all soldiers as they defend the freedoms that we hold so dear. We are truly grateful for their service to our nation. We will continue to hold all our service personnel in our prayers until they ALL come home.

JOYS

REBECCA NICKEL — is thankful for the prayers of the faithful and to God, who led her to the right doctor who was able to diagnose her early with ankylosing spondylitis (a chronic, inflammatory arthritis and autoimmune disease). Prayers are asked for strength and patience as she deals with this unpredictable disease.

LISA NORDFORS — daughter of Lisa & Jeff, was appointed to the Deans List at Pace University and earned the CAP Honors Award!! Praise the Lord!

BRENNA NICKEL — has been certified for ordination by Presbytery. Please pray for her as she seeks her first congregational call.

THE LANIGAN FAMILY is thankful to God for protecting Barbara & Catherine during a recent car accident caused by a drunk driver. Thank God, they are both well!



GIFTS IN MEMORY OF ♥ LOVED ONES ♥

In Memory of:
Mary Vitale
Given By:
Marilyn & Jim Ward

In Memory of:
Gladys Mazzei
Given By:
Nancy & Gordon Nicholson

In Memory of:
Mildred & Aldrich Nix
Given By:
Donald Nix

First Presbyterian Church

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Rev. Jennifer M. Van Zandt, *Minister*
Sarah Frederick, *Music Director*
Norma Moreno, *Administrator*



• • • • • **WHY FORTY DAYS** • • • • •

Jesus was in the wilderness forty days facing temptation and discerning the kind of ministry God intended for him (Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13). In Scripture forty days or forty years is often the duration of a time of punishment, repentance, fasting, or vigil: The children of Israel were in the wilderness forty years; Jonah preached that Nineveh would be destroyed in forty days; Acts 1:3 reports that the risen Christ appeared to his followers for forty days before his ascension.

COLOR FOR LENT

Purple, a royal color that also signifies penitence and preparation is used during Lent on cloths for altar, pulpit, and lectern, stoles, and banners.

GIVING UP AND ADDING ON

Giving up something for Lent is a tradition that probably grows out of the history of Lenten penance and fasting. Most of us have things in our lives that we need to give up permanently. Lent is a good time to begin. Or we might give up something we value in order to help people in need. Churches or individuals may make an offering of money saved from the practice of self-denial to give to people in need. We may want to add some things for Lent – acts of kindness, generosity, compassion, and love.

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

On Palm /Passion Sunday, the Sunday before Easter, worship services celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem amidst the joyful welcome of his followers, but they also deal with the story of his passion and death. Sometimes the service begins with a procession carrying palms or other leafy branches. This year we will again share a joint palm parade and breakfast, hosted by FPC this year. We will parade from FCB to St. John's and back again.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

On Thursday of Holy Week, Christians commemorate Jesus' Last Supper when he broke bread and gave the cup to his disciples, initiating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The word Maundy is derived from the Latin word Mandatum (or commandment). John's Gospel tells of Jesus washing disciples feet and giving them a new commandment to love one another as God loved us. Our Maundy Thursday worship includes a seder followed by a worship service of Communion and foot washing.

TENEBRAE

Following communion on Holy Thursday or on Good Friday evening, some churches have a service of Tenebrae or "Darkness," which originated in the twelfth century. As Jesus' sufferings are recalled through scripture, from betrayal to the crucifixion, candles are extinguished, one by one, until the room is left in darkness.
