



THE SPIRE

BOONTON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • February 2011

Faith, Hope and Love in ACTION!

Dear Valentines,

OK that should give you a clue what this article is about...maybe. For some reason I am excited about February arriving this year, probably because, January this year, has seemed...seemed slower than molasses and I'm happy to see it go. I'm also excited about February because this year, Ash Wednesday isn't until March 9th. But mostly because I am about February because of an article I read in a secular magazine, written by a secular author charging us to do a very deeply Christian thing called "The Love Experiment."

Looking for some new spiritual and journalistic angle, Catherine Newman, staff writer for "Whole Living" magazine decided to start a month-long project; to attempt a new way of living, specifically loving the people in her life in a 'better way.' She was inspired to do this after reading a single, but very deep, question from famed Zen Buddhist and prolific author, Thich Nhat Hanh. He challenges people to ask their closest friends and family one simple question... **"Please tell me how to love you better."**

Whoa.

I've studied a fair amount of Eastern thought over the years as well as the classic 'love texts' in scripture but somehow this idea of thoughtfully, authentically and intentionally asking our loved ones **"Please**

tell me how to love you better" has got me thinking.

It's got me thinking how often I don't equally consider the other's needs. How I don't consider how my rushed responses distance others; how much snarky quips land, how I am so busy rushing 'onto the next,' that I forget to listen to my loved ones — maybe even to the same story again — because my loved ones need to tell it...again.

It's not that I don't care about, nor love and adore my friends and family but it occurs to me that I may actually not know what I need to do to love them better. I just do what I think is right and 'hope for the best.' But based on Newman's own findings when she asked it in her relationships, I'm beginning to wonder what I might hear (or not want to hear) in return. I won't reiterate the complete article but you can read it here: <http://www.wholeliving.com/article/the-love-experiment>.

Suffice to say, that when the author had the temerity to ask her spouse, her children, her best gal pal and her parents: **"Please tell me how to love you better,"** she got a wide span of responses, all very telling and ultimately very helpful. She learned that her habits and communication style wasn't always the most helpful. She learned her *tone* has more power sometimes than her *words*. She also

learned she is also 'getting it right' sometimes too.

So as we enter into February with deep prayers for a break from snow and ice and ramp up for whatever kind of Valentine's Day awaits us, perhaps we'll skip the perfunctory Whitman's sampler and the corny, sappy card for a more excellent way.

Maybe it'll be searching for new ways to be more loving in our most long-standing and perhaps tired relationships. Maybe it'll be thinking about more authentic ways to learn to love the prickly, challenging and idiosyncratic people in our lives. Maybe it'll be finally allowing others to be exactly who they are.

I hope at least you'll do something intentional and different this February to make the "month of love" or even the 14th a meaningful day; to truly show and share and remind your loved ones how much you love them, even when they make you crazy.

But I'll bet, that if you choose the God-given courage to ask Thich Nhat Hanh's question, you'll be amazed at how your loved ones will respond with understanding and the love you'll get in return.

Hoping with you in Christ,

♥ Jen

LOVE

CELEBRATING THE COMPLETION OF OUR RENOVATIONS

Congregation members and leaders of the First Presbyterian Church of Boonton happily braved bitter cold temperatures on a recent Sunday morning to hold a ribbon cutting ceremony marking the completion of a \$333,000 renovation project at the 178 year old church.

The Rev. Jennifer Van Zandt snipped a purple ribbon stretched across the sanctuary's newly completed handicap access ramp as project committee members and fellow parishioners cheered. The concrete ramp was the last major piece of the three-year renovation plan, dubbed the **Trinity Campaign**.

Major renovations to the church property began in the summer of 2008 with structural and aesthetic repairs to the highly visible **spire**, a landmark to travelers along Route 287 and throughout the town. Contractors stabilized the structure and repaired leaks, paving the way to begin renovations to the sanctuary below.

Following some plaster repairs, the pale blue interior of the **sanctuary was painted** a warm shade of tan, while the white ceiling and trim were given fresh coats of paint. All of the **pews**, original to the 150 year old sanctuary, were also **refreshed and restored**. Carpeting and choir pews were removed from the



Rev. Jen cuts the ribbon to officially open the new handicap access ramp at the First Presbyterian Church of Boonton and mark the final step of our major renovation project. Holding the ribbon are Allen Whipple (left), chairman of the Trinity Campaign, and Bruce Middleton, chairman of the Sanctuary Renovation Committee.

chancel as a way to improve acoustics and create a more flexible worship space. **Carpeting** in the aisles and hallways was **replaced**, along with the **pew cushions**.

Throughout the summer-long sanctuary renovation project the congregation held worship services in its fellowship hall and, on Labor Day weekend we worshipped in the back yard of the church manse on Cornelia Street.

The church also replaced its aging and trouble-prone pipe organ with a **state-of-the-art Allen organ**, which the congregation dedicated in October with a standing room only concert by world renowned organist Diane Bish.

Rev. Van Zandt said the First Presbyterian Church continues to be grateful for the generosity of members, former members and friends of the congregation who contributed to the renovation with time, treasure and talents. "We're thrilled," she said, "with not only the privilege of being able to accomplish this, but that it gives us now time and energy to focus on being in a place where people come to worship, to be prayed with and for, and a beacon to equip the saints for continuing to do God's work in the world." ♥

Reminder . . .

If you would like to receive The Spire by email as a pdf document -- please send an email to Charles Homeijer at chh.home@yahoo.com



NOTES FROM SARAH

FEBRUARY 2011

<http://www.fpcboonton.org>



*“Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down;
Fix in us thy humble dwelling;
All thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation;
Enter every trembling heart.”*



HEAR YE, HEAR YE!

As the winter season continues to progress, so to do the weekly choir rehearsals at First Presbyterian. New music for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter has been distributed to each choir and is diligently being rehearsed. Those involved in the music ministry at First Presbyterian Church continue to demonstrate their enjoyment and dedication by attending rehearsals and singing during Sunday morning services.

Special thanks to the **Metropolitan Saxophone Quartet (M.S.Q.)** for musically enhancing our morning worship service on January 30th. Thanks to their fine arranging skills, the chancel choir had the opportunity to sing a favorite gospel anthem, “Amazing Grace”, accompanied by M.S.Q. and piano. The Quartet consisted of Erik Conough, soprano saxophone, Andrew Lopez, alto saxophone, John Di Egiglio, tenor Saxophone, and Michael Cardillo, alto saxophone. M.S.Q. continued to grace us with their excellent and enthusiastic love of saxophone music during the evening concert in the sanctuary following the soup and

chili cook-off. Thank you to all who came to support both physically and musically fulfilling events at First Church!

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. All interested children and parents are encouraged to attend! Music packets will be distributed at rehearsal.

February Rehearsals as follows:

Chancel Choir, Thursdays,
7:30 – 9PM

Hand Bell Choir, Thursdays,
6:30 - 7:30PM
(Feb. 3 & 17; Mar. 3, 17, & 31)

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, babbleon247@yahoo.com). Hope to see you at the next rehearsal! ♥

OFFICERS FOR 2011

At the special meeting of the Congregation on November 21, 2010 the following officers were elected for a three-year term:

Elders Linda Blank, Patricia Herrera, Linda Meier, and John Roberts will join elders Sandy Albert, Joe Hordnes, Diane Kearney, Allen Whipple, Gail Coe, Don Estler, Donna Keoppel, and Gayle Lobb to serve the Congregation as the Session in 2011.

Deacons Barbara Coates, Tom Hasselmann, and Brett Nickel will join Dan Carhart, Sandy Thoele, Bobbie Vida, Jim Cowan, Donna Kurley, and Marilyn Terhune to serve as the Board of Deacons.

We heartfully thank our dedicated members who served our Session, Bruce Middleton, Denise Nickel, Jeff Nordfors, and Martel Roberts, and Deacons Beatrice Beatty, Don Kearney, Devon Kelly, Ellen Stevenson, and Betty Tilli for their time and service.

Elected to a three year term on the following committees are:

Betty Tilli - Personnel Committee
Elaine Oussoren - Financial Review Team
Marisa Crozier - Memorials Committee

Retiring with thanks from the Personnel Committee is Sandy Albert. & Elaine Oussoren (moved her service from the Personnel Committee to the Financial Review Team). This is the first year a member has been elected to serve on the Memorials Committee. Marisa Crozier joins Charles and Marty Homeijer on the Memorials Committee. We thank Doug Langdon for his many years of faithful service. ♥



FEBRUARY

- 1.....Krista DeLuca
- 5.....Sandy Crisafulli
- 6.....Donna Kurley
- 10.....Gregory DeLuca
- 14.....Andrea Phillipoff
- 17.....Mark Hettrick
- 17.....Doug Langdon
- 22.....Amy Cartelli
- 24.....Dan Carhart
- 25.....Lisa Cowan
- 27.....Gail Coe
- 28.....Ian Nordfors
- 28.....Kristina Braman

**SCOUT SUNDAY
SOUPER BOWL
OF CARING
February 6
10 AM**

**ASAP
Support
Group
Feb 20
3 PM**

**Baby
Shower**

FEBRUARY 25
see article on
this page

See
WISH LIST
for Donation
Suggestions

**BULLYING
SEMINAR**

**March 1
7:30 pm**

**Scholarship
Applications
Due
March 1**

We're Having A Baby Shower on Feb 25

Join us for a baby shower for infants in great need.

On Friday, Feb. 25 the PW will host a very special opportunity to assist some of the most vulnerable infants within New Jersey's child welfare system. This unique "baby shower" will provide supplies to an organization called **Hudson Cradle**.



Hudson Cradle is a group home located in Jersey City in which babies are placed by the NJ Department of Youth and Family Services. This warm and happy home shelters "medically fragile" babies from birth to 18 months who can not be placed with foster families because of the need for special care.

Most have either been drug exposed, HIV exposed, born prematurely, abused, or

neglected. Hudson Cradle with its nurses, social workers and caring volunteers nurture these infants through this critical stage of life.

You can help by joining us in Reighart Hall on February 25 for a potluck dinner at 6:30 P.M. followed by a brief presentation about Hudson Cradle. Please bring unwrapped gifts which you can select from a list by our sign-up poster that will be on the door leading to the bridge. The wish list is also found at

hudsoncradle.org/downloads/wishlist_2010.pdf.

If you can not make it that night there will be a box by the PW bulletin board where you can place your baby shower gift.

Hudson Cradle is a non-profit organization so donations, whether monetary or gifts, are tax-deductible. ♥



WISH LIST

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| 9 Volt Batteries | Diapers (Sizes 2, 3, & 4) | Normal Saline Nose Drops |
| "AA" Batteries | Dishwashing Liquid Detergent | Paper Towels (Folded, Flat) |
| "AAA" Batteries | Dishwashing Machine Detergent (liquid/gel) | Playskool Tumble 'n Twirl |
| Alimentum Formula | Dreft Laundry Detergent | Pine Sol |
| Aquaphor Ointment | Extra Large Garbage Bags | Polaroid Film (Series 600) |
| Baby Bottle Nipples | Fan | Printing Services |
| Baby Bottle Warmers | First Aid Kit | Single Serve Snacks for Staff: Coffee, Tea, Sweets, Hot Chocolate |
| Baby Food | Gallon Jugs of Water | Snow Salt |
| Baby Sneakers (3 Months - 24 Month) | Gift Certificate for Car Wash (in Jersey City, NJ) | Vacuum |
| Baking Soda | Hair Clipper Set | Vaporizer (Cool Mist) |
| Bibs | Large Garbage Bags | White Vinegar |
| Brother IntelFax 1270e Toner | Liquid Hand Soap | Winter Hats |
| Busy Box Toys | Lysol Spray | Yo Gabba Bag! Kevtar |
| Cetaphil Gentle Skin Cleanser | Mailing Labels (1" x 2-5/8" Laser Labels) | |
| Clorox Disinfectant Wipes | Nasal Aspirator/Baby Nose Suction | |
| Crib Mobiles | | |
| Copy Machine Toner (Canon L-50) | | |
| Crib Mirrors | | |







SOUPER BOWL OF CARING - FEB 6

Tekna Theou and R.O.C.K. will be collecting dry goods and financial donations for the Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday February 6.

**All FOOD will be donated to Boonton Food Pantry
All MONEY collected will be donated to a charity selected by the youth groups.**

Please support the youth of our church in this effort. ♥

Missions

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JANUARY 30 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:00 Worship Installation of New Officers 11:15 Coffee Hr 5:30 PW Soup & Chili Cookoff 7:30 Metropolitan Sax Concert 7:00 A.A.	JANUARY 31 7:00 Evangelism Committee Meeting	1 10:00 Needlers (at Sophy's) 7:30 MI and Stewardship Comm. Mtg.	2 Groundhog Day PresbyAires at Morris View Health Care 7:30 PW Board Mtg.	3 6:30 Hand Bells 7:30 Chancel Choir 	4 National Wear RED Day 6:00 Cubs - Wolves/Webelos I 7:00 Cubs/Webelos	5 ROCK LOCK-IN SPECIAL events
9:00 Confirmation Class 10:00 Worship COMMUNION  SCOUT SUNDAY - Super Bowl of Caring 11:15 Coffee Hr. 7:00 A.A.	7 7:30 Evangelism Committee Meeting 	8 7:00 A.A.	9 7:00 Lay Listening Group	10 7:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 Cubs - Tigers	11 4:00 Girl Scouts Troop 57	12
9:00 Confirmation Cl. 13 10:00 Worship 11:15 Coffee Hour 7:00 A.A.	14 VALENTINES DAY 7:30 SESSION 	15 10:00 Needlers (at Sophy's)	16 PresbyAires at Troy Hills Ctr. 7:00 Deacons Meeting	17 6:30 Hand Bells 7:30 Chancel Choir 	18 6:00 Cubs - Webelos	19 Noon Girl Scouts 453 (Foundation)
9:00 Confirmation Cl. 20 10:00 Worship 11:15 Coffee Hour 11:15 ROCK Meeting 3:00 ASAP SUPPORT GROUP 7:00 A.A.	21 PRESIDENTS DAY Church Office Closed 7:30 Christian Ed. Mtg.	22	23	24 7:30 Chancel Choir	25 4:00 Girl Scouts Troop 57 6:30 pm Hudson Cradle "Baby Shower"	26
9:00 Confirmation Cl. 27 10:00 Worship 11:15 Coffee Hour 7:00 A.A.	28 7:00 Worship Comm.	MARCH 1 SCHOLARSHIP FORMS DEADLINE 10 am Needlers (Sophy's) 7 pm Seminar on BULLYING 7:30 MI/Stewardship Comm. Mtg	6:45 PresbyAires at Merry Heart 7:30 PW Board Mtg	 February		

MISSION INTERPRETATION & STEWARDSHIP



January has come and gone! A busy month of finalizing the books for the previous year and looking ahead to the rest of 2011. Our deficit budget of - \$22,800 melted away as we saw contributions outpace the expected by almost \$20,000. We also managed to spend less than anticipated, ending the year without a deficit. In addition there were contributions of \$161,800 to restricted funds during the year, another testament to the willingness of this congregation to support the work of First Church.

On January 23rd, prior to our Congregational meeting, we celebrated the end of our **Trinity Campaign**, an effort to raise funds for Capital Improvements to the physical

environment of the church. Our goal of \$333,000 was exceeded, ending with total receipts of \$364,513. The work on the spire/steeple, sanctuary renovations, the new organ and the new handicapped access ramp were all completed, and a full report is on page 2 of this issue. The current balance of the account is about \$50,000 for remaining projects. In addition we expect to receive funds from the Morris County Preservation Trust fund to complete additional projects.

The **Mission** target for 2010 was set at \$12,800 and included both Presbytery and Specific Missions that we have traditionally supported. After a slow start we ended up receiving \$11,938 for our mission work.

In addition to the specific missions there are many other programs, some of which have been identified in previous articles throughout the year. We will provide a full report to you in upcoming *Spire* issues.

The **Stewardship Renewal** campaign is focused on our faith journeys, Spiritual renewal, Missions and Christian Education. Many have pledged to this campaign as we continue our work.

We thank you for all the dedicated support you have given to our Church, community, the world and most important, to God. ♥

MISSION	TARGET	DISTRIBUTION	MISSION	TARGET	DISTRIBUTION
Presbytery Missions			Specific Missions		
General Presbytery		\$ 5,601.89	Market St. Mission		\$ 1,607.09
Nairobi Partnership		\$ 1,169.09	Morris County Habitat for Humanity		\$ 207.09
Bloomfield College		\$ 114.49	NJ Truck Stop Ministries		\$ 207.09
Blair Academy Religion Pgm		\$ 73.72	Interfaith Food Pantry		\$ 207.09
Johnsonburg		\$ 976.34	Homeless Solutions		\$ 207.09
Total Presbytery	\$ 10,500	\$ 7,935.53	NJ Battered Women's Shelter		\$ 1,222.09
			Coping through Faith Seminars		\$ 345.17
			Total Specific Missions	\$ 2,300	\$ 4,002.71
			Overall Total	\$ 12,800	\$ 11,938.24

Dear Rev Jen,

I am so happy to receive the Spire every month and I especially enjoy your monthly letter to the "Saints".

God Bless you all for undertaking the "Be Our Guest" event.

There were many holiday musical events going on here. One evening for example, The Ann's Choice Chorus presented a 1-1/2 hour concert called "Winter Reflections" which was very enjoyable.

I hope all is well with you.

Best Wishes for a Happy New Year

Love, Gerda

SCHOLARSHIPS

Available:

2011 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS
&

RE-APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE — for students with good academic grades, character, and background experience who will be attending an accredited college or professional school. Applications must be submitted by March 1, 2011. For more information, or to request an application please contact the office:

office@fpcboonton.org

AND GOD SHALL GRIEVE WITH ...



THE HALTMEIER FAMILY — friends of the Veliky family. The Haltmeier's 2-year-old son Shane died on Wednesday, January 19, after battling cancer. Shane is now enjoying heavenly rest. Thank you for your prayers.

THE FAMILY OF PHYLLIS SCHNECK — aunt of Dale Lennox, PresbyAires member, Phyllis was one of the victims of the shootings in Arizona. Please pray for the Lennox family and all those families who are now mourning the loss of a loved one in that tragedy.

THE LANIGAN & LONGO FAMILIES — Barbara Lanigan's father, Salvatore Longo (89 years old), is enjoying heavenly rest; he was called home to his Lord on January 5, 2011.

THE FAMILY OF JULIA AGNELLI — mother of Donna Kurley's friend, was called home to her Lord after battling cancer. Prayers are asked for strength for Julia's family.

LYNN & AL DECASTRO — friends of Connie Kelly, are mourning the loss of Lynn's mother who passed away suddenly. Please hold them in your prayers.

IN OUR PRAYERS: Concerns

HENRY APELIAN — will have another surgery on February 3, to get his gall bladder out. Please keep Virginia and Henry in your prayers.

BRENNA HASSELMANN — 10 year-old granddaughter of Tom and Louise, has been diagnosed as having Lymphangiomatosis (a disease in which many non-cancerous tumors or cysts grow in the lymph system). In her case, tumors have caused the lungs and chest cavity to fill with liquid. She was at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital since November 18, and then transferred to Boston Children's Hospital on December 28. Please keep Brenna and the entire family in your prayers.

ALICE MIDDLETON — is having health issues. Prayers are asked for her return to good health, and for strength for Alice and her family during this time.

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

ELIZABETH NORDT ALTORFOR — friend of Louise Hasselmann. The pathology results of the mastectomy came back benign! Please continue to keep Elizabeth in your prayers.



GIFTS IN MEMORY OF ♥ LOVED ONES ♥

In Memory of:
Grace Roberts

Given By:
Marilyn & Jim Ward
For the Memorial Fund

In Memory of:
Carl Jeffrey Weber

Given By:
Rev. John & Pauline Weber
For the Trinity Fund

In Memory of:
Aldrich & Mildred Nix

Given By:
Donald Nix
For the Organ/Choir Fund

First Presbyterian Church

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

LABEL

A Presentation on **BULLYING**

BALANCED LIFESTYLE SEMINAR OFFERED BY FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“**STOP BULLYING**” a seminar sponsored by The First Presbyterian Church of Boonton, will be held **Tuesday, March 1, from 7:30 – 9 p.m.** in the church’s Reighart Hall, 513 Birch Street, Boonton. Attendance is open to the community.

The program is the fourth in a series of Quality of Life seminars titled “**Living With Today’s Challenges**” sponsored by the Boonton First Presbyterian Church. The seminar series, which began last year, was designed to address various issues that prompt stress in everyday life, such as finances, job status, health and relationships, and also identify ways to successfully cope with and resolve these concerns.

“We wanted to provide a service to the community that tackles some of the most profound issues that affect us every day,” said Reverend Jennifer Van Zandt. Attendance and feedback from the community has been very encouraging, she said.



The March 1st seminar will feature education consultant, presenter and author **James Burns**, who will discuss how to handle bullying issues effecting our schools, family and today’s social well-being. Jim is an inspirational speaker and author known for his presentations on: Bullying, Motivating Disaffected Students, Diffusing Power Struggles, and The New 3Rs

in Education. Jim has worked as a teacher and administrator since 1977. He is also an accomplished college instructor who teaches graduate level courses in the areas of Cooperative Discipline, Disability Awareness, and Teaching and Learning through Multiple Intelligences.

Jim hosts his own radio show on blog talk radio called: “The Dad Talk Zone.” Visit his web site:
(<http://www.jameshburns.com>).

Bullying, which has been occurring in all aspects of our society, has become more prevalent in our schools. However it is defined, bullying is not just child’s play, but a terrifying experience that many American school children face every day. It can be as direct as teasing, hitting, or threatening, or indirect as exclusion, rumors, or manipulation. Bullying can no longer be explained away, as some adults are inclined to do, as a normal part of growing up. Bullying has only harmful, not beneficial, effects for the target and the perpetrator- even the bystander. Many children in our nation’s schools are robbed of the opportunity to learn because they are bullied and victimized daily. Bullying exacts a terrible toll on children, and the scars can last a lifetime.

This presentation will address practical methods of teaching respect, encouraging responsibility, and building compliance. Jim will discuss techniques for praising students and encouraging more positive classroom behavior to reduce and stop bullying. This seminar is for everyone, teachers, parents, and children, whether effected or not.

Seminars are generally held every two months on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 – 9 p.m. and will include a featured speaker or panel discussion. Each is designed to be interactive with attendees and will include a question and answer session. Refreshments will be offered and childcare is available upon request.

Advanced registration is requested. Participants can register by calling the church office at 973-334-3535 or by sending an email to office@fpcboonton.org.

Upcoming programs will cover Nutrition and Relationships. A brief description about program content can be found at the church’s website, www.fpcboonton.org. ♥
