

THE FANFARE

VOL. 60, No. 3

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FANWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APR 2015



Fanwood Presbyterian Church
Box 69
Fanwood, NJ 07023
908-889-8891

Senior Pastor
Reverend David Jahnke

Director of Children's & Youth
Ministries

Christie Alston

Director of Music Ministries
Tom Berdos

Church Organist
Deborah Berdos

Church Administrator
Judith Bowen

Director of Westminster
Preschool
Nancy E. Bantz

◆◆◆

THE FANFARE

FANFARE Editor
Chris Gray
cgray1941@aol.com

Production/Fulfillment
Coordinated by
Shirley Pillow

Next FANFARE deadline is
Apr 14, 2015
For the May Issue

FPC on the web

www.fanwoodpc.org

There are ten issues of THE FANFARE published yearly. The deadline is the 2nd Monday of every month except July and December.

Please put submissions in the FANFARE mail box or contact FANFARE Editor Chris Gray at the e-mail address listed above.

Fanwood Presbyterian Church

"Growing in God's Love, Serving All God's People"
through "Rejoicing, Renewing and Reaching Out"

Christ is Risen!


Dear friends in Christ,

What a gift it is to know that we belong to and will be with God and God's beloved and transformed people forever and ever because of the resurrection of Christ Jesus! It means the world to us here and now. It means that when our loved ones die, we can grieve with hope, trusting that one day, our "mourning will be turned into dancing." It means sin no longer reigns in us or on earth. Both of these press us forward in Kingdom Living, rather than allowing the weight of sin and death to hold us back.

When it comes to life's valleys, which in 21st century middle to upper class America feel "abnormal," we naturally look for a return to "normal." But the resurrection is completely abnormal and so is its fruits. This bizarre and unheard of event is now the source, means and aim of the abnormal life ahead. Abnormal because it is a "new creation!" Abnormal because it "rejoices in all things!" Abnormal because it "prays without ceasing." Abnormal because it gives without consideration of the cost.

Are you ready to lay claim to the abnormal Kingdom of God's unconditional love, God's amazing grace, God's perfect compassion? God has thus claimed you and will never let you go. Will you show this to those lost in and neglected by this world? Rise up and receive new life, full of Spirit and Truth. And God's people say...

Pastor David

2015		April				2015	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
			1 8:00 a.m. Morning Devotionals 10:00 a.m. Thrift Shop KK/ HS Youth Grps. 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Choir Rehearsals	2 9:30 a.m. Meditating on the Word 7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service	3 7:30 p.m. Good Friday Service	4	
5 EASTER SUNDAY 10:30 a.m. Combined Worship	6	7 2:00 p.m. Prayer Group 7:30 p.m. Scottish Dancing	8 10:00 a.m. Thrift Shop 7:30 p.m. Festival Choir Rehearsals	9	10 7:30 p.m. Needle Nite	11 Deacons Blood Drive 8:00 a.m. NJ Blood Services Center Scotch Plains	
12 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Cont. Ser. 12:15 p.m. Praise Band	13	14 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 2:00 p.m. Prayer Group 7:30 p.m. Session and Deacons 7:30 p.m. Scottish Dancing	15 10:00 a.m. Thrift Shop Choir Rehearsals 7:30 p.m. Festival Choir Rehearsals	16 9:30 a.m. Med. on the Word 7:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Trustees Mtg.	17	18 9:30 a.m. Food Bank	
19 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Cont. Ser. 12:15 p.m. Praise Band 4:30 p.m. Middler Youth Group	20	21 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 2:00 p.m. Prayer Group 7:30 p.m. Committee Meetings 7:30 p.m. Scottish Dancing	22 10:00 a.m. Thrift Shop KK/ HS Youth Grps. 5:30 p.m. Girls Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Festival Choir Rehearsals	23 9:30 a.m. Meditating on the Word 7:00 p.m. Bible Study	24	25	
26 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Cont. Ser. 12:15 p.m. Praise Band 4:30 p.m. Middler Youth Group	27	28 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 2:00 p.m. Prayer Group 7:30 p.m. Scottish Dancing	29 10:00 a.m. Thrift Shop KK/ HS Youth Grps. 5:30 p.m. Confirmation class 7:30 p.m. Festival Choir Rehearsals	30 9:30 a.m. Meditating on the Word 7:00 p.m. Bible Study			

Session and Committee News

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Approves Marriage Amendment

A majority of the 171 presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) have approved a change to the current description of marriage in the PC(USA)'s Constitution. The new language in the Book of Order reads:

"Marriage is a gift God has given to all humankind for the wellbeing of the entire human family. Marriage involves a unique commitment *between two people, traditionally a man and a woman*, to love and support each other for the rest of their lives. The sacrificial love that unites the couple sustains them as faithful and responsible members of the church and the wider community."

If you are interested in a theological and hermeneutical (biblical interpretation) framework for such a decision, I recommend Dubuque Seminary's professor Dr. Mark Achtemeier's [The Bible's Yes to Same-Sex Marriage: An Evangelical's Change of Heart](#). The opposing point of view can be found in the works of Dr. Robert Gagnon, N.T. professor at Pittsburgh Seminary.

In this time of great joy for many LGBT Christians and their supporters and a time of mourning and confusion for other Christians, my colleague Rev. Susan Phillips' words speak pastorally, "Prayers for those crying in thanksgiving that this day has finally come. Prayers for those who are crying because they don't know if they still belong. May we hold one another gently and prayerfully as we continue to walk in faithful community."



Movie Night- [Amazing Grace](#), April 18th, 6:00 p.m., sanctuary

"Based on actual events, this historical drama tells the story of William Wilberforce, the 18th-century English politician who launched an aggressive campaign to abolish British slavery, despite staunch opposition. The film also recounts the experiences of [John Newton](#) as a crewman on a slave ship and subsequent [religious conversion](#), which inspired his writing of the poem later used in the hymn. Newton was a major influence on Wilberforce and the abolition movement." [from Netflix and Wikipedia]



Report from the CROP Walk

There were 10 people from FPC who were actively at the First United Methodist Church either to register, walk or rock for CROP. There was also a water station in our parking lot and a safety car that drove the route several times. Thanks to them and to the many more people who made donations of all sizes.

\$3,437.00 was raised this year.

Our pastor David raised \$1000 while he ran a marathon in Minnesota.

Church World Service sponsors the CROP Walk and has received our donation. 25% of all the CROP money raised in Fanwood and Scotch Plains was returned to the towns for people in need, this year it was \$859.25.

Deacons and Food Bank

FANWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Deacon Committee - April, 2015



*Jesus gave his blood for us so we may live.
Follow his lead, and give your blood so
others, too, may live.
Be a blood donor.*

Did you know that:

- ⊙ Someone needs blood every two seconds.
- ⊙ One pint of blood can save up to three lives.
- ⊙ There is no substitute for human blood.
- ⊙ Giving blood will not decrease your strength.
- ⊙ There are 4 easy steps to donate blood: medical history, quick physical, donation and snacks.
(American's Blood Centers)

Fanwood Presbyterian Church is sponsoring our Spring Blood Drive on Saturday, April 11, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the NJ Blood Services Donor Center located at 2279 South Avenue . The entrance is from the parking lot in the back of the building.

You can sign up for an appointment to donate, at
<http://tinyurl.com/fwpresbyterian>

Sign-ups will also be taken at the church on March 29h and April 5th. Eligible donors between the ages of 16 to 75 are urgently needed. Written parental approval is required for 16 year olds and medical clearance by a doctor is required for those over 75. For questions about eligibility, you can go to www.nybloodcenter.org.

There is an ongoing need for all blood types and plasma donations. We need your help to reach this goal of 15 pints. Blood products, especially red blood cells are perishable and therefore, require ongoing donations.

Please donate a part of yourself that truly comes from your heart. Bring a friend and donate together ...spread the word! Walk-ins are welcome.



FPC FOOD BANK

Hello from the food bank

This month we are in need of canned fruit, tea and coffee.

Christian Education



If you are at church on a Wednesday night you may have noticed that there is a lot of noise and laughter coming from the Colville room. This is not your imagination, rather this is the FPC high school youth group coming together for fun, fellowship and Bible study. We are blessed at FPC to have a wonderful set of young adults you are curious about Jesus and who truly care for one another. At our last youth group I asked the kids why they come and/or what they enjoy most about youth group, and here are some of their responses:

"We watch each other's backs when we need help" - Katie Turso

"I love coming to youth group because we're family and always look out for one another"
Callie Santo Salvo

"I love coming to youth group because we all are close and treat each other like family"
Abby Saperstein

"Coming to youth group is so much fun because we are all very close and enjoy spending time together" -Kate Jackmin

"Youth group is great because we're a family and all of the confirmands go through the same stuff and we're just able to hang out and not stress about homework. We have fun." -Libby Daniskas

"Jesus" - Ross Leahy

As the youth continue to grow in their faith please continue to pray for them and encourage them in their journey!



Christian Education



A Word From Westminster Preschool

The children at Westminster Preschool are so happy that spring has arrived! Spring means outdoor fun on our play yard, no coats to button and zip, and of course, Easter is on its way! We have a wonderful Easter worship service for the children and our parents to attend, followed by a delightful Easter Egg Hunt, and then the infamous Bunny Brunch! The children sing at least six songs they have learned with Miss Haer, our Music teacher, and it is a day to treasure! We are thankful for such wonderful Westminster traditions! The children and staff of Westminster join me in wishing our church family a very Happy Easter! Blessings to all,
 Nancy Bantz

CHURCH NEWS

>>>>> April Birthdays <<<<<<

Date		Date		Date		Date	
1		9	Nathan Alston Evan Lake	17		25	Edmund Cox Katelyn Schwartz
2		10		18	Diane Johnston	26	
3	Zachariah Chapman	11	Jonathan Miller Paul Spicer	19	Timothy Geissel Peter S. Thomson	27	Pamela Magee
4	Beverly Comer	12	Douglas B. Clausen Robert Saum	20		28	Monika Chapman Colin Rafferty
5	Caitlin Keough	13		21		29	Julie Brown Heather Saum Diana Shoback
6	John Stueck	14	Justin Chaillet Jane Clausen	22	Kathy Mattimore Braden Slifer Sally Turso	30	Jennifer Gustafson
7	Jessica Schink	15	James Drewes Lynne Schwartz	23	Christina Hill		
8		16	Dorothy S. Boos Emily Sena Susan Wayman	24	Lindsey Magee Jeremy Mattimore		

Presbyterian Women



**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
STRETCHING HANDS, MINDS
AND HEARTS FOR MISSION.**

Presbyterian Women are all women in the Church: we encourage each woman to take part actively in whatever is of interest to her AND SUPPORT OUR ON-GOING EFFORTS.

Needle Nite will be meeting on April 10th. Please note the change to the second Friday. Over 50 quilts have been made this year. Many will be shown at the Harvest Quilter's show on March 28th at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church. The knitters and those who crochet will also have items at the show. The quilts will be given to Children's Specialized hospital, Center for Hope Hospice, and the Cancer Support Group of Central N.J. All are welcome to come and see what is being done and or to join the group.

There are two PW events coming up, please plan to attend.

1. The Spring Gathering of the PW of the Presbytery on April 29th will be in Woodbridge.



A request for sweaters

If you are finding that your wool sweaters are not becoming to you, because they have holes or stains, they should be coming to Cena. Making mittens from old wool sweaters is a project that is rewarding. Collecting the sweaters and shrinking them needs to be started now to have them ready to make into mittens next fall. Last year 36 pair of mittens and many with matching neck wear were given to The Relief Bus in Elizabeth, The Salvation Army in Plainfield and to our FPC Food Bank. To help call Cena at 908-889-2029 Or e-mail at dykenc1@verizon.net.

2. A Retreat hosted by Woodbridge PW in Ocean Grove on May 9th. The cost is \$25 and is due before April 1 with a check made out to FPC, noted for PW Retreat. For more information about these events please call Cena at 889-2029.

Small Groups or Circles of women meet for fellowship, service and Bible study.

Circles are open to all women and new members would be welcomed. Please call the leader of the Circle that fits your schedule.

Deborah's Circle meets a 7:30pm on the third Monday of each month. "Women of the Bible" is the study for this year. Ginny Kurek, 889-4645 is the leader.

Priscilla's Circle meets at 9:15am on the second Thursday of each month. Anne Teets is the leader, 889-6047.

Rachel's Circle meets at 8pm on the fourth Tuesday in Sept., Nov., Jan., Mar., and May. Diane Knechtel is the leader, 233-3633.