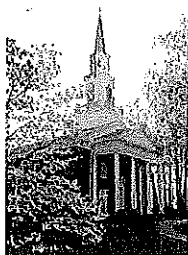


THE FANFARE

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THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FANWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FEB 2015



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THE FANFARE

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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"

"God so loved the world..."

In the gospel of John, the "world" is often a negative term as in "the prince of this world" referring to Satan and "The world...hates me because I testify that its works are evil." And yet this is the world that God still loves *so much* according to **John 3:16**. Thus God sent his Son to save a wicked world which God still loves.

God and the church are in the business of salvation. But we only are generally willing to risk ourselves in acts of salvation for those whom we love. Thus we learn in **Romans 5:7** "rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die."

In the next verse Paul teaches us that Jesus came to the world to show us the depths of God's love. "8 God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." With Christ ascended to heaven and His Spirit descending upon the church, we are the ones who are now called to show the world how much God loves them through our own willingness to take up *our* crosses, and give up *our* lives for the sake of others.

All saving acts involve the risk of death, to varying degrees. Heroes who go into burning buildings or jump into the ocean to save people are obvious examples; doctors and nurses working in ebola-infected regions another.

Some people are in obvious life-saving vocations for which they get compensated: police officers, fire fighters, surgeons, the military. But is not every vocation that is aimed at prosperity and truth and blessed products meant to be life-saving? Are they not meant to somehow better people's lives and thus contribute indirectly to salvation?

Not only the aim of the work and the product is important, but also what is done with the compensation. Is it mine or ours to protect and please just me and mine? Or is it God's to save the world?

Our love of family is the clearest example of who we will risk our lives and even die for.

....Continued on page 3

2015		February				2015	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Cont. Ser. 12:15 p.m. Praise Band No Youth Groups Sports Jersey Sunday	2	3 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 2:00 p.m. Prayer Group 7:30 p.m. Scottish Dancing	4 10:00 a.m. Thrift Shop 4:15 p.m. Kingdom Kids. 5:30 Confirmation Class 5:15 - 9 p.m. Choir rehearsals 6:45 p.m. -HS Youth	5 9:30 a.m. Meditating on the Word 7:00 p.m. Bible Study	6 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class leaves for Johnsonburg 7:30 p.m. Needle Nite	7 Confirmation Class Retreat at Camp Johnsonburg	
8 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Cont. Ser. 12 noon Confirmation Class returns from retreat 12:15 p.m. Praise Band Movie Night -- All 4:30 p.m.	9	10 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 2:00 p.m. Prayer Group 7:30 p.m. Session & Deacon Meeting 7:30 p.m. Scottish Dancing	11 10:00 a.m. Thrift Shop 4:15 p.m. Kingdom Kids. 5:30 Girls' Bible Study 5:15 - 9 p.m. Choir rehearsals 6:45 p.m. -HS Youth	12 9:30 a.m. Meditating on the Word 7:00 p.m. Bible Study	13	14	
15 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Cont. Ser. 12:15 p.m. Praise Band NO Youth Groups	16 President's Day	17 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 2:00 p.m. Prayer Group 7:30 p.m. Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m. Scottish Dancing	18 Ash Wednesday 10:00 a.m. Thrift Shop 4:15 p.m. Kingdom Kids. 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 5:15 - 9 p.m. 7:30 p.m. Worship Service	19 9:30 a.m. Med. on the Word 7:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Trustees Mtg-	20	21 9:30 a.m. Food Bank	
22 1st Sunday in Lent 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Cont. Ser. 12:15 p.m. Praise Band 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group	23	24 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 2:00 p.m. Prayer Group 7:30 p.m. Scottish Dancing	25 10:00 a.m. Thrift Shop 4:15 p.m. Kingdom Kids. 5:30 Girls' Bible Study 5:15 - 9 p.m. Choir rehearsals 6:45 p.m. - HS Youth	26 9:30 a.m. Meditating on the Word 6:30 p.m. Soup and Devotions 7:00 p.m. Bible Study	27	28	

Pastor's Message cont.

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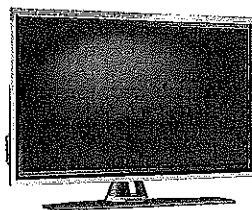
Any loving mother or father would wish to die to save their child's life and many would have the courage to do so. Jesus' life and death teach us something new about family and what it means to love our neighbor.

Jesus' entire ministry was life-saving. He loved everyone. He risked his standing in society by loving the sinful. He risked his health by touching and healing lepers. He gave up the stability of a home and family in favor of a risky life of wandering, healing, teaching and challenging the powerful. When his family tried to stop him due to the risks he was taking, he said, "Who are my mother and brothers? Anyone who follows me is my mother and sister and brother." **Mark 3:33-35** Jesus here is making clear that there is but one human family who are united in the love of their neighbor who is in need.

He sent the disciples out with no possessions, no money, no bag, extra sandals or cloaks in order to save and heal the world in word and deed. This is the legacy we are meant to carry on in the world. This means risking the security we might otherwise build up for ourselves for the sake of saving others. Anyone who does this is following the God of Jesus Christ. They are exhibiting what the apostle John calls love. **1John 3:16** This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for one another. **17** If any one of you has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in you?

May we delve more deeply into the love of God by giving more of our time, talents and treasures to our brothers and sisters in need.

Pastor David



Movie Night

Join us Feb. 8th at 4:30 p.m. in the sanctuary for a movie. We will watch "The Mighty" based on the acclaimed children's book *Freak the Mighty*. This movie will be appropriate starting between the ages of 9-12, depending on your child, through adulthood.

FPC FOOD BANK



FPC
Food Bank

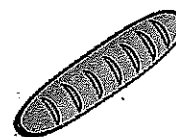
Hello from the food bank

We are in need of 2 lb bags of rice, canned milk and fruit.

Many thanks



Lenten Soup and Devotions with N.T. Wright

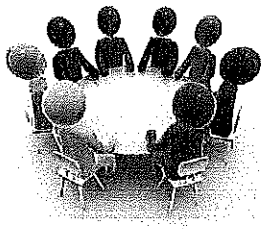


I hope you will join us for a re-examination of the resurrection and the nature of Christian Hope as we are led by the great New Testament scholar and theologian N.T. Wright on a journey to Easter. You are welcome to purchase the book *Surprised by Hope* as a supplement to the d.v.d. study but it is not required. The book and the study guide (which I will use as the basis for our discussion but does not need to be purchased) are \$3.99 and \$2.99 in a Kindle format on Amazon. I will have a few hardcover copies of the

Small Groups

book available at a discounted rate of \$10. N.T. Wright's excellent scholarship and faithful perspective have been transformative to me for more than a decade and they will surely have a great impact on you as well.

The program is on Thursdays from Feb. 26th through March 26th. We begin at 6:30 p.m. with a delicious meal of soup, salad and bread. The study begins at 7 p.m. and after breaking up into small groups (where you are free to speak or not speak according to the movement of the Spirit and where mutual respect and love are the foundation of our discussion), we wrap everything up by 8 p.m. With much hope and excitement, Pastor David



2015 F.P.C. Small Groups with Rob Bell

Our 1 p.m.
Tuesday and 7

p.m. Thursday Small Group have started up again in the sanctuary. We will be joining the charismatic Rob Bell on a search for a life filled full with love, peace, meaning and joy as we watch his 'nooma' videos which can also be viewed on youtube. The lessons are self-contained so please come whenever you are free. I can also provide you with the free 'nooma' reflection guides or you can download them nooma.com These lessons will break for Lent the

week of Feb. 15th -- see Lenten small group offerings above-- and start up again the week of April 13th.

Rob Bell is an evangelical (gospel-believing and gospel-proclaiming) Christian about whom the following has been said: "Bell is at the forefront of a rethinking of Christianity in America." (TIME) "[Bell is] one of the most influential Christian leaders in the country." (The New Yorker)

Bell's book Love Wins raised questions about Heaven, Hell and salvation and provided answers that emphasize love and grace and God's power to save over wrath and judgment and our power to condemn. He is not a universalist and neither am I. But God is not bound by our formulaic, limited and limiting conceptions of who God is or how God works and if we love and want to help save people who struggle in mind, body or spirit, including our doubtful loved ones, how much more does God want them saved? And God has a bit more wisdom, power, love and time to do so than we do! I look forward to delving into many issues and how they apply to the eternal Kingdom life that God wants for us and for the world, even now. Pastor David

Worship and Music

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday Start to Our Lenten Journey

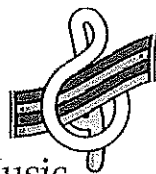
Our Feb. 18th Ash Wednesday service at 7:30 p.m. includes a brief Word, communion, beautiful choral music and the imposition of ashes as a reminder of our mortality and our being buried with Christ in baptism. We hope you will join us for this powerful and meaningful holiday.

Worship & Music Committee Seeks Memorial Service Liaison/ Usher

The Worship and Music Committee is looking for a volunteer(s) to serve as a Memorial Service Liaison/ Usher when Memorial Services are held in our sanctuary. Duties would include:

1. Opening the doors before the service and locking up afterwards
2. Ensuring that white paraments have been put out
3. Candles
4. Turning on and off the sound system
5. Putting out the glass covered stand for bulletins etc
6. Setting up a table if necessary for pictures
7. Greeting and handing out bulletins
8. Shutting things down following the service.

If you are interested or would like more information please contact the church office or email admin@fanwoodpc.org.



Music Ministry

I would like to thank all our FPC musicians and others who worked hard in the month of December.

From Messiah (with it's change of venue) to Christmas Eve, with each service in between, many gave their time and talents for the glory of God. Our thanks to you!

Our ensembles are now on regular rehearsal schedule, looking forward to the coming months. The Joyful Noise schedule is posted in the hallway outside of the choir room.

We are looking forward to the coming months of music here at FPC.

Ash Wednesday is February 18, with a service in the evening. Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday (March 29), and has services on Maundy Thursday (4/2) and Good Friday (4/3). If you are not in the habit of attending some of these special services, I would encourage you to put them on your calendar this year. Celebrating our faith is a privilege, and it is good to be together to mark the highlights of the Christian year. There will be special music at each service.

Christian Education

Easter Sunday will be a wonderful time of celebration as well, with guest musicians and lots of high praise to our risen Christ!

Lastly, we are planning to present the Fanwood Choir Festival again this year, on May 17. More details will follow. For now, please save the date and plan to be present at 7:00 p.m. for a wonderful concert as we reach out to our community. If you would like to sing in the chorus, you are more than welcome –

rehearsals start on April 7. Please check with me for more information.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16

Yours in Christ,
Tom



Upcoming events:

Feb 6-8: Confirmation Retreat at Camp Johnsonburg

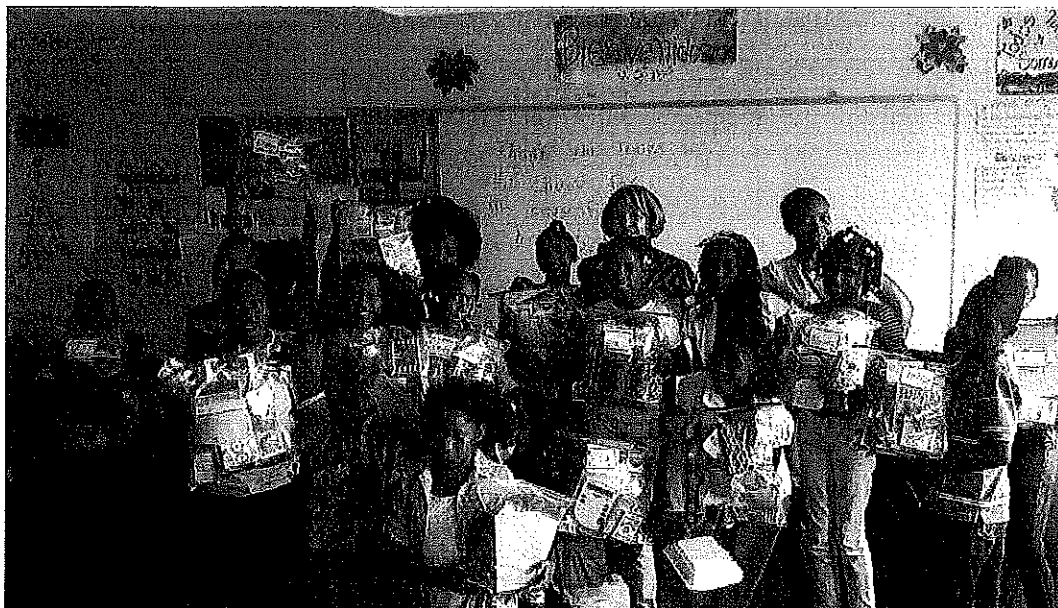
February 8: Movie Night, The Mighty, 4:30 pm

Fanwood VBS Mission Project Follow UP:

As many of you may remember our FPC family teamed up with the children of VBS to support our neighbors Dominican Republic by donating gifts to the "DR Christmas Child" program run by Tower Hill Presbyterian Church in Red Bank. Members of both congregations donated bags filled with school supplies, underwear, toys and books that were all shipped to the Eva M. Russell School and Orphanage in Monte Plata, Dominican Republic.

These gifts were distributed at the school's annual Christmas party (see pictures on next page)

Christian Education



Thank you so much, for once again showing Jesus' love to our neighbors in the DR!

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.

The monthly Needle Nite at Fanwood Presbyterian Church is scheduled for Friday, February 6th at 7:30pm in Westminster Hall. Enter from Marian Avenue.

The quilters will continue to work on their quilts. The patterns are 'Button holes from Jellyrolls' and 'Zipper'. The goal is to have them finished by the March meeting and ready for the Harvest Quilt Show on March 28. The knitters and those who crochet will work on the projects they make for charity and also to be shown at the Quilt Show.

On January 9th,,, 24 women eagerly returned to the Needle Nite gathering to show what they had worked on over the holidays and to hear the schedule for 2015. Three women came to see the activities and pitched in to help. We hope to see them back next time.

All are welcome to come and see what is being done and to join the group.

If fabric, batting or yarn is needed, Needle Niters may e-mail their request to needlenite@fanwoodpc.org. The donated materials used end up in many forms usable by the charities that receive them. The Needle Nite Participants then take their newly learned skills for their use at home.

For further information about these projects or directions to Fanwood Presbyterian Church please call the office at 908-889-8891 or e-mail admin@fanwoodpc.org or check the web www.fanwoodpc.org.

The Reading Group



The Reading Group will meet on Friday, March 13th at 2pm at the home of Cena Pollitt, 352 LaGrande Ave. The next selection for the group is a classic, 'Emma' by Jane Austen. Emma Woodhouse has all anyone would want. Pretty, bright, and born atop the social strata of the English village of Highbury, but she is fated to become the victim of her own irrepressible willfulness.

The group had read the 'Jane Austen Book Club' in 2013 and found much that referred to Austen's books of which we were not familiar. We are now to play catch-up. The Fanwood Library has two copies of this book. For further information please call Cena at 889-2029.

Church News

➤➤➤➤➤ February Birthdays ◀◀◀◀◀

Date	Date	Date	Date
1	Carter Slifer Madilynne Slifer	9	17
2		10	18 Peter T Halas Liz Henderson Jillian Leahy Jennifer Lorber Milton Purvis Jr
3		11	19 Joan Caroselli
4	Theodore Bassman Jr. JH Stephan Fallon	12	20 Brian L Bantz
5		13	21
6	Max Kaiser	14	22 Michael Donofrio Norman Gustafson
7	Stephanie Baliko Ryan Johnson	15	23 Olivia Francavilla Kimberly Slifer
8		16	24 Genine Schwartz



Thrift Shop Continues to Share the Wealth

Eight non-profit organizations started off the New Year with generous donations from our Thrift Shop. Thank you to all the volunteers who sort donations, prepare them for sale and man the store on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thanks, too, to all church members who donate their clothing, household items, music, videos, books and bric-a-brac.

For more information or to suggest non-profit organizations to receive Thrift Shop support please contact Pat Reyes at parsugarbowl@gmail.com.

The January 2015 donations were:

- ◎ Emmanuel Cancer Foundation:
\$1,000
- ◎ YWCA of Easter Union
County (Project Protect):
\$1,000
- ◎ Fanwood Police Department:
\$500
- ◎ Fanwood Presbyterian Church
Food Bank: \$2,000
- ◎ Fanwood Rescue Squad: \$500
- ◎ Heart for Humanity: \$1,000
- ◎ Salvation Army: \$500
- ◎ Scotch Plains Police
Department: \$500