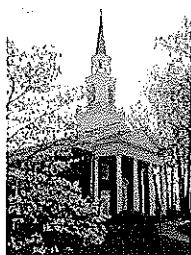


# THE FANFARE

Vol. 60, No. 2

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FANWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAR 2015



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THE FANFARE

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For the April Issue

FPC on the web

**[www.fanwoodpc.org](http://www.fanwoodpc.org)**

There are ten issues of THE FANFARE published yearly. The deadline is the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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"**

## **PASTOR'S MESSAGE**


### **Communion in and by the Holy Spirit at FPC**

I read a strong blog by FPC's former interim pastor Rev. Paul Rack a month or so ago, encouraging churches to practice communion more often. I have felt this way since being indoctrinated with this perspective in seminary. And while the second service provided another Sunday a month for communion, I think it is time for us to have communion more often at both services. I encourage you to read Rev. Rack's blog at [raxweblog.blogspot.com](http://raxweblog.blogspot.com) which was largely about the scriptural, historical and reformed foundations for weekly celebration of the sacrament. The early church, and Calvin and Luther in the 16<sup>th</sup> century held the same thoughts as most modern doctors of theology and liturgy. Please consider my thoughts below as well and then provide me with any feedback or questions you might have.

I was a part of a young pastors' group that met at a Methodist retreat center in South Carolina. We had communion every morning during worship. We were talking about this and a Lutheran who was present spoke to one reason he appreciated weekly communion— he would get "Jesus" whether the sermon presented Him or not! I hope you all "get Jesus" in the Word read and proclaimed, in beautiful music and in fellowship shared on Sunday mornings. Communion, in fact, brings all of these Jesus means or modes into focus and to a pinnacle in worship.

Communion first happened at the pinnacle of Christ's ministry, during Jesus' last Passover with his disciples. We remember Christ being raised up and enthroned on the cross as the world's Messiah and we join Christ's sacrifice as we offer ourselves and our gifts to the Lord at the table. We hear that Christ's body and blood are present and to be taken in through the communion of Christ's community. The Word read and proclaimed becomes flesh in the body around us.

**....Continued on page 3**

2015		March				2015	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<b>1</b> 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Cont. Ser. 12:15 p.m. Praise Band 4:30 p.m. Middler Youth Group	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 2:00 p.m. Prayer Group 7:30 p.m. Scottish Dancing 7:30 p.m. Session	<b>4</b> 10:00 a.m. Thrift Shop 4:15 p.m. K.K. 5:00 p.m. Play Reh. 5:30 p.m. Confirmation 6:45 p.m. HS Youth Choir Rehearsals	<b>5</b> 9:30 a.m. Med. on the Word 12 noon – Mid-day Picnic 6:30 p.m. Soup and Devotions	<b>6</b> 7:30 p.m. Needle Nite	<b>7</b>	
<b>8</b> 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Cont. Ser. 12:15 p.m. Praise Band 4:30 pm Middler Youth Group	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 2:00 p.m. Prayer Group 7:30 p.m. Deacon Meeting 7:30 p.m. Scottish Dancing	<b>11</b> 10:00 a.m. Thrift Shop 4:15 p.m. K.K. 5:00 p.m. Play Reh. 5:30 p.m. Girls Bible Study 6:45 p.m. HS Youth Choir Rehearsals	<b>12</b> 9:30 a.m. Meditating on the Word 6:30 p.m. Soup and Devotions	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	
<b>15</b> 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Cont. Ser. 12:15 p.m. Praise Band 4:30 p.m. Middler Youth Group	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 2:00 p.m. Prayer Group 7:30 p.m. Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m. Scottish Dancing	<b>18</b> 10:00 a.m. Thrift Shop 4:15 p.m. K.K. 5:00 p.m. Play Reh. 5:30 p.m. Confirmation 6:45 p.m. HS Youth Choir Rehearsals	<b>19</b> 9:30 a.m. Med. on the Word 6:30 p.m. Soul and Devotions 7:00 p.m. Trustees Mtg-	<b>20</b> Spring Begins 	<b>21</b> 9:30 a.m. Food Bank	
<b>22</b> 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Cont. Ser. 12:15 p.m. Praise Band 4:30 p.m. Middler Youth Group	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 2:00 p.m. Prayer Group 7:30 p.m. Scottish Dancing	<b>25</b> 10:00 a.m. Thrift Shop 4:15 p.m. K.K. 5:00 p.m. Play Reh. 5:30 p.m. Girls Bible Study 6:45 p.m. HS Youth Choir Rehearsals	<b>26</b> 9:30 a.m. Meditating on the Word 6:30 p.m. Soup and Devotions 7:00 p.m. Bible Study	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	
<b>29 Palm Sunday</b> 10:30 a.m. Combined Service Passion/ Palm Play 4:30 p.m. Middlers	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>					

## Pastor's Message Continued

....continued from page 1

We see this focus of the Word becoming flesh in the story of the Walk to Emmaus. The disciples were dismayed at the loss of their rabbi friend that they had thought was the Messiah. Jesus appears to them but they did not recognize him. He explained how the Messiah had to die according to the scriptures. And even though he opened the Word to them, they still did not recognize him or fully understand. It was not until they arrived and sat at table and broke the bread that their eyes were opened and they recognized him.

There is a great deal of mystery to Christ which the "visible signs of God's invisible grace"\* bring into focus. Communion takes simple elements and says Christ is present here, now, in this bread and juice, at this table and in this room. We participate in something sacred that opens our eyes to the presence of Christ in simple things all around us. The more we practice this, the more we come to trust it and the more aware we become of the sacred in the simple daily things of life.

This speaks directly to one of the arguments against more regular communion—that communion is sacred and doing it more often makes it [seem] less sacred. It is indeed sacred and we should thus desire it more. And if we perceive it as less sacred because of its frequency, does this not need to be overcome? Are not most of the sacred things in life experienced *every day* and need to be realized as such? And what better way to overcome this than

by experiencing simple things as sacred in the context of worship.

One might argue that we only have Christmas and Easter once a year and they are the most sacred holidays on our calendar. True but we celebrate the incarnation and resurrection every week in worship and we should cling to them every day of our lives. And while Christmas was not a Christian holiday for the first three centuries of the church, Good Friday and Easter were celebrated weekly through Word and the Sacrament of communion.

Communion was how the early church remembered Christ after sabbath worship in the synagogue or temple. They would gather at believers' homes for this sacred meal. [Acts 2:42-47 and 1Cor. 11: 18-21] They not only remembered Jesus as they ate but they themselves were re-membered as the body of Christ through the sharing of all their gifts and the partaking in one cup and one loaf. [1Cor. 10: 15-17] I look forward to doing so more often, God-willing. Pastor David

\* This is one of Calvin's definitions of communion.



### 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

## Small Groups

the d.v.d. study but it is not required. 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. 26<sup>th</sup> through March 26<sup>th</sup>. We begin at 6:30 p.m. with a delicious meal of soup, salad and bread in the dining room. 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. The sixth session will be on Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the Colville Room (without a meal.)

Another small group will cover the material on Tuesdays at 1 p.m. in the Colville Room, starting on Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> through March 24<sup>th</sup> with the sixth lesson on April 14<sup>th</sup>.



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

Our 1 p.m. Tuesday and 7 p.m. Thursday Small Group curriculum with Rob Bell will start up again in the work room on April 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Pastor Rob is leading on us 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 or watch them on your own time. I can also provide you with the free 'nooma' reflection guides or you can download them at nooma.com (Rain, Flame etc.)

Rob Bell is an evangelical (in the classic sense of 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*) "Time and again, Bell challenges the reader to be open to surprise, mystery and all of the unanswerables contained within the 'wide stream' called Christianity." (*Christian Century*)

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

## Session and Committee News

### Missions Update and Information

Meal ministries continue to grow, in terms of involvement from more members of the congregation, and in terms of more needy people in the community. During the delivery of bagged lunches to supplement the food kitchen at the First Baptist Church in Elizabeth at the end of January, we gave out all 125 lunches that we had prepared.

Those bagged lunches we put together once a month in the dining-room, between services, are appreciated in a way most of us cannot even imagine. Some of the people, who come to the soup kitchen for a hot meal, literally don't know where their next meal is coming from. It is always interesting to talk to the recipients – they come in all ages, and from all walks of life. The Mission Committee is looking for more volunteers to deliver these lunches to Elizabeth. We deliver once a month only, and all it takes is 2 hours on a Sunday afternoon - a small sliver of time to say Thank You God for everything that I have, and I am happy to serve these your people in need.....

Anyone interested in helping with a delivery – these occur regularly on the last Sunday of every month – please contact Jean Fraser, at 908 889 1507, or at [fromage7703@gmail.com](mailto:fromage7703@gmail.com).

On a different note, we are interested in hearing from anyone in the congregation, who has a special charitable cause – local or further afield, that might benefit from support from our Missions Funds, or that

might be a good cause to support in another way. All ideas are welcome!

We would like to ask everyone to remember Nadia Ayoub, who works as a missionary among the Roma people in the Ukraine (fortunately not in the area of current bitter conflict), in their prayers. She does amazing work with children and adults, and serves the Lord faithfully under trying circumstances. She is due to visit the USA again in the summer of this year, and we will be inviting Nadia to come and fill us in on all that she has achieved since we last saw her.

The Mission Committee.



### Can you be a Soup Host?

The Lenten 'Soup and Devotions' begins on February 26<sup>th</sup> though March 26<sup>th</sup>. Two soups are served at each of the Thursdays at 6:30 pm. Each soup should serve about 24 people. The soup can homemade or bought.

The Fellowship Committee sets up the tables, buys the salad, bread and butter. Two people are needed to be Soup Hosts each of the Thursday evenings, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. A Soup Host would provide and serve one soup.

It would be lovely if you would be a Soup Host on one of the Thursdays. It is a good time of fellowship.

Please let Cena know which date you would be able to host. 889-2029

## Session and Committee News



A note from  
CROP:

The community received \$1,722 back from our contributions for the use of those in need here.

Thank you everyone that participated, prayed for, encouraged and contributed to this worthwhile cause.



FPC  
Food Bank

**FPC FOOD BANK**

**Hello from the food bank**

We are in need of canned fruit, canned milk, canned meats. Thank you in advance  
Susan Wayman



**Confirmation Retreat**

On February 6-8, Krista Daniskas and I had the pleasure of taking 10 confirmation students on a confirmation retreat to Camp Johnsonburg. Since October the 2014-2015 the confirmation class has looked at what it means to be a follower of Christ.

We are using the Youth Alpha curriculum and have discussed, God the father, Jesus, the crucifixion, prayer, and the Holy Spirit just to name a few topics (and we aren't done yet!) This past weekend during the retreat we focused on prayer and spiritual gifts and we talked about how each of us has God given gifts that are to be used to further his kingdom.



Besides growing in their faith, these 10 youths have formed new friendships and strengthened existing friendships, which was very evident during the retreat as these kids were practically inseparable! I look forward to updating you more at the end of the confirmation season, but in the meantime please be praying for our confirmands and enjoy the pictures below!

# Christian Education



## 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 March 6<sup>th</sup>. The goal of the quilters is to complete their quilts and prepare for the Harvest Quilter's show on March 28<sup>th</sup> at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church. The knitters and those who crochet will also have items at the show.

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

Presbyterian Women have a dedicated financial line in the church. All donations to PW are tax deductible. Pledge slips are available through Circles or the office. Summer Birthday gift for the Park Hotel residents and Needle Nite supplies have been the only withdrawals. A request has been made to purchase two tables for the use of NN in Westminster Hall.

There are two PW events coming up, please, save the dates and plan to attend. The Spring Gathering of the PW of the Presbytery on April 29<sup>th</sup> will be in Woodbridge and the Retreat hosted by Woodbridge PW in Ocean Grove on May 9<sup>th</sup>. 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 their leader, 889-6047.

Rachel's Circle meets at 8pm on the fourth Tuesday in Sept., Nov., Jan., Mar., and May. Diane Knectel, 233-3633 is the leader. A discussion will be lead by Diane Polios on the book 'The Prayer of Jobez'.

### *The Reading Group*



The Reading Group will meet on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at the home of Cena Pollitt, 352 LaGrande Ave.

The next selection for the group is a classic, 'Emma' by Jane Austin. 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 os her own irrepressible willfullness.

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

## In our prayers....

Nancy Werkheiser, a good friend of many in our church, and former deacon, passed away Feb 8. Before she moved to PA, she was a very active member of FPC, particularly in women's association and circles, and will be remembered dearly. Here is the obituary that appeared in the Pocono Record:

### >>>>> March Birthdays <<<<<<

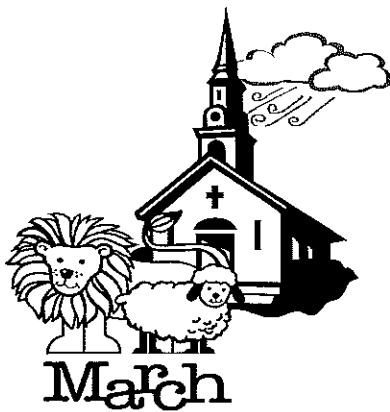
Date		Date		Date		Date	
1	Nancy Bassman Barbara Edwards Diane Poulos Evelyn Swenson	9		17		25	
2		10	Zachary Gray	18	David Schwartz	26	
3		11	Abigail Elliot Eleanor Kramps Roseanne Lindermann Richard Lorber James Santo Salvo Justin Zimmerman	19		27	
4		12		20	Lucille Lippert William E. Newell jr	28	Michael Hopkins Joseph Turso
5		13	Joseph Donofrio	21	Derek Brown	29	Elizabeth Daniskas Lyla Rae Hernandez Bonnie Oatis
6	Megan Lahetta	14	Cheryl Philhower- Gillick	22	Stephanie Glover Nancy Kohlenberger	30	
7	Jonathan Chaillet Barry N. Gustafson Nicholas Tuyp	15	Henry LeWand Marie Parsons	23	Amanda Magee Grayce Mattos Stacey Tanguy	31	Jean Trumpp Andrew Van Ostenbridge
8	Frederick Kramps	16		24	Bailey Brown Lawrence Caroselli		

# Fanwood Presbyterian Church

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