



DATES TO NOTE:

Holy Week

April 2

Maunder Thursday

7:30pm service

April 3

Good Friday

7:30pm service

April 5

Easter Sunday

6:00am Sunrise Service

at Downing Park followed
by a breakfast in
fellowship hall

8:30am & 10:45am

services in the Sanctuary

April 18

Spring Concert

Music from the Movies

7:30pm

The Disciple

Spring is in the Air

At long last, spring is in the air! After starting to think it would never come, signs of spring are appearing every day. Birds are singing. Snow is melting. We can finally take down our outside Christmas decorations without freezing. Even though we've still got a foot of snow in some places around our yard, I have seen the tips of budding flowers emerging from under the dirt and snow. If that's not hope, I don't know what is.

As I look at our church calendar for the next few months, there's something else in the air too – celebration! It all started two weeks ago with the installation service for Chip and me, and what a celebration it was! From the youth bells and choir anthems, to the inspiring words of wisdom, to the laughter and prayers, the lovely decorations and reception, the day was filled with joy and the blessings of the Spirit. Chip and I are so grateful to everyone who participated and helped to make it such a special day and a great way to officially begin our ministry together as co-pastors.

And the celebrations and new beginnings just keep coming. The very next week we welcomed new members into our community of faith, and we look forward to how they will enrich our fellowship and help us grow as a church. April begins with the journey through Holy Week that culminates on the greatest festival day of our Christian year, Easter. A few weeks later, as we celebrate the sacrament of baptism, we remember the new beginning we all find through the grace of God



in Jesus Christ.

In May, the party continues as our confirmation students affirm their faith and we welcome them as full, participating members of our church. We will celebrate the women of the church on Mother's Day, and the birthday of the church on Pentecost. In June, we will celebrate our education ministry on Children's Day and the men of the church as well as our high school and college graduates on Father's Day.

The next few months will be one continuous celebration and that is as it should be. We Christians have a lot to celebrate, and it can all be summed up in the good news of new life we find in the empty tomb on Easter morning. Our God is a God of new beginnings who frees us from anything that traps or imprisons us, especially sin and death. God invites us each and every day to see the signs of new life budding all around us and within us and then to live that good news in the world. Let the party begin, again and again! See you in church,

Jami



FPCY YOUTH



Summer Camp Opportunities at Holmes.
Day Camps
Resident Camps
Adventure Camps
Creative Camps and more for children and youth of all ages.
 Check out holmescamp.org for more info.
 Financial assistance is available.
 Please speak to Chip or Tami about it.

April 12 & 26, 2015 - Middle School Youth Group Meets! 4:30-6 PM

Stewardship of the Earth -Why should we, as Christians, care for and about the earth? What does the bible tell us about stewardship of the earth? Or the crisis of global warming? How are we doing taking care of earth's resources at FPCY? Join us this month as we explore our Christian responsibility to steward earth's resources and help our congregation to become faithfully green - indoors and out. The earth's future is your future. Bring a friend who cares.

April 19, 2015 - Youth Program Team Meeting! noon

April 26, 2015 - High School Youth Group Meets! 4:30, 6:30-8 PM

Confirmants will meet and eat dinner with our congregation's ruling elders at 4:30 to discuss membership in the church and their statements of faith. Join in the celebration as we "witness" to our own faith, reflect on our faith experiences during and since confirmation, and ... eat some cake. The rest of the HS Youth Group is invited to join us at 6:30 as we celebrate with our newly-welcomed confirmation class!

May Meeting Changes: due to the holidays in May, the MS Youth will meet on May 17th & 31st and the HS Youth will meet on the 31st



Yorktown Community Vacation Bible School @ FPCY

Children, Youth & Adults: Save the Dates and Get Involved!

July 6-10 ~ 9 am – 12 noon for children Pre-K through 6th grade

Youth Leader Training: June 29-July 1, 9 am – 12 noon

Register your kids or Volunteer at cokeburyvbs.com/yorktown

Questions? Contact Debbie Hager, Sharon Larsen or Tami Seidel

Church School

Ladies and gentleman, boys and girls, on March 29th we will be finishing our Holy Week and Easter rotation from Matthew 21:1-11; 27:32-66; 28:1-10.

Jesus died but rose again!



family conversation questions:

1. How do you celebrate Easter in your family?
2. How do you observe Holy Week?
3. What is the scariest part of the story? What is the most exciting part?
4. Write the basic parts of this story on small pieces of paper that can fit inside plastic Easter eggs. Have someone hide the eggs and everyone else hunt for them. After you find them all put the story together

Encourage the children to make Easter Cards for family and friends and share the Good News. Write messages like "He is Risen", "Jesus lives!" Or other similar phrases.

A big thank you and Shout Out to Bill Herman for the "Resurrection Rap"! Our children (and adults!) thoroughly enjoyed it. Thank you to all of our staff that make Church school the wonderful program that it is!

On April 5th Easter there is no church school. Please join us for worship and remember to bring your One Great Hour of Sharing Fish Banks to church on Easter or anytime there after. Thank you!

On April 12th Church School resumes and we begin the "Love is" unit from 1 Corinthians 13. God loves us so we can love everyone too!

Have a Blessed and Happy Easter!

Jen Dixon and Liza Placido
 Church School Superintendents

HOLY WEEK



Worship Design Commission

The celebration of the **Installation** of our co-pastors on Sunday, March 15, was a moving and joyous occasion, attended by Tami and Chip's family members, members of the Hudson River Presbytery and members of the congregation of the first Presbyterian Church of Yorktown.

Now, as we continue to seek God in New Directions and toward the glorious time of Easter, we have much to give thanks for. The beautiful cross that appears on our website and on each Sunday Bulletin during Lent was created by Barbara Santagata. She continues to grace us with her talent.

As we approach Easter Week, we have two special services to prepare for and look forward to.

- April 2 is **Maundy Thursday** and our service will be at 7:30 pm. There will be time for individual prayer, the washing of feet and an opportunity to partake in the Lord's Supper.
- April 3 at 7:30 pm is our **Good Friday** Service. This quiet and beautiful service gives us a time to reflect on the meaning of Christ's suffering and to prepare for his resurrection.
- On **Easter Sunday** there will be three services, two at the usual times of 8:30 and 10:45 and a Sunrise Service in Downing Park at 6 am. A breakfast will be served at the church following the Sunrise Service.

Let us come together to worship and celebrate!

Stewardship Corner

Did you know? When we reach the age of 70 and a half, we are required by law to begin withdrawals from retirements accounts, such as IRAs and 401(k)s (but NOT Roth IRAs).

Many people then want to donate part of their withdrawal to charity, but the best way to do this is to have the desired portion of the withdrawal go directly to the charity, such as a church. That way, the amount donated to charity is not taxed as personal income first.

Your financial advisor or the institution that holds your retirement accounts can assist you with the details to make such a direct contribution from your withdrawal.

Adult Education and Faith Formation

Our Adult Education and Faith Formation program offers two different kinds of studies: open, informal studies and our "high commitment" Covenant Bible study groups.

Our "open" studies are open to all -- and you don't have to make a commitment -- or do the reading -- to participate. Please consider dropping in to our Sunday morning, Thursday morning or Women's Circle study groups. We welcome newcomers and anyone who wants to participate occasionally.

Our Covenant study is an intensive, in depth study of the Bible, led by our Co-Pastor Tami Seidel. Covenant requires a commitment at the beginning of the study, which comprises three 12-week sessions. The group meets weekly and there are daily reading and "homework" assignments. We will be forming new Covenant study groups next fall.

"Study" is a misnomer for our Adult Ed programs, because these gatherings engage our hearts as much as they engage our heads. We wrestle with life's difficult questions and how our faith informs our response.

Continued on page 4

Hear directly from two Bible study participants:

Covenant Bible Study: Why Covenant, why now, and how is this different from other Bible studies we've done?

I've been participating in the Wednesday evening Covenant Bible study. Why is it called covenant? This Bible study emphasizes the covenant relationship throughout our study. The covenant: the enduring commitment between God and his people. The first eight weeks focused on creating the covenant, the next eight weeks (where we are now) focuses on living the covenant, and the last eight weeks focuses on trusting the covenant.

Why now? What a great time to study the covenant between God and us! We are embarking on a journey together, calling co-pastors, moving forward with youth ministry, finding our focus, finding new ways to be "church." We are creating, living and trusting God's covenant with us, trusting that even if we don't know where we might be going, or where we'll end up, God is with us. The Holy Spirit is guiding us to discern what God is calling us to do, calling us to be.

But the big difference for me is the way the study flows. I thought that we'd "begin at the beginning" and start reading Genesis, and stop when we got to Revelation. (I've tried to read the Bible that way, several times!) But instead, we "jump around," sometimes reading from the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament in the same week.

I have found the discussions stimulating, the readings challenging, and the entire experience very rewarding. The DVDs that accompany the readings provide context for understanding what we're reading, and Tami is an excellent facilitator, keeping us on track when we stray, answering and raising questions. I am so blessed to be a part of this group.

-Connie Knapp

Islam and Christianity: a Thursday morning Bible study led by Rev. Tami Seidel

Thursday morning study, "Islam and Christianity", is an informative, intriguing and fascinating look at how Islam came to be and the connection Christianity shares with this Abrahamic monotheistic religion. Besides a small study guide, we are using a PBS documentary and a DVD on "Great Religions of the World – Islam".

We have been challenged as Christians to explain beliefs about the Trinity, the Bible, Christ's divinity and the Incarnation. Each class explores a different topic so anyone is welcome to join this Thursday morning group and can jump right in. We meet in the lounge at 10am.

-Lynda Spring

Please check the Sunday bulletins and weekly e-mails to learn about our April Adult Education offerings. Questions? Call Shawn Cribari at 914-275-8015. Or you can ask Tami or Chip.



Music from the Movies! A Melodious Melody of Musical Merriment

Air Conditioned Comfort!
Hear the Magnificent Steinway Piano!
Singers, Ringers, and Music for All Ages!
Refreshments! Fun for All!

Come one, come all – children of all ages – to the final concert of the 2014-2015 season! Get your popcorn and junior mints and settle into our sanctuary loge seating for an entertaining evening of music from the movies. Watch pictures from your favorite movies while listening to the songs that made them great featuring our Concert Choir, Bell Choir, and soloists under the direction of Maestra Simona Frenkel! Make it a dinner theatre night by inviting friends to your house for dinner, and then a post-dinner night at the movies at FPC.

Mark your calendars now for Saturday Night, April 18th at 7:30.

A donation is suggested to help support the concert series.



A sermon preached by Susan R. Andrews
 TEXT: Ephesians 4: 1-16; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

THE ETIQUETTE OF EDIFICATION

Thirty-five years ago, when Sim and I were called as Co-Pastors to a church in New Jersey, the whole concept was brand new. The fact that today there are relatively few co-pastorates across this country indicates how challenging and creative this model of ministry still is. The vote to call us as Co-Pastors was not unanimous – partly because the questions were so complex. How can two people equally share power and authority? And, in 1979, the even deeper question was how can a husband and a wife have shared power and equality in their marriage? And there were more questions. How do we know which pastor to go to if we have a concern, and what happens if one pastor's sermons are better than another's?

Even Sim and I had to grow into this model of ministry. Our first fight as Co-Pastors was about the desk in the Pastor's Study. There was only one office and one desk in the small Parish House, so how did we honor each other by sharing the space? Well, we divided up the drawers and purchased two inboxes to keep the top of the desk tidy - and so, the first crisis was averted. But there were more issues. I wanted to talk about church all the time, but Sim wanted us to have a life. So, we agreed that we would not talk about our shared ministry around the dinner table or in bed. Instead

we hired a babysitter and had a staff meeting once a week in the pastor's study at church. And it worked.

The confusion and suspicion in that New Jersey congregation slowly dissipated. Our differing roles fell into place. And because we shared one job and one salary, the congregation quickly figured out that with our individual gifts and strengths, they were getting much more than they were paying for. We finally knew that this co-pastor thing was going to work when we walked into the sanctuary one morning. Someone had replaced the two mismatched chairs behind the pulpit with a lovely little pew – freshly built and sanded – just big enough for two pastors to sit side by side.

From a biblical perspective, it is surprising that we don't have co-pastors in every congregation in America. Or that all 400 members of the Yorktown congregation aren't part of the co-pastorate in this place. According to the Apostle Paul – both in Ephesians and in Corinthians – we are all in this together. We are the Body of Christ and individually members of him – co-equal in worth and calling – organically created to be church together – all of us sealed by our mutual baptism. I believe, that in an individualistic world, where power and status pollute most human relationships, this egalitarian vision of Paul is nothing less than revolutionary.

And so according to scripture, nobody sitting here today is better than anyone else. No spiritual gift at work in this congregation is more significant than any other. And the real challenge of being church – of being the Resurrected Body of Christ – is to model this alternative way of being human – this alternative way of assuring that everyone of God's children is cherished and honored for who they are. Power is spiritual power only when it is shared – and when it is used to empower each other and empower God's Gospel reign in the world.

The scripture passages for this afternoon are rich in imagery. I laughed out loud when I first read the Ecclesiastes text. How perfect is that? And how real. Some folks avoid Ecclesiastes because the Wise Teacher, who first penned these words simply tells it like it is. Vanity of vanities, all is vanity. And then he proceeds to sock it to us – life is short, you will die, most of life is fluff, enjoy each day because you won't have many, yes you will have enemies, and be damn grateful to God for everything – pain and all. And then the Teacher comes up with this pithy statement for today. Two are better than one, for if they fall, one will lift up the other, and when thy sleep together they keep each other warm. Who said the Bible does not affirm married couples as co-pastors?

For me, the Ephesians passage is one of the central texts in the New Testament. If all we had were the Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes, the Magnificat, and this chapter from Ephesians, I think we could still be church faithfully. Paul uses hyperbolic language – begging us to lead lives worthy of our calling, begging us to honor one another and to seek unity –

knowing full well that unity does not mean uniformity. No unity means sharing a common vision and passion for being Jesus in the world. And then – ignoring good English teacher etiquette – Paul gives us a mixed metaphor for the Christian life. On the one hand we are supposed to be construction workers – building up the Body of Christ. But at the same time God is described as an artisan – knitting us together into one sturdy, elegant fabric. And none of this is possible if each one of us does not own, celebrate, and use the gifts we have been given – the unique gifts that only we can bring in order to make the body whole.

Sometimes the good old King James Version of the Bible is better than all the new-fangled translations we have started using in our contemporary life. In the King James Bible – the word for “building up” in this Ephesians text is “edification.” So much more stately and strong and urgent a word, don’t you think? Edification – brick by brick, value by value, gift by gift, we are called to build this holy temple called the church. And if we don’t have architects, and masons, and decorators, and painters, and electricians and landscape artists, this edification - this building up – will not be complete, or even possible. Chip and Tami are modeling for all of us how edification can be most effective – but the point is not their co-pastorate – the point is how their shared vision and shared authority and shared gifts can build more together than either of them can do alone. And they are encouraging all of you to do the same.

You know, there is an etiquette to edification, according to Paul, and it is not rocket science. Good manners are as important in a church as they are around a dinner table.

Etiquette Tip #1 that Paul suggests is obvious. It is **partnership** – not just marching side by side, but allowing ourselves to be knit together – losing our some of our distinctiveness as individuals in order to become a more elegant pattern together. Chip and Tami are already discovering how difficult it can be to make a decision about matters of church life, when they have different perceptions of the problem or the solution. And of course, that is true within the church as a whole. In the last 9 years in this ministry as General Presbyter, I have been flabbergasted at how divided congregations can become because of difference of opinions - differences about worship, about pastors, about vision, about sex, about money. And yet, just because we are Christian does not mean that we all ought to agree, and the challenge of partnership, the challenge of edification, is maintaining unity – while acknowledging our disagreements, rather than avoiding them.

And so partnership, does not work without **honesty** – Etiquette Tip #2. It is only by speaking the truth in love, that we can grow up, be built up into the maturity of Christ. Telling the truth in loving ways necessitates that we be adults – bringing issues out into the open, carefully articulating our own perspective, and then carefully listening to the perspective of others. And then together finding a way forward that honors all - but privileges none. Nothing destroys the fabric of Christian community more than secrets, hidden agendas, or parking lot meetings after the real meeting. The courage to tell the truth, to lovingly disagree, and to then give up something in order to gain something bigger - this is the only way that partnership can truly work – and build up the Body of Christ.

And, of course, to be honest as partners in the work of ministry demands **patience** – Etiquette Tip #3. It takes longer for two people or 14 people or 400 people to come to consensus than it does for one person to do it all. Partnering as co-pastors or as co-members in the work of this congregation is not the fastest way to do church. But it is the deepest and widest and most faithful way to do church. God knows that if we take the time to listen and to honor one another, then the ministry we offer to the world will more completely honor the humanity of all.

Last week, my husband and I had the privilege of taking care of our 21 month old grandson, while our son and his wife slipped a way for a romantic weekend. I learned all over again that taking care of a toddler is much more difficult than taking care of an infant. Declan was everywhere – into everything – as quick as a goldfish and as busy as a bee. Our long years of co-pastoring and co-parenting slowly kicked back in – and we became partners in the adventures of Declan – spelling one another, picking up different responsibilities, and working wholeheartedly together for one purpose - for the care and nurture of abundant life.

Sometimes being part of a church is a lot like taking care of toddlers – when the issues heat up, when the program life over functions, when too many people seem to be demanding too many things. But then, when we realize, that we have each other, that we are not alone, that the Spirit has intentionally knit us together – motley, messy us – woven us into a blessed and beautiful Body, it is then that we can re-connect as partners – honestly, patiently, and joyfully becoming the presence of Christ in the world – growing up into the full stature of Christ.

Yorktown saints, you have done a good thing, a brave thing, a hopeful thing in calling Chip and Tami as your Co-Pastors. And they have done a good and brave and hopeful thing in claiming you as their flock. And so, friends, buckle your seat belts and enjoy the ride. And may the blessings of God Almighty descend upon you and dwell in your hearts – and your congregation – forever.

May it be so. Amen



Charge to the Congregation of First Presbyterian Church, Yorktown

Good afternoon. My name is John Miller and I serve as the co-pastor at Rye Presbyterian Church. I want to thank Tami and Chip for asking me to participate today and to charge you, the congregation. My charge to you will be brief.

Listen to this list of names: Urbanus, Stachys (Stay'kis), Timothy, Titus, Epaphroditus (i-paf'ruh-di'tuhs), Euodia (yoo-oh'dee-uh), Clement. Who are they? Why do I share these names with you? I do so for two reasons. First, who are they? They are all listed in the New Testament as being, in his own words, co-workers, co-pastors with the Apostle Paul.

Now, I didn't want to share those names with you because frankly I am a poor reader and have a hard time with pronunciation. It's a stretch for me to try and read them. But it is important for you to hear these names because this co-pastor model, while it is new for you and invites you to stretch yourselves as a congregation, it certainly isn't new for the church of Jesus Christ. This model of co-pastors, co-workers, has been going on since the first century. In fact, it began with Jesus himself sending out his disciples in pairs in Luke 10.

In the early months of our co-pastorate at Rye Presbyterian Church, many people wanted to focus on the co-pastors. But this model for ministry is about far more than having co-pastors. Like St. Paul, it is acknowledging that you, all of you, pastors and congregation alike, are in this together - you are all workers for Christ, serving alongside your co-pastors. This isn't their ministry, this is YOUR ministry. Frankly, Tami and Chip have served together, have been co-workers in numerous congregational settings, including here at Yorktown. They have some idea of how to live into this new relationship.

The stretch may be for you, as the congregation, to allow them to live into this relationship with one another and with you more fully. So I charge you to welcome their ministry among you as co-workers in the gospel. Those of you, who have taken ordination vows as elders and deacons, remember that your vows are the same as theirs, except for the final vow which is simply a vow of function. By virtue of your ordination you are their co-workers in Christ. Those of you, who are members, remember that in your baptism you were called to serve Christ and that by virtue of our common call, you are their co-workers.

I also want to charge you to keep watch over both Tami and Chip, but maybe especially Chip. When you entered into this new call with them it was for each of them to serve as co-pastors at 3/4 time. It would be and is very easy to let this creep into fulltime. Don't let that happen. For both Chip and Tami will serve you with more energy and creativity when they can live out that other part of their lives, not as your co-pastors, but in whatever else they feel called to do. This includes parenting their own children. If they are working too many hours, for their sakes, for the church's sake, and quite literally, for Christ's sake, tell them to go home!

Finally, please, please remember that Chip and Tami are married to each other. They are NOT married to the church. New Testament clearly teaches that the Church is the bride and that Jesus Christ is the bridegroom. Christ is married to the church; Chip and Tami are not - any more than you are. So don't equate this co-pastorate to a marriage. It is something different. It is the coming together of many co-workers, you, them, us - to live out our lives as the church, which alone is the bride of Christ.

Be honest with them. Be co-workers with them. Honor them.

Love them - so that one day they may say about you what Paul wrote to the church at Philippi, saying, ³"I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now."

May it be so.

A Note from Charles Barton, Teaching Elder and Pastor Emeritus of FPCY:

Sisters and Brothers of the Yorktown Presbyterian Church:

When I first learned God was leading you to call Chip and Tami as your Co-Pastors, I was immediately reminded of what an extraordinary God our God is! Once again, God was at work in the life and ministry of the First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown, for this is God's doing. It is not Chip's doing, nor Tami's doing, nor your Congregation's doing, nor the Presbytery's doing, but God's doing. And you were smart enough, risky enough and innovative enough to respond to God's call by voting to elect Tami and Chip as your Co-Pastors. Well done, good and faithful servants!

I have long believed FPCY is one of the healthiest and most vibrant faith communities within Hudson River Presbytery. The Installation of Tami and Chip as your Co-Pastors by the Presbytery reinforces that conviction. You are what God is calling you to be because of your unique sense of partnership: the partnership between you and God in building God's Kingdom; and the partnership between Pastors and congregational members working together to build the Kingdom. I hope you know how blessed you are: the blessings of your extraordinary gifts and relationships; the blessings of Co-Pastors and congregational members working together; and the blessings of your ability to think and act both inside and outside the box when it comes to your ministry. I have every reason to believe you will continue to nurture and grow these blessings as God's Kingdom builders in the Yorktown community and within our Presbytery.

I can't tell you how touched I was to be asked by Chip and Tami to be a part of the Commission that presides over their Installation as you gather today. And then to be asked by them to deliver the Charge to the Congregation---wow! Ruth and I already had plans in place to be in Jamaica with our entire family to celebrate our upcoming 50th Wedding Anniversary, so we cannot be with you for this unique milestone in the history of the First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown. We have been blessed in ways we never thought possible through our relationship with the Yorktown Church, and my prayer is you will be blessed beyond your wildest imaginings through your partnership with Tami and Chip as your Co-Pastors.

Grace and Peace,
Charles R. Barton
Pastor Emeritus

Operations Commission

Improvement Projects:

Sanctuary: As previously reported, we have completed the work on the pews in the East side of the Sanctuary balcony. Now we are focusing on the woodwork surrounding the windows and that of the baseboard at floor level. Over the past couple of months, Jose had finished all of the woodwork on the East side of the balcony. He is now moving to the South wall where the organ screen is located.

Co-pastor Offices: All of the new furniture for the Co-Pastor's offices has been installed and both offices are now complete.

Energy Efficient Lighting: All of our work in making our lighting systems "green" has been completed. We are carefully monitoring our electrical usage and will report on our actual savings at a later date.

Maintenance:

Pest Management: Our contract with J.P. McHale for on-going pest management has been very successful. We have had no recurrence of ants and less evidence of mice in the cellars.

Parking Lots and Driveways: It has been a difficult winter to say the least. We have had a marked increase in our need for snow plowing and clearing of sidewalks. Overall, our snow plow service has done an excellent job in clearing the parking lots and driveways. However, we have accumulated much snow at the ends of the parking lots which has eliminated a few parking spaces. With the recent melting, we are hopeful this problem will be rectified soon. An extra note is in order with regard to our North parking lots. In that these lots are clay and gravel based, it is not possible to get snow completely off as we do in the paved parking lots. If we were to try, it would result in digging down into the surface of the parking lot and moving much of the top layer of material to piles at the end of the lots. Therefore, we try to take off as much as possible without damaging the surface of the parking lots. This sometimes leaves a somewhat icy surface. When this happens, we ask for the North lots to be sanded. Sanding is expensive so we try to gauge our need and act judiciously. At any time you feel the North lots are too slippery, let Lisa know and she will call for the sanding operation.

Our rather extensive facilities are used by well over a twelve hundred people each week. This is a blessing as it is a fundamental part of our mission work and community outreach. However, as a result of our high usage and the increasing age of our facilities, routine maintenance is required on a daily basis. We don't always see something amiss as soon as a user of the facility or a member does. Therefore, we continue our requests to please let us know if you see something that is not up to par. We will endeavor to remedy any issue quickly or plan for a longer range improvement if that is what is called for.

Thanks!
Dick Seymour, Facilities Coordinator and Co-Chair of Operations
Dave Ramage, Co-Chair of Operations



Knitting Groups

Prayer Shawl Group For the month of April we will be meeting at 9:30 am on April 8; and April 15 at 10:30 am to give our Linus blankets to our Linus coordinator Cindy. For May and June we will meet the first and third Wednesdays of each month. The first Wed. is 9:30 am and the third Wed. is at 10:30. Anyone who would like to join us in knitting is most welcome. Any questions please call Marianna Sherman at 914-737-8294 or Fran Schiel at 914-245-5396.

Knit Togethers meet next on April 13 & 27 and May 25

Many thanks to Ruth Barton and to Jane Daniels for their generous donations of yarn. They have helped us in our Mission of Knitting and Giving to others in the community. We are busy making baby blankets, baby sweaters, and lap blankets. All who knit or crochet are welcome to join us. Our meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 10:00am to 11:30am, in Lounge 15.

For information: Noreen Radke (962-4370) or Lois Ostling (962-2809).

Jan Peek Meal

Jan Peek House is a shelter for homeless men & women, run by Caring for the Homeless of Peekskill. On the 4th Saturday of each month we provide dinner at Jan Peek. It is rewarding to share food and conversation with the residents, and it is an important part of our congregation's ministry to the community. Thanks to the Santagata and Humphrey families for the February meal and the Darreff and Thompson families for the March meal.

**We are in need of volunteers for April.
New volunteers always welcome.
Call Bud Coccodrilli (245-6475) to talk about it.**

Senior Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will meet in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited.

Wednesday April the 15th at Noon

This will be a Pot Luck so bring a dish to share. If you know of anyone who likes to chat, laugh, and eat, this is the place you want to be on the 3rd Wednesday of the month!

Pat and John Pruda for the Lunch Bunch

Do you want to receive the Disciple by e-mail only? Send an e-mail to Lisa in the office
LisaF@FPCYorktown.org
and we'll save the stamp and the paper!

New in the Church Library

What do our Neighbors Believe? Questions and Answers on Judaism, Christianity, and Islam (200 G) is a concise introduction to the three Abrahamic faiths, from origins and sacred texts to current social concerns, arranged in a useful question-and-answer format. I've been attending the Christianity and Islam study on Thursday mornings, and I was especially interested in Islam's current concerns. The crucial one is, of course, terrorism and violence, but its non-hierarchical organization means there's no central authority who could speak for the majority of Muslims. Another concern is that with the rapid expansion of the faith, especially in Europe, Muslims must meet the challenges of living near people with different beliefs. As a review in *Christian Century* states, this book is "an ideal cure for our nearly invincible ignorance about our neighbors."

Carol Jensen, Church Librarian

Highlights of Church History — Divided, Reunited, and a 3rd Church Building

Rev. Silas Constant and a Church divided

- In 1785, Rev. Silas Constant was called as pastor.
- In 1786 the church had 75 members.
- In 1789, the Presbyterian Church USA had 419 churches, but only 111 pastors
- Rev. Constant adopted the congregational form of church governance, leading to the congregation split of 1806.
- A White Plains judge gave the property to Presbyterian faction. Rev. Constant & the Congregationalists (the majority of members) built a new church on Granite Springs Rd. leaving only 33 Presbyterian members
- In 1865 the two churches reunited. Only the East Yard Cemetery remains of the Yorktown Congregational Church.

Thoughts from the Rev. Robert G. Thompson

(pastor from 1836-1846), about the 2nd Church Building:

"when I became pastor of the church, the old house of worship was still standing. It was an exceedingly old and ugly object. Just enough of the yellow ochre was visible to show that it had once been painted. The architecture, pulpit, and seats were all in the old New England style without paint and of the most common workmanship and material."

The 3rd (and current) building was built in 1840, 175 years ago.

~ Dick Hunter



The Ministry of Our Deacons

1.) Would that my eyes could see you, Lord,
The calling of your voice;
I'd haste to do your bidding and
In all your Will rejoice.

2.) When I listen very quietly,
The stirring of my heart
Beckons me oft to go into
The world and do my part.

3.) If I could only see you,
if my ears could only hear;
I would have no need of doubt.
I would have no need of fear.

4.) I will hear the call of others,
my brethren one and all;
and when I listen from my heart,
I will know I've heard your call. - C. Thorne

The Deacons had an opportunity recently to meet with the young members of our Confirmation Class. The meeting was to acquaint the students with us and to allow them to interview us and learn about what Deacons at our church really “do.”

The experience was truly “eye-opening” for all involved. The young interviewers were enthusiastic and well prepared in advance with their questions. They were bright-eyed and ready to start their interviews. Their questions were well beyond just, “What do Deacons do?”

The young students asked each of us separately how long we had attended this church. Have we ever attended other churches and denominations? Why did we want to become Deacons? What is the role of the Deacons? How does our work as a Deacon help to grow our faith? What part is most meaningful to us? And so on.

Each Deacon was interviewed for a short period of time as the students played a kind of “musical chairs” as they moved about the room to meet and interview the next Deacon. I was surprised and pleased with the depth of the questions. I realized that I had to answer quickly or I would not be able to complete all the questions before time was called and I met the next student.

Deacons had to search their hearts and minds quickly for answers as we found that we were being asked deeply probing questions about our beliefs, who we are as Christians, and why we did and continue to do the things we do as we call ourselves Christians. To the direct question, “What do Deacons do?” I found myself answering in a way I had not anticipated. “Deacons

are like ‘worker bees’ – they see a need and try to fill it.”

“Worker bees!?” I realized that for me, that pretty much sums up what it means to be a Deacon. We see a hurt - a need. Someone’s health is failing, someone has lost a loved one. There are the hungry, the lonely, the lost, and the forgotten. And just as Jesus showed us by his own example, we serve and minister and lessen the pain and the loneliness.

“Why,” we were each asked several times. Because we have chosen and keep choosing to follow Jesus – to love God and to love one another as children of God – just as Jesus taught us to do.

It was a privilege to meet and share with the young people of the Confirmation class. They are asking themselves the questions we asked ourselves years ago. They are growing in faith and also making their own decision to “come and follow Jesus.” – a decision we do not make once but one we make over and over again throughout our lives - with all the people, in all the places and in all the ways we are called by Jesus to love and serve one another. Why? Because God first loved us – each and every one of us.

Carol Thorne-Gaetani for the Deacons

Food Pantry Items-of-the- Month

Canned Fruit

Next Dates:
April 11, 25
May 9, 23
9 to 11 am

We need
volunteers from
8-11 am on the
pantry days.



The “Visit the Visitors” program is managed by a group of volunteers who stop by the homes of new visitors to the church to say hello and deliver a small loaf of bread, as soon as possible after they visit. The program started small, with Marianna Sherman visiting people identified by our former pastor Charles Barton as new faces. Later a more formal committee was formed, as a study had found that if people were visited between 24 to 48 hours after their attendance, the percentage of them eventually becoming a member of the church was about 95%.

The program has twelve teams, one for each of the months, and they visit the newcomers with a small loaf of banana nut bread and some material about our church. They go unannounced after church — leaving the car motor running — they do not really “visit” but have just a short, friendly talk, thanking them for their visit and giving any infor-

mation about the church that is needed. If no one is home, they leave the bread with a phone number. Marianna Sherman writes that she makes the loaves of banana nut bread ahead of time and keeps them in the freezer in the kitchen. Some new members have said that this gesture was a big consideration in their membership decision. Many of the team members have been with Marianna since the beginning of the program. They are a committee with no meetings and they keep connected via e-mail or phone. If you’re interested in learning more, just contact Marianna. And if you notice someone new to the church, let Chip, Tami, or Marianna know!

What's new at the Mission Commission?

Well, mission trips, for one. If you read about our mission trips in February's Disciple, you know we've got a trip for everyone. And for those of us who aren't physically going on a trip, we have ways to support the trips through prayer and sponsorship - more to come about that. And a special thanks to the "mission trip team" - Heidi Haring, Stephanie Hare and Margery Rossi who have volunteered to organize and lead these trips.

The Mission Commission is also leading a church-wide effort to becoming GreenFaith Certified church, which is an inter-faith group of congregations that pledge to support the environment. By becoming GreenFaith Certified, we will also become an EarthCare Congregation in PC(USA). We hope to be part of a cohort of congregations beginning the GreenFaith two-year certification process starting May 1, 2015. Right after Easter we'll have a table at coffee hour with information about sponsorship of our mission trips and more about our GreenFaith initiative, and our "Green Team."

And have you noticed a change in our coffee? We are proudly serving Dean's Beans, the coffee that we've sold at our Alternative Giving fair. Dean's Beans are organic, fair traded products. Here's their mission from their website: "To use high quality specialty coffee as a vehicle for progressive change throughout the coffeelands of Asia, Africa and the Americas. We do this through activism, ecological responsibility and innovative direct development programs with our cooperative partners. " Thanks Heidi Haring and Pat Prauda for making this happen.

Our Confirmation Class participated in a Midnight Run on March 6. Here are some of their reflections.

I thought the Midnight Run was a fascinating experience, and it went very well. Instead of just seeing statistics about the state of homeless people, you are able to learn about who they are and realize they aren't what society makes them out to be. It's a very personal experience and I would highly recommend it! ~Margaret

I really learned a lot on the Midnight Run. I learned just how many people are in need and how they live. I wondered how they survived this long and cold winter and after about the second stop I realized that it is because of the Midnight Run organization. It was a reality check for me, seeing those in need. If you don't see people like that, then there is no way to know to help them. In addition to learning, I also had fun with my friends and had the opportunity to bond with the other members of our confirmation class! I am glad I went on the Midnight Run and had the opportunity to help others. ~Brielle

Traveling all around New York City at one o'clock in the morning, while it felt -15 degrees, wasn't my ideal way to spend Friday night. In the past years, my family would donate hats, coats and pants and make lunches. It all seemed very noble and generous of us to do this stuff, but I never felt a real connection with the Midnight Run Program until last Friday. Participating in the Midnight Run really opened my eyes to the fact of how fortunate I am. That while I might be freezing that one night, I realized how many people are living out in the cold for the past harsh and cold winter. While handing out the clothes and food, the people were always very friendly and understanding, for example if we didn't have what they were looking for, they would always say thank-you anyway. The Midnight Run was a great experience and really opened my eyes to how fortunate people are without realizing it. For example, while people are spending hundreds of dollars on their new iphone watch, they should spend twenty dollars on a good pair of jeans and a pair of gloves. ~Sarah

One of our confirmation class leaders sums it up:

What a generous church family we have, we asked and received tenfold! God is good, our congregation rocks! We are blessed! Thank you! Our team of nine confirmation ninth graders and five adults met at the church to load the van and SUV and head to NY City to do the Midnight Run. Your generosity filled our vehicles with almost 200 meals (hearty and healthy and filled with love) and coats, sweatshirts, sweaters, long johns, toiletry kits, and hats/gloves! We had coffee, yummy soup and water bottles to offer the homeless people we met throughout the night. How wonderful that we had enough clothing to give our new friends choices! We definitely had the Holy Spirit by our side. Your support was a great gift! Thank you!

How proud we should all be of our caring, sensitive "Midnight Run team"! They were God's voice and hands that cold night in the city! When you give you also receive.....and we did! ~Pam Darreff

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The Disciple

April 2015

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Rev. Chip Low

Rev. Tami Seidel



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April

April			1	2 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:30pm Service	3 GOOD FRIDAY 7:30pm	4
5 EASTER 6:00am Sunrise Service/breakfast @Downing Park/Fellowship Hall 8:30am Easter Services 10:45am Easter Service	6 Office Closed	7 9:30am Covenant 2:30pm Noontime Meal 7:30pm Session	8 9:30am Prayer Shawl 10:30am Women's Circle 7pm Covenant	9 10am Study 6:45pm Bells 8:00pm Choir	10	11 9am Food Pantry
12 Worship Services 8:30am & 10:45am 9:30 Church School/Adult Ed 12pm Youth Bell Rehearsal VBS Planning Meeting 4:30 Confirmation/MS Youth	13 10am Knit Togethers 7pm Church School Meeting	14 9:30am Covenant 7:30pm Worship	15 10:30am Prayer Shawl 12pm Lunch Bunch (all invited) 7pm Covenant	16 10am Study 6:45pm Bells 8:00pm Choir	17	18 7:30pm Spring Concert
19 Worship Services 8:30am & 10:45am 9:30 Church School/Adult Ed 12pm Deacons Meeting Youth Program Meeting Youth Bell Rehearsal 4:30pm Confirmation	20	21 9:30am Covenant 7:30pm Operations Mission	22 7pm Covenant	23 10am Study 6:45pm Bells 8:00pm Choir	24	25 9am Food Pantry 6pm Jan Peek Meal
26 Worship Services 8:30am & 10:45am 9:30am Church School/Adult Ed 4:30pm - MS Youth Group Confirmation dinner with Session 6:30pm HS Youth Group	27 10am Knit Togethers	28 9:30am Covenant 7:30pm Communications	29 9am Stewardship 7pm Covenant	30 10am Study 6:45pm Bells 8:00pm Choir		