



THE SPIRE

June 2017

Dear Friends in Christ:

Occasionally, married couples have asked me to conduct a service of renewal of their marriage vows. The reasons varied: one couple decided to renew their vows after the wife had worked the 12 Steps to recover from an eating disorder. Another couple celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary with a small ceremony of renewal held in their living room. I have found these occasions profoundly moving. Couples who have weathered many ups and downs and who know each other through and through choose to recite their marriage vows all over again, word for word, saying in effect, “I still choose you.”

On Sunday, May 7, you and I *renewed our vows*. During a joyful service of worship we repeated the vows we made when I was installed four years ago in my prior role as “designated pastor.” The promises we made this time around were an exact repeat, word for word. Having weathered the ups and downs of church life together and knowing what we now know about one another, we renewed our commitment. We said, in effect, “we still choose each other.”

I found the service of installation to be profoundly moving. Thank you for joining wholeheartedly in the celebration.

Now, I invite you to join (or re-join) wholeheartedly in the work of ministry to which God is calling us. New elders and deacons were ordained and installed the following Sunday. The job of church leaders isn’t to do all of the work themselves, but rather to see that it gets done. That’s where the rest of you come in.

Which part of our ministry and mission do you love best? *Make it happen.*
What changes would you like to see in our church? *Be the change.*

I am grateful for the privilege and responsibility of serving as your pastor. I am also grateful that I do not do this work alone. Paul writes, “now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it (1 Corinthians 12:27).” Paul is right.

Yours with joy and hope,

Ruth L. Boling

Ruth L. Boling, Pastor

June 4 is Confirmation Sunday
and Pentecost. WEAR RED!

JUNE WORSHIP AT A GLANCE

June 4 Day of Pentecost – WEAR RED!
Confirmation Sunday
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Psalm 104:24-34
Acts 2:1-21
Meditation: "Trusting in the Holy Spirit"

June 11 Trinity Sunday
Genesis 1:1-2:4a
Matthew 28:16-20
Sermon: "How Can God be Three in One?"

June 18 Second Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 18:1-15
Matthew 10:1-11
Sermon: "Gods' Got This"

June 25 Third Sunday after Pentecost
Guest Preacher

*Summer Worship hours
begin on July 2.*

WORSHIP NOTES FOR JUNE

"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting." Acts 2:1-2

Come and rejoice in the gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday, June 4, as we celebrate the Lord's Supper and welcome confirmation class students into church membership. Come and rejoice in the good news of salvation, 10:45 a.m. in the Chapel, every Sunday morning in June. Please note, and mark your calendars, that the 10:00 a.m. summer worship hour begins on July 2 with the celebration of the Lord's Supper. All are welcome to join us as we gather every Sunday morning to praise God in prayer and song.

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all." II Corinthians 13:13

BLOOMFIELD COLLEGE SPECIAL OFFERING

Our special offering this month will help support the work of the Bloomfield College Chaplain's Office, which is responsible for nurturing the spiritual growth of the students and faculty at this historically Presbyterian college. Your donation will help make possible a variety of activities, programs, and classes related to the understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures and beliefs, the examination of personal values, the pursuit of justice and contributions to the common good. The Chaplain's Office hosts an annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. lecture, a religion and culture series, Bible study, interfaith gatherings and sponsors mission trips. Your contributions will be greatly appreciated.

FROM THE CLERK'S DESK

Notes from the Session meeting of April 19, 2017. . .

Bible Study - the Book of Jonah:

1. This short book can be summarized as follows
 - a. Chapter 1 - God speaks to Jonah but Jonah runs away rather than do God's bidding
 - b. Chapter 2 - swallowed by a great fish, Jonah's prayer for deliverance is answered
 - c. Chapter 3 - Jonah obeys God's command and a wicked people is saved
 - d. Chapter 4 - a parable on where the credit belongs for saving a wicked people
2. Responses to questions based on the story of Jonah
 - a. We are sent to those in need, each other, our neighbors, our community, the world.
 - b. Our message is love, forgiveness, mercy, hope, the knowledge that we care and that God cares.
 - c. We might want to run away because of uncertainty, conflict, fear, weariness, feeling ill equipped, the enormity of the task.
 - d. What stops us from running is reminders of our call to serve, being tired of running, knowing that God will catch us for His purposes.
3. The message to each one of us from the Book of Jonah
 - a. God speaks.
 - b. We are called to be obedient in witness and service.
 - c. The Bible (God's Word) and the example set by Jesus show us the way.

Education Team:

1. Approved a trip for children and youth to Turtle Back Zoo as part of an education event based on the theme of Noah's ark.
2. Approved restarting the "worship bags program" which will provide activity bags for children through 4th grade to use during worship.

Evangelism and Mission Team:

1. Voted to formally join The Greater Bloomfield Interfaith Partners - "an alliance of faith based communities and individuals working for justice, compassion and peace in Bloomfield and the surrounding world." The group is currently focused on refugee resettlement. Feeding and housing initiatives (MESH and IHN) will be brought under the GBIP umbrella and other activities are being contemplated.
2. Voted to once again host the MESH Summer Café in our Parish House. Several local churches take turns providing meals for the hungry in our community.

Finance and Stewardship Team:

1. Welcomed the new Church Treasurer in a conversation about church finances and financial reporting as we make the transition from one treasurer to another.

Questions or Concerns for Session?

Drop a note in the clerk's mailbox in the Church Office or see me after Sunday worship. I will be happy to listen and to answer your questions or direct you to those who can.

Respectfully, Ethelyn L. Fulton, Clerk of Session

EVANGELISM & MISSION

We have formally joined The Greater Bloomfield Interfaith Partners program which is an alliance of faith-based community and individuals working for justice, compassion and peace in Bloomfield and the surrounding world. Watch for more information as this partnership blossoms.

Our Feed the World on the Green program is continuing and flourishing with many helping hands. Le Vuong has taken on the role of lead cook and has been able to secure assistance from chefs through PACTION as well as volunteers from his co-workers. Many other volunteers continue to support this mission program from our community and church members. We thank all of you very much.

Our Food Pantry has seen some significant donations as well as a steady stream of individuals in need. It seems that as the donations increase, so do the numbers of families in need. God certainly does provide. We have never had to turn anyone away. We have had a change in leadership with our Food Pantry team. Bruce Turnbull left in February and Desmond Wedderburn left in April. Don Cornell has taken on the directorship role and is working very closely with the volunteers. If you find yourself with some spare time during the week, contact Don to see how you can assist him. There are many different tasks that need to be done and some can be done weekly or monthly. Every little bit of help will go a long way.

Throughout the year, we have had 3 to 4 Prayer Triplets at work. Some are not as regular as others but that is a great number – think about it 9 to 12 individuals meeting together to pray for each other, our church, our community and our world. Why not create your own Prayer Triplet? We can assist you getting started and watch how prayers really work.

We have heard wonderful things from the recipients of our Greeting Card Ministry, especially our home-bound members. Continue to look for the cards on the back table in the Chapel. Take a moment to send your warm and heartfelt greetings to them.

Feel free to contact any of our team members with any concerns or ideas you may have. Or you can leave a note in our team mailbox in the Copy Room. We would love to hear from you.

HERE IS WHAT YOUR BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE HAS BEEN UP TO

- all burned out light bulbs in the Parish House have been replaced (and some have since gone out)
- Fence around the meditation garden has been fixed
- new room signs have been put up on both the first and second floors of the Education Building
- all locks and knobs have been tightened as needed
- recycling cans have been placed in both the Education Building and the Parish House
- thanks to a private donation, new garbage cans have been placed in the Parish House and Education Building
- the vault in the basement has been cleaned and swept and is usable again

- the emergency exit in the west Education Building stairwell has been cleared of debris
- we continue to work on getting drinking water via the fountains back in the Education Building
- we continue to work on enclosing the open foundation vents in the sanctuary
- we continue to work on fixing the broken windows
- the parking stops have been put back in the Church Street parking lot
- a new refrigerator has been ordered for the Education Building kitchen

Our upcoming bigger projects include:

- checking on the Westminster chimes
- closing the big holes in the cornice of the sanctuary
- putting the 2nd floor library back together- We have people to do it but need some additional bookshelves and supplies- How can you help?
- some of the Parish House windows are in very bad shape and need a little TLC-

Have some spare time to spend down at the church?? Let Scott know! We need people who can meet with a contractor or service person or do an odd job or two.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS NEEDS YOUR HELP!!

Can we fix it?? Well, maybe. We need everyone's help to get supplies or provide their skills and gifts to get things done. We have been given a new challenge! We now have to rely on ourselves to get things done so let's all step up to the plate and get the job done- Not just for Buildings and Grounds but for all aspects of our awesome church lives.

We have some broken windows that need fixing. Can you get some glass panes somewhere or do you know how to repair them?

We have torn screens that need fixing? Can you fix them?

We have outlets and lights that are not working. Do you have basic electrical skills?

What about plumbing? We have that to do as well.

Basic construction skills?

We have a copy machine we need to try to sell. Are you good with social media?

Have interior decorating skills? We would love to put the library back together (on a low to non-existent budget)

The possibilities are endless. We have something for everyone. Tell us what you can or like to do and we can find something for you.

Don't have a lot of skill, but still like to get your hands dirty? You are in the right place. We may not be able to get the sanctuary fixed, but we can fix everything else!

We are asking folks to take on one small job. If everyone does one thing for Buildings and Grounds we can get this building in shape in no time. Reach out to Scott Maciag at smaciag1@gmail.com. This is our church and we need to take care of it.

If you have a concern or see something that needs attention please reach out to Scott Maciag at smaciag1@gmail.com.

TAKING CARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT THE BEST WE CAN

Recycling cans have returned to the Education Building kitchen and the Parish House kitchen. Please recycle as you are able. Please rinse and crush all containers before putting them in recycling. If you notice the recycling cans are getting full please take them out and empty them into the recycling bins in the garbage corral. If you are recycling cardboard please remove all plastic wrappings, flatten and stack neatly or nest inside another box inside the cardboard receptacle in the garbage corral.

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

A big thank you to Billy Watson for his tireless efforts getting things done around the building while we are still short-handed. Please clean up after your activities and take out the garbage. If you see something that needs to be done and you can do it. Please do!

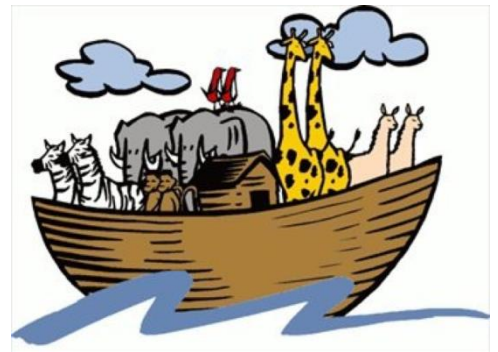
Many hands make light work.

Last one out? Please make sure all the lights are off and the fire doors are closed. If you are not sure, walk around the building and find out.

Many blessings.

BIBLE PAZOOLA

Our next special event for children and youth will be an outing to Turtle Back Zoo on Sunday, June 11 (with lunch and a Bible lesson about Noah starting immediately after worship). Parents are needed to drive and to serve as chaperones for the trip. Cost is \$5 per person (2 years and up). Permission slips (already handed out to families) are mandatory for minors who will attend without their parents. For more information, please talk to Glenn Maciag or Pastor Ruth Boling asap.



WORSHIP BAGS

Starting June 11, worship bags will be available for children 4th grade and younger. These bags will contain copies of Pastor Ruth's book "A Children's Guide to Worship" as well as other things children can look at and use during worship. They will be available to be picked up before worship and should be returned after worship. More information to follow. Any questions? Please talk to Glenn Maciag or Pastor Boling.

SAVE THE DATE!

Our next Biblepooza event for children and youth will be after worship on Sunday, July 23. More details to follow, but save the date now!

WISH LIST

Our "Feed the World on the Green" cooks prepare everything from scratch for our homeless and low income dinner guests. This requires a great deal of chopping of onions and fresh vegetables. A **FOOD PROCESSOR** would save considerable time and be greatly appreciated.

Please contact Eve Space or call the Church Office if you would like to donate a new or gently used, good quality food processor.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Church on the Green is pleased to offer scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students for the 2017-2018 academic year. Please contact the Church Office for an application and return it by the **deadline of June 30**. Please note that the guidelines and application are being revised slightly from previous years.

BOOK GROUP

Our LAST book group meeting of the program year will be on Monday, June 12 at 7:30 PM. We will meet in the education building. During this year we have been discussing James Boice's book "Whatever Happened to the Gospel of Grace?: Rediscovering the Doctrines That Shook the World" On June 12 we will be discussing chapter 9 "Reforming our Lives".

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION

The Sunday morning adult education series "The Pearl of Christian Comfort" continues through June (going through and including Sunday, June 25) on Sunday mornings from 9:45 – 10:30. The Pearl of Christian Comfort is a short (85 page) book by Petrus Dathenus (1531 or 1532-1588) an early Dutch reformer sometimes called "The John Knox of the Netherlands." The Pearl of Christian Comfort was written by Dathenus to provide spiritual comfort and assurance to Christians struggling in those areas. It is written in the form of a dialogue between Dathenus and a younger Christian. Because the book was not translated into English until the 1990's, the English is modern and readable. Interested? It's not too late to join us! Want to get a copy of the book? Please talk to Glenn Maciag.

JACKALS OUTING WITH WATCHUNG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

On July 20th, the Bloomfield Church on the Green family is invited to attend a baseball game at Yogi Berra Stadium with Watchung Presbyterian Church. This is a fun outing for the family & a great opportunity to share fellowship together outside of church. The NJ Jackals will be facing the Toronto Trois-Rivières Aigles at 7:05 PM. Tickets are \$12. Payments are due to Rebecca Polynice by June 25th! If you are interested in attending, please sign up on Sunday or call the church office so we can get a better idea of how many people are interested.

THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop continues to function but we are in dire need of volunteers. We have so many things that can be done so please give Marlene Sasso a call and say that you would like to help. We are thankful to Yvonne Wedderburn who volunteered so graciously every Wednesday but as you know the Wedderburns have moved out of state. We were thrilled when 12 students from Bloomfield College came in on Friday, May 12 to spend 4 hours of their time helping out. They put quite a big dent in the sorting piles that we had. If you can't volunteer your time then help us out by not dropping off any donations until further notice. Although donations are appreciated we need to get the working and sorting area clear. Thank you for cooperating.

THE CHURCH IN PRAYER

"Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10

To: Our Church Family
From: Charlotte Cade, Ethelyn Fulton, Eve Space
About: Our Church Family prayer journey
Purpose: To develop the discipline of prayer
To build relationships centered and focused on prayer
To pray in one accord with all who are part of our church family
Who: Individuals or Prayer Triplets
What: Read and discuss scripture texts, pray
Where: Any place that is comfortable for you
When: Any time that is workable and comfortable for you
June Theme: We all – pastor, officers, members – are the body of Christ
Scripture Texts: Romans 12:1-21 describing our new life in Christ
II Corinthians 4:1-18 describing the treasure we have because we live in faith
Ephesians 4:1-16 describing our unity in the body of Christ

*"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* I Thessalonians 5:16-18

PRAYERS

Please pray for our elderly and homebound church members and for the following persons for whom special prayers have been requested: Joan Fleming, Michael Lewis Jr., Kalu family, Laura Boger, Joan Campbell, Joan Duncan, Ellen Smith, Lois Erickson, Helen LeDoux, Joel Birjah, Joseph Campbell, Frank Truncali, Indira Bissoondath, Doris Murray, Arlett Family, Candy Antoine



4...	Carlos Monteagudo	13..	Heather Arlett-Doherty	14..	Yaa Boakyewa
5...	Jaiden Ewoko Evande		Eric Maciag	20..	Rachel Motoma
10..	Joan Caramagna		Susan Turnbull	27..	Don Cornell

Happy Anniversary to Pastor Ruth and Carlos on June 5th

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

As we begin to wind down our program year, I want to thank all of you for your dedication, hard work and contributions to the programs and mission of the Women's Fellowship here at the Bloomfield Presbyterian Church on the Green. Your dedication and faithfulness are amazing gifts! Whether you participated in a Bible Circle, donated items or funds for our mission projects, or served on the Coordinating Team, you have made important contributions to the life of our Fellowship!

During the past year we have witnessed some changes: We have revised our By-Laws to consolidate some of the positions on our Coordinating Team and reduced the number of meetings of the general membership. While we have continued to evolve, our Bible Circle participation is faithful and our purpose has not changed.

You should have received our annual pledge letter in May. I invite you to give as generously as you can in support of our ongoing work. If you've already returned your pledge, I want to extend my sincere thanks for your generosity.

I hope each of you finds some time to relax and enjoy the summer months!

Here are some future dates for you to remember: **SAVE THESE DATES**

August 18-19, 2017 Triennial Gathering of Presbyterian Women Synod of the Northeast
Desmond Hotel Conference Center, 660 Albany Shaker Road, Albany, NY 12211

August 2-5, 2018 Presbyterian Women Churchwide Gathering – Louisville, Kentucky
2018 is also the year that Presbyterian Women celebrates its 30th anniversary.

LIGHT is the theme of this Gathering. Be a part of this anniversary year celebration.

If you are interested in attending, please let me know so I can be sure you receive additional details.

Blessings to all,

Nancy Edmond

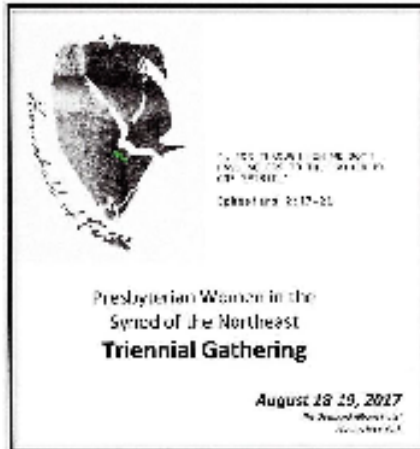
“For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in...” Matthew 2



Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Northeast 2017 Triennial Gathering

Theme: "Household of Faith"

Friday, August 18 – Saturday, August 19, 2017
Desmond Hotel and Conference Center
Albany, New York



Who is the foreigner?

Who is the native?

What is it like to be "the other"?

These are the questions to be explored at our *Gathering*. Based on the scripture *Ephesians, Chapter 2: 17-21* "...*you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household...*" a diverse group of speakers, panelists and workshop leaders will highlight migration, immigration and cultural diversity.

Our goal and hope is that all the attendees will have a renewed commitment to deal with others in love and understanding.

We are particularly thrilled to have **Rev. Larissa Kwong Abazia**, past-Vice Moderator of the *General Assembly, PC(USA)* and **Carol Winkler**, *PW Churchwide Moderator* to be our keynote speakers. On Saturday morning, we will have an *Immigration and Diversity Forum* with panel discussion. **See you in Albany New York this summer!**

*** For registration form and scholarship, go to <https://pwsne.org/> ***
Deadline: for registration August 1 (early bird discount by July 22), for scholarship July 3

JUNE 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AA and NA meet in the Parish House unless otherwise noted AA meets: Sunday at 2:00 pm Tuesday at 8:00 pm Thursday at 8:00 pm NA meets: Thursday at 7:30 pm Cub Scouts meet in the Parish House				1	2	3
				7:30 Choir Rehearsal	Food Pantry Thrift Shop	Thrift Shop Yoga
4 Confirmation Sunday 9:45am – Adult Education (Parlor) 10:00 Prayer Group (History Room) 10:45 Worship Service with the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper 3pm Bloomfield Civic Band Concert in the Chapel 4pm Cubs Raingutter Regatta	5	6	7	8	9	10
		7:15 WF Coordinating Team (Parlor) Dress rehearsal for Bloomfield Chorale Concert	Food Pantry Thrift Shop 7:30 Finance Team (Parlor) 7:30 Lenape Trails (Library House) 7:30 Spanish Church (Parish House)	7:30 Choir Rehearsal	Food Pantry Thrift Shop	Thrift Shop Yoga The Bloomfield Chorale Concert in The Chapel
11 9:45am – Adult Education (Parlor) 10:00 Prayer Group (History Room) 10:45 Worship Service 12:15pm Bible Pa-Zoo-La (Parish House) then to the Zoo at 5:00pm	12	13	14	15	16	17
	7:30 Mission & Evangelism (Parlor) 7:30 Book Group (History Room) 7:30 Worship (Pastor’s office)		Food Pantry Thrift Shop 7:30 Spanish Church (Parish House)	7:30 Choir Rehearsal	Food Pantry Thrift Shop	Thrift Shop Yoga
18 Father’s Day 9:45am – Adult Education (Parlor) 10:00 Prayer Group (History Room) 10:45 Worship Service Session Reports Due SPIRE Articles Due	19	20	21	22	23	24
	5:00 Feed the World	Noon - Naomi Circle Parish House	Food Pantry Thrift Shop 6:30pm – Joint meeting of Session and Deacons 7:30 Spanish Church (Parish House)	7:30 Choir Rehearsal	Food Pantry Thrift Shop	Thrift Shop Food Pantry Yoga
25 9:45am – Adult Education (Parlor) 10:00 Prayer Group (History Room) 10:45 Worship Service	26	27	28	29	30	
		Noon –Naomi Circle (Parish House)	Food Pantry Thrift Shop 10:00 SPIRE Team 7:30 Spanish Church (Parish House)		Food Pantry Thrift Shop	

Bloomfield Presbyterian Church on the Green
147 Broad Street
Bloomfield NJ 07003



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Bloomfield Presbyterian Church on the Green

147 Broad Street, Bloomfield NJ 07003
The Reverend Ruth L. Boling, Pastor

Phone: 973-743-1796

Thrift Shop: 973-743-8425

Fax: 973-743-0262

www.bpcog.org

Worship : Sunday 10:45am

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9am – 1pm

Thrift Shop: Wednesday and Friday, 10:00am - 2:30pm, Saturday 10am - 1pm

Food Pantry: Wednesday and Friday, 9:30 -11am, 4th Saturday 10:00-noon

TRUSTING GOD AND MINISTERING TO ALL PEOPLE AS CHRIST TEACHES US IN THE GOSPEL