



THE SPIRE

September 2018

Dear Friends in Christ:

Our Mission is to glorify the living God in worship, to love as Christ loves, and to live and share the Gospel beyond the walls of the church, wherever the Spirit leads.

The above **mission statement** reflects our understanding of who God is calling us to be and what God is calling us to do here, now, and for the foreseeable future. We can't do everything, we can't be all things to all people, but we can, and we must, do the work that is ours to do.

This fall we will keep ourselves **mission-minded** as we work our way through the next steps of the Revitalization Initiative. The Education Team has chosen a **mission-focus**, "Here I am, Lord," for our 2019-2020 Bible Palooza events for children and youth. "Green Church, Green World" is the working name for a **new mission** being hatched to engage our neighbors in sharing the costs and benefits of a community solar panel array. **Our signature missions:** food pantry, thrift shop, Feed the World on the Green, and the work of the Women's Fellowship continue.

We'll kick off a new program year on Sunday, September 9, with **inspiration for mission** from a very special guest, **the Rev. Leslie Vogel**, who serves as PC(USA) **Mission Co-Worker** for Guatemala and Mexico. She will join us for the All-Church Breakfast at 9:15am in the Parish House and be our guest preacher. Here is what Rev. Vogel says about her own **sense of mission**:

"My sense of call has always been expressed best by the Hebrew prophet Micah (6:8): 'What does God require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?' ...This call challenges and nurtures my soul by leading me to serve as a bridge between peoples and cultures."

I hope you're as excited as I am to connect, collaborate and conspire together to move our mission forward and outward in the coming months!

Yours in Christ's Service,
Ruth L. Boling
Ruth L. Boling, Pastor



As regional liaison for Guatemala and Mexico, Rev. Leslie Vogel serves as a facilitator of the PC (USA) to provide support for partner programs, relationships, and activities, and as an implementer of Presbyterian World Mission Strategy.

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP AT A GLANCE

Worship resumes at 10:45AM in September. We'll resume our work on the Revitalization Initiative beginning Sunday, September 16, with a special focus on the stories of our church as they reveal God's story.

Sept. 2 15th Sunday after Pentecost

10:45AM Chapel Choir resumes
Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8
James 1:17-27
Sermon: "Love in 3-D"

Sept. 23 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 20:1-17
James 2:14-26
Sermon: "God's Story, Our Story:
Choices and Turning Points"

Sept. 9 16th Sunday after Pentecost

The Lord's Supper
Guest Preacher: The Rev. Leslie
Vogel, PC(USA) Mission Co-
Worker in Guatemala and Mexico
All-Church Breakfast at 9:15 in
the Parish House

Sept. 30 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Children's/Youth Sunday
Isaiah 56:1-2, 6-8
Matthew 28:16-20
Sermon: "God's Story, Our Story:
Meanwhile..."
Bible Palooza after Worship!

Sept. 16 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Psalms 110
Colossians 3:1-4, 12-17
Sermon: "God's Story, Our Story:
Beginnings"

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP NOTES

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

On September 2 we return to the 10:45 a.m. worship hour. Please join us as we gather in the Chapel to worship God with hymns and prayers, scripture readings and sermons. The Lord's Supper will be celebrated on September 9; our children and young people will provide worship leadership on September 30.

As Worship Team chairperson, I would like to share a few words with you about the bulletin which we receive every Sunday when we come to worship. The bulletin serves two main purposes. The first is to provide the order of worship - with all the information needed for hymn singing, Bible readings, prayers and responses. The second is to provide information about prayer requests and upcoming events in the life of the church family. I encourage you to take the bulletin home with you every Sunday - to re-read the prayers, to look up and study the scripture lessons for the day, to keep before you the names of those in need of prayer, and as a reminder of upcoming activities you might want to participate in. Please don't just leave the bulletin in the pew. It is a useful tool that keeps us connected to God and to one another.

throughout the week. Should you choose not to take the bulletin home, please leave it on the back table where I will pick it up for recycling.

In the Book of Exodus we read, “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.” I look forward to greeting you each September sabbath as we come together to give thanks and praise to God who has showered amazing love and bountiful grace upon us.

See you in church. Blessings, Ethelyn L. Fulton, Worship Team chairperson

FROM THE CLERK’S DESK

Notes from the Annual Joint Meeting of Session and the Board of Deacons:

1. Elders and Deacons enjoyed a pot luck supper and time of fellowship.
2. Officers watched the video “Foundations of Presbyterian Discipleship: Blessed to be a Blessing” with a focus on building relationships both in the church and in the wider community. . .
 - a. Relationships = getting to know one another.
 - b. Relationships = meeting someone you haven’t met before.
 - c. Relationships = allowing yourself to be met.
 - d. Fellowship = building relationships with people you know **and** with people you don’t know.
 - e. Coffee Hour = a time of fellowship, a pause in which to make connections with one another - worship regulars **and** visitors

Notes from the Session meeting of July 25:

1. Continued ongoing discussion about church finances. . .
 - a. The Church Treasurer reported that, to date, \$57,000 has been withdrawn from endowment funds to cover 2018 expenses.
 - b. The Church Treasurer reported that, to date, \$5099 has been withdrawn from designated endowment funds for purposes specified by donors and bequests.
 - c. Considered proposals for long term rentals - to increase income.
 - d. Reminded teams to keep expenses within 2018 budget lines.

If you have any 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 listen and to answer your questions or direct you to those who can.

Respectfully, Ethelyn L. Fulton, Clerk of Session

USHERS NEEDED

The role of an usher is to greet those who come to worship, give out the bulletins, and collect the morning offering. We need your help to provide this ministry of welcome.

Please see a member of the Worship Team -
Ethelyn Fulton, Marsha James, Mathew Kohnen -
to volunteer your service as an usher.

Blessings and Thanks.



SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION

Our Sunday morning adult education class on the Heidelberg Catechism (written in 1563 but still very relevant to today!) will begin again on Sunday, September 16. We meet Sunday mornings at 9:45 in the parlor (first floor of the education building). We will start with question 56 "What do you believe concerning the forgiveness of sins?" (we're in the section of the catechism that is working through the Apostles' Creed) Everybody is invited, whether you want to attend consistently or occasionally. If you have any questions or want your own copy of the catechism, please talk to Glenn Maciag.

BOOK GROUP

Our new book group year will begin on Monday, September 10. We meet on the second Monday of the month at 7:30 PM in the education building. During this program year, we will be discussing a book by Martyn Lloyd-Jones called "The Cross: God's Way of Salvation." Lloyd-Jones (1899-1981) was a Welsh pastor who is often considered one of the greatest preachers of the 20th century. After a very promising start to a career in medicine, Lloyd-Jones gave up practicing medicine in order to be a minister, first in Wales and then for many years in the heart of London. Our book this year is a collection of sermons he preached in the latter half of 1963, all on the cross. We will discuss chapter 1 "The Wondrous Cross" on September 10. For more information or to get a copy of the book, please talk to Glenn Maciag. Everybody is invited!!

DEACONS 2nd QUARTER REPORT

This report is a summary of our activities from April through June 2018:

- † Hospital and Rehab Visits (5)
- † Home Visits (28)
- † Home Communion Visits with Pastor Ruth (5)
- † Phone Call Follow Up (34)
- † Attended Funeral Service (2)
- † Sent Cards (16)
- † Delivered Shower Chair to Member (1)
- † Provided Transportation Home from Hospital for Member(1)

We completed the relocation of our Medical Equipment and Supplies from the basement to Room 203 on the second floor. Outdated and damaged equipment was discarded, and the remaining equipment was thoroughly cleaned. We have many items, including crutches, canes, walkers, wheelchairs, commodes, bedpans, urinals, raised toilet seats and a hospital bed. If you or someone you know has a need, please contact the church office or Janice Fulton. Our only request is that items which are loaned out be returned, so they are available for someone else in need.

We voted to add a check-off box on the Easter and Christmas Flower Dedication Forms for those who want to take the lily or poinsettia they donated after worship. This will insure that there are enough flowers for those on the Deacons list and those who wish to take the one they donated.

We continued to provide the Upper Room (available in the rear of the Chapel) to

those who are interested.

We continued to send the Upper Room to those on our Visitation and Keep in Touch Lists.

We continued the BPCOG Prayer Chain, including all of our Deacons and Prayer Triplets.

We delivered the Sunday Worship Flowers to our shut-ins, those in the hospital, those experiencing difficult times and those celebrating special occasions.

We prepared and cleaned up Communion on Easter Sunday and the first Sunday of May and June.

We continued to sponsor Renata Aritzabeth Gonzales Vidal, who lives in Mexico, through ChildFund.

If you have any questions or would like any additional information about the work of the Deacons, please contact Janice Fulton, Moderator.

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE NOTES

Did you know that skin is the largest organ in the human body? Three important functions of our skin are to cover and protect our bodies, to regulate temperature, and to provide our sense of touch. To maintain our skin, it is important to have healthy skin practices which should include touching and receiving touch. Why is touch important to healthy skin? Not just because it feels good! Touch increases levels of oxytocin (the bonding hormone) and lowers levels of cortisol (a hormone that suppresses the immune system and increases stress). Touch also boosts serotonin (a neurotransmitter that is a natural antidepressant).

Touch becomes even more important as we get older. Beginning when we are 20 years of age, we lose nerve endings in our skin at a rate of 1% each year. On average, an 80 year old has one quarter the touch receptors of a 20 year old. This can have a major impact on mind, body and spirit - our overall quality of life. So we need even more opportunity to experience touch as we grow older.

How can we get a healthy dose of touch each day?

- Cuddle your partner, a child or your pet
- Give out and receive hugs
- Touch others - we get the same benefits as the person we are touching
- Greet folks with a handshake or a high five
- Get a manicure or pedicure
- Get a massage
- Apply lotion or oil to your arms, legs and feet with light pressure or gentle massage

Scripture tells us the value Christ and his followers placed on touch. Consider the following passage in *Luke 18:15-26*. *Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God."*

The benefits of touch are boundless. Look for opportunities to touch and receive touch every day to promote health of mind, body and spirit.

Janice Fulton RN - Faith Community Nurse

THANK YOU FROM THE EDUCATION TEAM

We want to thank all of you for making our Vacation Bible Camp a great success! It's because of all your generous donations to our Banana Tree that really made it happen! This was a Church effort, and You Did It! Thank you!

WELCOME BACK BREAKFAST

All are welcome to our Kick-Off Breakfast on September 9th, at 9:15AM. Important information for upcoming events for our Bible Palooza families will be handed out, so we expect to see all our families there for this yummy breakfast!

BIBLE PALOOZA

Mark your calendars now, for the 1st Bible Palooza event, after worship – September 30! Also that Sunday is Youth Sunday. Pastor Ruth will give more information about that at the breakfast. Welcome Back!

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS... HELPING MAKE A DIFFERENCE, ONE SMALL JOB AT A TIME.

Although you may not see many changes around the building, we have been working hard. Our general highlights include:

- supporting the STEM camp - and dealing with some minor electrical issues
- with the assistance of the task force, had some new investigative work done in the sanctuary and are awaiting results
- continue cleaning various locations around the building
- have been able to get a couple of windows in our worship space operational for fresh air. Multiple sash cords have to be repaired. Anyone feel like taking it on??
- continued spot cleaning neglected areas
- the issue with the lights in our worship space is tied to the weather and old ballasts. We will continue to monitor the situation and take corrective action as we are able.
- continue to work through some staff changes
- continue to develop new ideas and ways to support external rentals
- work on our solar panel mission opportunity continues. Most of the work at this time is technical and behind the scenes garnering additional support.

We have received a request for a possible weekday preschool rental and are currently working through state guidelines, a possible variance and everything else that goes along with it . No easy task, but a great opportunity,

There are still many jobs that have to be done so if you have a skill or interest please let us know. Staining, painting, minor repairs. Any or all of the above?? We may be able to use them to continue advancing and improving our buildings.

Can you come in and change a few light bulbs or clean some windows? All help is welcome.

LIGHTS OFF, DOOR LOCKED PLEASE

If you are in the building for a meeting or activity we ask you to please ensure the building is secure and all the lights are off when you leave. We have had some recent incidents of lights being left on, internal doors being unlocked and windows being left open. As we continue to try to monitor expenses it is very important to make sure all lights, including stairwell and bathroom lights are off. Individually one incident may not add up to a whole lot, but if you start adding them up it can be quite unnerving and expensive. We encourage you and want you to use our buildings, but please "check it before you leave." If you are in the building with another group or people, communicate who is doing what at the end of the evening. Remember... this building belongs to all of us so all of us must take responsibility.

Remember... A brick wall is nothing more than an opportunity to put in a doorway. Share your dreams, hopes and concerns with the Buildings and Grounds Committee. We are here to serve you.

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 members of the 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		
September Theme:	Trust God, Obey God's Laws and Serve Faithfully		
Scripture Texts:	Psalm 1	Psalm 19	Psalm 125
	Mark 9:30-50	James 1:17-27	James 2

Special Prayer Requests from the Presbytery of Newark:

September 2 – Newark Presbytery meeting
September 9 – Memorial West United Presbyterian Church, Newark
September 16 – First and Trinity Presbytery Church, South Orange
September 23 – Credentialing Committee meeting
September 30 – St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Newark

*"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

SEPTEMBER IS PER CAPITA MONTH

In September we will receive our annual Per Capita Offering.

This year, the Per Capita amount is \$30 per member.

Through our Per Capita donations we provide financial support to the work of the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. You will receive a separate mailing with more details soon. Please prayerfully consider doing your part to support the cost of being the Church.

PRAYERS

Please pray for our homebound church members and those for whom special prayers have been requested: Rev. Paul Boger, Rev. Rick Sommers, Lily Costello, Lois Erickson, Michael Lewis Jr., Laura Boger, Helen LeDoux, Indira Bissoondath, Candy Antoine

CONDOLENCES

to the friends and family of **Audrey Moore**, who went home to the Lord on August 6th.

to the friends and family of **Doris Murray**, who went home to the Lord on August 24th.

“In my Father’s house are many rooms... I go to prepare a place for you...” John 14:2



- 4... Cameron James
- 7... Lori Erickson
- 10.. Uma Kalu
- 17.. Pastor Ruth Boling
Beverly Monahan
- 19.. Joan Ingold
- 20.. Ermine Burke
- 24.. Daniel Marshall
Barbara Turnbull
- 27.. Scott Maciag
- 29.. Olanma Kalu
- 30.. John Dey

- 9.. Manny and Elba Rodriguez
- 11.. Tom and Eve Space
- 30.. Edmond and Judith Epitime

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

SCHOOL KITS

A new school year will be here before we know it. This year, with the help of your generosity, kits will benefit the primary grades in 2 Bloomfield schools = Watsessing & Fairview as well as an International School in Ohafia, Nigeria. Items needed are:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| *pencils | *glue sticks | *Crayola crayons (sturdier & last longer) |
| *post its | *big thick Ticonderoga pencils | *hand sanitizer |
| *primary grade scissors | *highlighters (for sight words) | *bingo dot markers (yes) |
| *markers | *boxes of tissues | *tape |
| *magnets to display children's work | *blocks | *Playdoh |

If you prefer to make a monetary donation we will be your personal shoppers.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL IN OHAFIA, NIGERIA

It was decided to send money with Mr. Uma Kalu, one of our members, when he visits Ohafia in the fall. Your donations will purchase school supplies from local merchants thereby benefiting the whole community. Prayerfully consider helping Women's Fellowship with kits and money donations.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Six women attended the Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering "Arise, Shine, your light has come!" from August 2-5 in Louisville, KY. They will make a presentation at our annual Christmas Luncheon. Be on the lookout for your personal invitation.

Please watch for more information re: Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering. Saturday, October 13, 2018. Hosting church TBA.

SAVE THE DATE -- ENGLISH TEA

The English Tea will be Saturday, October 20, 2018, 2:00-4:00pm in the Parish House.
Tickets: \$12.00

THOUGHTFUL REFLECTION

*Remember, people will judge you by your actions NOT your intentions.
You may have a heart of gold, but so does a hard-boiled egg.*

Hope is putting Faith to work when doubting would be easier.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Rosania, Moderator
with Coordinating Team
Diann Cornell
Nancy Edmond
Mala Maharaj
Eve Space

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON ENGLISH TEA

WHERE: Bloomfield Presbyterian Church on the Green
147 Broad Street, Parish House, Bloomfield
Sponsored by Women's Fellowship

WHEN: Saturday, October 20, 2018

TIME: 2:00 – 4:00pm (Last seating @ 3:20pm)

COST: \$12.00

WHY: Proceeds support Presbyterian Disaster Relief

For more information or to reserve tickets, call
Charlotte 973-893-1457 or Mala 201-640-2162



SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10:45 Worship Service	3 Labor Day Church Office is closed	4 7:30 Women's Fellowship Coordinating Team (Parlor)	5 Food Pantry Thrift Shop 7:00 Lenape Trails (Parlor) 7:30 Finance & Stewardship (History Room)	6 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	7 Food Pantry Thrift Shop	8 Thrift Shop
9 9:15 Church Breakfast (Parish House) 10:45 Worship Service with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper Deacon's Meeting after worship (Parlor)	10 Mini-camp 6:00 Cub Scouts 7:30 Book Group (History Room)	11	12 Food Pantry Thrift Shop 7:30 Prayer Triplets (History Room)	13 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	14 Food Pantry Thrift Shop	15 Thrift Shop
16 9:45am – Adult Education (Parlor) 10:45 Worship Service AA moves to Chapel Cub Scouts (Parish House) Session Reports Due SPIRE Articles Due	17 5:00 Feed the World 7:30pm Mission and Outreach Team (Parlor)	18	19 Food Pantry Thrift Shop Mini-camp 7:30pm Session	20 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	21 Food Pantry Thrift Shop	22 Food Pantry Thrift Shop Private Party in the Parish House
23 9:45am – Adult Education (Parlor) 10:45 Worship Service Church Officer Nominating Committee after worship (Parlor)	24 6:00 Cub Scouts 7:30 Prayer Triplets (History Room)	25 Noon –Naomi Circle (Parish House)	26 Food Pantry Thrift Shop 10:00 SPIRE Team	27 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	28 Food Pantry Thrift Shop	29 Thrift Shop
30 Children's/Youth Sunday 10:45 Worship Service Bible Palooza after worship	AA and NA meet in the Parish House unless otherwise noted AA meets: Sunday at 2:00 pm and Tuesday at 8:00 pm NA meets: Thursday at 7:30 pm Spanish Church : Wednesday at 7:30pm Cub Scouts meet in the Parish House					

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

Feeding Body and Spirit