



THE SPIRE

February 2019

Dear Friends in Christ:

During 2019 we move into Year 2 of the Revitalization Initiative. Drawing on our learnings from Year 1, we will stay focused on the seven biblical marks of church vitality as we ask ourselves questions like:

What are the strengths of our church?
How might we build on them?
What needs to change?
Where and how shall we begin?

Year 2 will be *incarnational*. This means that as we implement plans, we'll start to experience what God's transformation looks and feels like in specific tangible ways. This process will combine planning with discovery, followed by more planning, followed by more discovery.

Expect the unexpected!

The ongoing stewardship and care of our campus and historic buildings can't be ignored in this process. Neither can it be our central focus. The Session is pursuing a strategy of generating increased income through rentals while reducing expenses where possible. So far so good.

As I've said many times, God can do wonderful things with a church the size of ours. "Rooted and grounded in the love of Christ," we have what we need to achieve our vision of being a "caring and hopeful community with an inner strength and an outward focus."

Whether you are a church member or a friend of the church who happens to be reading this letter, know that your connection with the Church on the Green is neither accidental nor insignificant. You are an important part of the future that God has planned for this church. Don't underestimate the power of the love you bring. Don't underestimate the importance of your desire to make a difference in the world, or of your hunger for an authentic faith shared authentically with others.

You are shaping this church for the future just by being you. Please, don't hold back.

Yours in trusting faith,

Ruth L. Boling

Ruth L. Boling, Pastor

FEBRUARY WORSHIP AT A GLANCE

Arise! Shine! Pastor Boling's sermons during February continue to explore ways that the light of Christ warns and warms us in our darkness.

Feb. 3 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

The Lord's Supper

Luke 4:21-30

Meditation: "Shine! You're Invited"

Feb. 10 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Luke 5:1-11

Sermon: "Shine! If You Don't Go, You Won't Know"

Feb. 17 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Luke 6:17-26

Sermon: "Shine! It's a Choice"

Feb. 24 Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Luke 6:27-38

Sermon: "Shine! No Limits"



Be sure to call the church office phone for building closings in case of inclement weather. The message will be updated at 6:30 a.m.



FEBRUARY WORSHIP NOTES

"What is the chief end of man?"

"Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever."

(Westminster Shorter Catechism, Book of Confessions)

During this time in the church year known as Ordinary Time, set aside moments to enjoy God and to give thanks daily for the beauty of a sunrise, the opportunities that come with each new day, the blessing of family and friends, the grace of God's forgiving love, and the peace that comes with knowing Christ as Lord and Savior. Then, join us at 10:45 a.m. in the Chapel every Sunday in February as we gather as a community of believers to worship and glorify God. Listed below are some scripture texts to prepare your heart and spirit for worship in February.

Sunday, February 3 – Luke 4:16-30

Jesus begins his ministry at the synagogue in Nazareth.

Sunday, February 10 – Luke 5:1-11

Jesus calls his first disciples – Peter, Andrew, James and John.

Sunday, February 17 – Luke 6:17-26

Jesus preaches the Sermon on the Plain.

Sunday, February 24 – Luke 6:27-38

Jesus preaches on love and forgiveness.

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable
in thy sight. O Lord, my rock and my redeemer." Psalm 19:14

FROM THE CLERK'S DESK:

Notes from the Session meeting of December 19, 2018. . .

Clerk's Report:

1. Called the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation for Sunday, February 3, 2019 (snow date Sunday, February 10) immediately following worship.

Buildings and Grounds Team:

1. Reported on various repairs and jobs in process. See detailed reports in each month's SPIRE.

Education Team:

1. Reported that a new email address has been created to be used for communication regarding children's and youth ministry activities. A free FlockNotes account is being used for group text messaging to parents.
2. Reported on the success of Advent Palooza which included an opportunity for the children to interview Mission Co-Worker Leslie Vogel via "the wonders of modern technology."

Evangelism and Outreach Team:

1. Thanked those who participated in the annual Giving Tree mission project to provide Christmas gifts to a father and his six children.

Finance and Stewardship Team:

1. Approved the 2019 Church Budget on first reading. Session will take final action on the budget at its January meeting. Copies will be available for the Annual Meeting.

Revitalization Initiative:

1. Received printed copies of the results of the "Congregational Vitality Survey" which church officers and the congregation completed this past fall. Based on overall survey results from worshipers, our congregation's greatest strength is caring relationships. We are least strong in evangelism. Results of the survey will be shared with the congregation once Session has had the opportunity to thoughtfully read, digest and discuss them.

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

SPECIAL OFFERING – BLOOMFIELD HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Our special offering for February will go to the Bloomfield High School (BHS) Scholarship Fund. Conceived by the 50th Anniversary Team as a way to celebrate our connection to the community, for the past three years we have awarded scholarships between \$1,000 and \$1,500 to a BHS senior who has shown exceptional academic and/or citizenship improvement to assist with their post-secondary education at a community college or vocational school. Your donation to this year's Scholarship Fund will provide welcome assistance to a student who is not receiving any other scholarship award through BHS. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Session has called the Annual Meeting of the Congregation for Sunday, February 3 in the Chapel immediately following morning worship (snow date February 10). Church leaders will share information about their work and activities in 2018. The Nominating Committee will present a proposed slate of ruling elders, Class of 2021. Action will be taken on two proposed by-laws revisions. One: reduce the size of the Nominating Committee from 8 to 5. Two: replace “Article XIII - Deacons” with the following - “Article XIII - Individually Commissioned Deacons - The congregation may elect a deacon or deacons at the annual meeting or at a special meeting of the congregation as determined by session, for a term of 1-3 years, renewable up to a maximum of 6 consecutive years. Deacons are individually commissioned to a defined ministry, ordinarily visitation, and are accountable to the session.”



Ethelyn L. Fulton, Clerk of Session

DEACONS 4th QUARTER REPORT

This report is a summary of our activities from October through December 2018.

These numbers include the activities of the Faith Community Nurse.

Contacts with our Church Family (total = 88)

- † Hospital and Rehab Visits (20)
- † Home Visits (20)
- † Phone Call and Text Follow Up (40)
- † Provided Transportation to MD Office (5)
- † Attended Wake (1)
- † Delivered Shower Chair (1)
- † Sent Cards (1)

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 and adding several interested members.

We gave/delivered 32 Christmas Poinsettias (as able) to everyone on the Deacon Visitation List, members who lost a loved one since Easter, members who were having a difficult time, elderly members living alone, church officers and employees, and our pastor.

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 Communion Sundays.

We continued to sponsor Renata Aritzabeth Gonzales Vidal, who lives in Mexico, through ChildFund and mailed a letter to her from the church family.

We deferred our annual charitable contributions to January 2019.

We presented to Session the need to take a look at the work of the Deacons and the current board structure, as we have struggled over the past several years to get full participation

from the board members and found it increasingly difficult to complete our work. If you have any questions or would like any additional information about the work of the Deacons, please contact Janice Fulton, Moderator.

FEBRUARY FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE NOTES

On February 1st, the sun will rise at 7:06 AM and set at 5:14 PM. On that day, we will only have sunlight for 10 hours and 8 minutes. Compare that to June 16th when we will have sunlight for 15 hours and 6 minutes (sunrise at 5:25 AM and sunset at 8:31 PM). For many of us winter days are difficult. We don't like getting up in the morning when it still looks like the middle of the night. We don't like the lack of sunlight when we return home after the activities of the day. We can't see in the dark. The dark seems empty, lonely and cold, and perhaps threatening.

But let's take a moment to look at the darkness in a different way. In Genesis 1 we read, *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.* Yes, darkness was everywhere on that first day of creation, but in the verses that follow we read that God created light, earth and seas, vegetation, living creatures and man. Out of that original darkness, light and life in all its beauty, vitality and diversity emerged. As the days of February continue, and we have more darkness than light, think of this scripture, knowing that light will assuredly come out of the darkness. Set aside some time during the darkness to slow down from the hustle and bustle of the day. Use that time for prayer, for meditation, for listening to God. Make it a time to nurture your mind, body and spirit. Make it a time to recharge yourself for all that you need to accomplish when the light comes.

Janice Fulton RN - Faith Community Nurse

*Again Jesus spoke to them, saying,
"I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life." John 8:12*

VACATION BIBLE CAMP

"Roar! Life is wild, God is good," is the theme for Vacation Bible Camp this summer. Run, do not walk, to your calendars and mark and SAVE the dates of Sunday, July 7 through Thursday, July 11, 6:00-8:30PM (times tentative) to be part of this wonderful Bible adventure in the Serengeti. Vacation Bible Camp is for children and youth of all ages (older youth may serve as volunteers). Adult helpers are needed in a variety of areas including arts and crafts, recreation, Bible learning and the all-important kitchen! Watch for more details.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION

Our Sunday morning adult education series on the Heidelberg Catechism continues in February. We meet from 9:45AM to 10:30AM in the parlor. Everyone is welcome to attend, whether you want to attend consistently or occasionally. There is a place here for YOU! If you have any questions or want your own copy of the catechism, please contact Glenn Maciag.

BOOK GROUP

Our next once a month book group meeting will be on Monday, February 11 in the education building. We meet at 7:30PM. We will continue to work through “The Cross: God's Way of Salvation” by Martyn Lloyd-Jones. Our focus at our February meeting will be on chapter 6 “He Is Our Peace.” If you have questions or want a copy of our book, please contact Glenn Maciag.

PUERTO RICO MISSION TRIP

Newark Presbytery is excited to be planning a presbytery-wide mission trip for hurricane recovery and relief work in Puerto Rico this summer, July 28-Aug 3. The trip is open to volunteers from all of the churches in the presbytery and is planned in conjunction with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) and the Presbiterio del Noroeste (Presbytery of the Northwest) Recovery Coordinator. Lodging and meals will be at Capamento El Guacio, a Presbyterian retreat center near San Sebastian, that became an emergency response and distribution center after the hurricane and is now devoted to hosting mission work groups. The duties will be assigned based on the skills of the work team members and will support ongoing clean-up and rebuilding efforts following the devastation of Hurricane María. Watch for further details including cost estimate, registration information, and ways to support the trip even if you are unable to attend personally. Interested? Any questions? Contact Pastor Boling.

KIDS ON THE GREEN—TAKE NOTE

- Our next **Bible Palooza** will be Sunday, March 3, 12:15-3:30PM. Save the Date and watch for more details.
 - **Youth Choir** will rehearse on February 3rd and 10th after worship on Sundays. They will sing in worship on Sunday, February 17th.
 - The next **Children's/Youth Sunday** will be Sunday, March 31.
 - **Triennium** registration deadline for high school age youth is February 15. Speak with Pastor Ruth for details.
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BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Keeping Things Moving.....Or Not Moving if it isn't Supposed To.. (Duct Tape and WD 40 Go a long way!)

All is relatively quiet on the Buildings and Grounds front. We certainly have had an increase in requests for building rentals and our challenge has been trying to staff them. We have turned away a request or two just because of lack of staff to open up or close the building. We are exploring all options.



On the maintenance front we anxiously await a final timeline on the lights for our worship space. The gutters on the manse carriage house have been repaired and are working properly. Many other routine and “small jobs” have been accomplished. What have you noticed? Take a look around. Even though we are only a partial way through the winter time, we are beginning to think about a spring clean-up day. Some jobs we still need to have accomplished are:

- Repair the sash cords and weights in a couple of the worship space windows
- Add gutter guards to the gutters to prevent them from clogging
- Repair the gap in the frame around the Broad Street basement door.
- Repair a couple of door mechanisms so the door locks will work properly
- Repair a couple of cracked windows
- Repair a bad outdoor light socket

Beyond those listed above there are still a bunch of routine type jobs that need to be done. Buildings and Grounds continues to work hard to keep the building in pristine condition. Ok, pristine may be a little bit of an overstatement, but we are making progress.

Although this was written before the completion of our “Shine the Light” campaign, I want to say thank you to those who contributed. There is still time if you haven’t. We will publish the final amount in the March Spire.

Our committee is fully aware that we are the biggest part of the budget and we are trying to do our share to increase income and doing as many jobs ourselves to decrease expenses. Have a skill, a trade or know someone who can help us out?? Please let any member of the Buildings and Grounds Committee know.

See something, say something, fix something.

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
FEBRUARY THEME:	Praying as Jesus Taught Us – Our Lord’s Prayer As Christians we are called to pray. Martin Luther wrote, “To be a Christian without praying is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.”
SCRIPTURE TEXTS:	Matthew 6:5-13 Luke 11:1-4 Luke 18:10-13

“Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.”

Matthew 6:9

PRAYERS

Please pray for our homebound church members and those for whom special prayers have been requested: Traci Skorupski, Cliff Toliver, Ellen Smith, Doris Elmer, Lucille De Fabritis, Beverly Monahan, Rev. Paul Boger, Rev. Rick Sommers, Lois Erickson, Michael Lewis Jr., Laura Boger, Helen LeDoux, Indira Bissoondath, Candy Antoine

CONDOLENCES

to the family and friends of **Joan Caramagna**, who went home to the Lord on January 22nd.

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



- 7... Edmond Epitime
 - 10.. Rebecca Maciag
 - 11.. Jarod Nerahoo
 - 23.. Ugonma Kalu
 - 27.. Mathew Kohnen
-

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Interested in learning more about the Bible? Then pull up a comfy chair and join our Monthly Bible Circle. Naomi Circle meets on the 4th Tuesday at 12:00 noon in the Parish House. This year's theme is God's Promise: I Am with You. Please feel free to contact either Linda Rosania (bugles1118@verizon.net) or Eve Space (thespaces@aol.com) and you will be directed to a member of the Naomi Circle.

Calling All Women

Please join us for the *Presbyterian Women's Winter Gathering*

Place: BPCOG/Parish House

Date: Saturday, February 16, 2019

(Snow date: Saturday, February 23, 2019)

Time: 9:00AM (Registration)

9:30AM (Open Plenary & Program)

11:30AM (Brunch)

Theme: Wholeness in Christ

RSVP: Linda Rosania 201-306-2353 or email at bugles1118@verizon.net

Thoughtful Reflection:

"A healthy attitude is contagious BUT don't wait to catch it from others.

BE THE CARRIER!!"

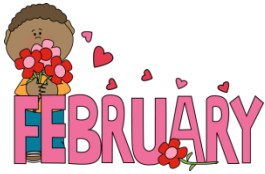
Anonymous

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Rosania - Moderator

FEBRUARY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AA and NA meet in the Parish House unless otherwise noted AA meets: Sunday at 10:30 am, 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 or in the Library					1 Food Pantry Thrift Shop	2 Thrift Shop
3 9:45am – Adult Education (Parlor) 10:45 Worship Service with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper 11:45 Youth Choir rehearsal Annual Meeting following worship in the Chapel	4 6:00 Cub Scouts (Art Room)	5 7:30 Women's Fellowship Coordinating Team (Parlor)	6 Food Pantry Thrift Shop 7:00 Lenape Trails (Parlor) 7:30 Finance & Stewardship (History Room) 7:30 Education Team (TBD)	7 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	8 Food Pantry Thrift Shop	9 Thrift Shop
10 9:45am – Adult Education (Parlor) 10:45 Worship Service 11:45 Youth Choir rehearsal Snow date for Annual Meeting	11 6:00 Cub Scouts (Art Room) 7:30 Book Group (History Room)	12	13 Food Pantry Thrift Shop	14 Valentine's Day 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	15 Food Pantry Thrift Shop	16 Thrift Shop 8:00am – PW of the Presbytery Winter Gathering (Parish House)
17 9:45am – Adult Education (Parlor) 10:45 Worship Service with Ordination and Installation Youth Choir Singing in worship Session Reports Due Monthly SPIRE Articles Due	18 President's Day Church office is closed 5:00 Feed the World	19 7:30 – Education Team (Parlor)	20 Food Pantry Thrift Shop 7:30 Session	21 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	22 Food Pantry Thrift Shop	23 Thrift Shop Food Pantry Snow date for PW Winter Gathering
24 9:45am – Adult Education (Parlor) 10:45 Worship Service	25 6:00 Cub Scouts (Art Room)	26 Noon – Naomi Circle (Parish House)	27 Food Pantry Thrift Shop 10:00 SPIRE Team	28 7:30 Choir Rehearsal		

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