Spring time means cleaning out the piles and boxes of stuff that collect in the attic or basement, under a bed or in drawers, in a closet or in any corner of the house. Stuff, in my house, includes articles clipped from newspapers and magazines through the years. This is a trait inherited from my mom. Some articles were shared with friends, some became bookmarks, some were carefully filed, and the rest became mini piles of paper in closets and drawers. The brief article below, from a long forgotten church newspaper of an unknown date, was found in a drawer. It is a reminder of the power of the Easter resurrection.

The most compelling proof of the resurrection is not an empty tomb, which is nearly impossible to verify today with any historical precision. Rather, it is the disciples who went from being terrified members of a failed movement, cowering behind closed doors, into men and women emboldened to preach about Jesus at the cost of their lives - which many ended up sacrificing. Only an encounter with something life-changing could account for such a dramatic transformation. There is reason that the disciples weren't concerned about selecting a family plot a few days after the death of Jesus. They were too busy spending time with the Risen Christ.

--- James Martin

Are you busy spending time with the Risen Christ? We spend time with the Risen Christ every Sunday morning when we gather together in the Parish House to worship and praise God. We spend time with the Risen Christ when we participate in Bible studies. We spend time with the Risen Christ when we welcome the stranger into our midst. We spend time with the Risen Christ when we share the Gospel’s Good news or feed the hungry or sing or pray or create beauty in the way we live our lives for one another. As you do your spring cleaning this year, throw away those things which are cluttering your days and preventing you from spending time with the Risen Christ. Throw away gossip, selfishness, pride, temper or any of the behaviors we embrace that take our focus away from the Risen Christ. Like the disciples, we have encountered the life-changing reality of resurrection. How has your life changed because of that encounter? Are you busy living life? Or are you busy spending time with the Risen Christ?

Happy spring cleaning. Enjoy your daily walk with Jesus. See you in church.

Ethelyn L. Fulton Clerk of Session
Tusting God and Ministering to All People as Christ Teaches Us in the Gospel

MAY WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday mornings at 10:45 in the Parish House.
Celebrate and honor the Sabbath - the Lord’s Day.
Come to worship and praise God as a community of believers.
Leave to serve God’s people in the communities where we live and work and play.

Christians may worship at any time, for all time has been hallowed by God. The covenant community worshiped daily. But God set aside one day in seven to be kept holy to the Lord. In the Old Testament, the Sabbath was understood as a day totally set aside and offered to the Lord. In the New Testament, believers observed the first day of the week, the day of resurrection, as the time when the new people of the covenant gathered to worship God in Jesus Christ. They came to speak of this as the Lord’s Day. (Book of Order W-1.3011)

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<th>May 6:</th>
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<td>May 13:</td>
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<td>May 20:</td>
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SUNDAY MORNING EDUCATION PROGRAM

Our Sunday morning adult education series "Foundations of the Christian Faith" meets every Sunday morning in the church parlor. We meet from 9:45 to 10:30 a.m. During May, we will discuss the effects of the Fall. There is a place for you in this class, even if you can only attend a few of the sessions. For more information or to get your own copy of the book we are using, please contact Glenn Maciag, Bruce Arlett (Sr.), or Heather Arlett. Or you can e-mail gmaciag@gmail.com.

BOOK CLUB

The next meeting of our Monday evening book group will be on Monday evening, May 14. We meet at 7:30 p.m. in the church parlor. We will be discussing chapter 11 in Jeremiah Burrough's book "The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment". Everyone is invited to attend! We still have room for you!! For more information or to get your own copy of the book we are using, please talk to Glenn Maciag or you can e-mail him at gmaciag@gmail.com.

HOUSING NEEDED

A daughter of missionaries is looking for housing in the Northeast New Jersey area. She is a 21 year old committed Christian woman who would like to room with a family in the vicinity of Kean University (our area included!). She plans to attend Kean this Fall to
pursue a degree in Occupational Therapy. She enjoys writing, drama, children and youth ministries. She was raised in Asia Minor where her parents presently continue to minister. If you can help, please talk to Glenn Maciag or e-mail him at gmaciag@gmail.com for more information.

MOMENT FOR EVANGELISM

As I write this article, this past Saturday there was a Flea Market on the Green. The church received a donation from the company running the event. The Town Council of Bloomfield had given its unanimous support allowing the event to be held on the Town Green, because it was for the benefit of our church’s building campaign. The Mayor came to see the Sanctuary and the ongoing work. We sold t-shirts, used books and some tickets to the Beefsteak Dinner. We even had our first ever 50/50! It was a wonderful time of fellowship as members of the church gathered together under a canopy on the Green on a beautiful, sunny spring day. Everyone had a great time and could not wait to do it again.

But I could not help but notice a flaw in that beautiful scene. As the church members enjoyed the fellowship, enjoying the time with each other, their chairs were in a circle facing in. The table with information about the church was unattended, its papers flapping in the warm breeze. People walked past the tables, looked at the selection of used books, and moved on. People looked at the scaffolding on the east wall of the church but nobody explained what was going on. Bloomfield came to the Green on that Saturday, right to the very doors of our church, but we looked inward towards ourselves and the comfort of familiar friends.

Next time, let’s turn our chairs around.

Bill Dalzell, Moderator
Evangelism and Mission Team

FLEA MARKET

We are sponsoring another Flea Market on June 23. We will be selling all the food at this Flea Market. We will be doing a BBQ; hot dogs, hamburgers, etc. We will need gas grills. If you have one you are willing to let us use for the day, let us know. Once again, we will be looking for helpers. Come out and meet our neighbors and tell of the Good News!

BEEFSTEAK DINNER

Our 1st Beefsteak Dinner will be held June 1, at the Essex Manor. Prepared by Hap Nightingale Caterers, who have been running beefsteak dinners for decades, this evening promises to be great fun. Tickets are $50 per person and available through any member of the Fundraising Team, by calling the church office, or by calling Cathy Dalzell at (201) 878-8260. We will also be selling tickets after worship on Sundays. The last day to buy tickets is Sunday, May 27. Tickets WILL NOT BE sold at the door. The last day for the Sponsorship Forms to be in is May 15.

JUNE SPIRE
The deadline for articles to be submitted for the June SPIRE is **Sunday, May 20**. Please have your articles in on time. Thank you.

**FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER**
The next Friday Night Dinner will be held at 6:30 p.m. on June 8. The theme is “Upside Down and Backwards”. Tickets are $10 and will be sold after worship on Sundays, May 20 and 27, or at the church office during the week. Be prepared to see and do things just a little bit differently at this dinner. Please plan to join us for an evening of good food, warm fellowship and lots of fun.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR**
- Christians in Indonesia. Incidents of violence and persecution against Christians in that country nearly doubled in 2011. One example of this is a church in West Java that has been unable to celebrate Christmas in their sanctuary for two years due to harassment by locals.
- The family of Zakaria Hussein Omar, age 26, who was executed by extremists outside of Mogadishu, Somalia, after converting to Christianity.
- Pastor Orhan Picaklar in Samsun, Turkey. His congregation, family, and church building have all been threatened. He says "‘Just as it is difficult to belong to Jesus all over the world, unfortunately it is the same in Samsun, if not worse. We have been here for 10 years, and people here still treat us like cursed enemies. Our families feel anxiety. On the hour my wife calls me and I have to say, ‘There’s no problem,’ as if to say, ‘I’m still alive.’". Because of incidents like this, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) last month recommended that Turkey be designated as a “Country of Particular Concern (CPC)” for religious freedom violations.

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**A SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY:**
Anita and Herb Hardie, former church members, will celebrate their 70th anniversary on June 12.

Women’s Fellowship: The Power of Prayer

1 Thessalonians 5:14 “Rejoice Always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the Will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit.”

I must admit, while I have always been active in church settings, and while I did teach Sunday School in my earlier years, my prayer life has not always been an example for others. I’m not the type of person that reads a daily devotional – I turn to those types of books when I really am stressed. Like one
person who shared their prayer experience with me, I am not a person that prays for everyone before I sleep at night – I normally fall asleep on the couch exhausted. More often than not, I have waited until the last minute – when all else has failed on my part – and cry out – God help me with this, I can’t handle it alone. Amazing, when I finally surrender to His will, the answers come easily!

But I do have an active prayer life, of my own style. While driving to work, instead of getting angry at the person who just cut me off, I say a prayer that the person will make it to work on time and have a peaceful day. I give thanks in prayer for the wonders of nature – cloud formations against a blue sky; the budding of new green growth of the Spring; glistening ice crystals on a tree branch; the amazing ability to pick up a startled sparrow and set him free!

Norman Vincent Peale wrote “The Power of Prayer” many years ago. The book was given to me in my teen years when I had developed the nickname “Worrywart.” Perhaps I should go and read the book again! So what does prayer do for me? It focuses me on someone so much greater than my imagination. It calms me down enough to hear answers that I otherwise would not have thought of. It brings beauty to my soul. It leads me into a communication with God of how to get through a particular situation, to see the good in others. I was once told, you pray so spontaneously and joyously – how do you do that? When I finally stop running and can concentrate of this time and now – the words just flow – a gift of the Holy Spirit.

So perhaps I should try not to fall asleep on the couch and take a minute to thank God for the blessings of the day. In the morning, it would be helpful to review all the activities of the day – throw out what is really unnecessary and ask God to show me the way, rather than stumbling around, bumping into obstacles that otherwise would have been solved if I had taken a few moments to spend with God and asked the way. I’m still growing, I’m still learning. And I thank those who share their prayer life with me.

Here are some thoughts from my Spiritual Sister in Florida – many of my writings have started from her church, and then I have added to them. I hope you enjoy

- Prayer is not a “spare wheel” that you pull out when in trouble,
  But it is a “steering wheel” that directs the right path throughout.

- When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them, and
  Sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.

- Worrying does not take away tomorrow’s troubles, it takes away today’s Peace.

The Peace that passes all understanding be yours: Moderator Ginny

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Women’s Fellowship Calendar --- May, 2012

**REMEMINDER**

The Coordinating Team will not meet this month. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 5 at 7:15 p.m. in the Parlor. All officers are expected to attend. If you cannot be present, please inform the Moderator and leave your report in the Fellowship drawer. Meditation by Allegra Hoots.

**Tuesday, May 8**
May Banquet, 6:30 p.m., in the Parish House. An exciting program is being planned and a delicious catered meal will be served. A guest speaker and the election and installation of officers are two of the highlights of the evening. Please make every effort to attend and show support for the Presbyterian Women. A nominal fee of $10.00 is being requested of each attendee to help cover the cost.

Monday, May 21
“Feed the World on the Green” in the Parish House from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

The Lois Circle will continue to study The Beatitudes at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Ruth Taylor.

Tuesday, May 22
The Naomi Circle will continue the Bible Study on The Beatitudes at 12:00 noon in the Parish House. Genevieve Hardy is the hostess.

Sunday, May 27
The Baked Potato Luncheon will be held immediately following worship. Please see Charlotte Cade for reservations on Sundays, May 20 and 27.

Monday, May 28
Reminder: The Rebeccah Circle will NOT meet this month. The next meeting will be held on Saturday, June 2, at the home of Joanne Vandenbroek.

Hunterdon Hills Playhouse Trip, Thursday, June 7: For details please speak to Dianne Allen or Barbara Turnbull.

Thought for the month:
“When we do the best that we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life, or in the life of another.” — Helen Keller

COLLECTION OF HYGIENE KITS
Once again, the Presbyterian Women are asking members of BPCOG to support the annual drive to collect hygiene kits for people in need. Supplies will be collected during the months of May and June. At the conclusion of the drive, kits will be forwarded to Church World Service for distribution. Thank you in advance for your continued support of the mission work of the Women’s Fellowship.

INDIVIDUAL KITS SHOULD INCLUDE:

- One hand towel measuring 16” X 28”
- One wide-tooth comb
- One bar of soap (bath size, in wrapper)
- One toothbrush (in the original package)
- 1-gallon size zip lock plastic bag

- One washcloth
- One nail clipper
- Six standard size Band-Aids
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<td>9:30 Sunday School 9:45 Adult Education - Parlor 10:00 Prayer Group - Library 10:45 Worship</td>
<td>7:30 Book Club - Parlor 7:30 Boy Scouts</td>
<td>Women's Fellowship May Banquet - 6:30 pm - Parish House AA - TBD</td>
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<td>Fundraising Team 7:30 - Parlor</td>
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<td>9:30 Sunday School 9:45 Adult Education - Parlor 10:00 Prayer Group - Library 10:45 Worship Service SPIRE ARTICLES DUE</td>
<td>5:00 pm Feed the World Parish House 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Boy Scouts Lois Circle Troy Towers 7:30 pm</td>
<td>noon - Naomi Circle Parish House</td>
<td>Thrift Shop Food Pantry SPIRE TEAM Mailout</td>
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<td>Day of Pentecost</td>
<td>Memorial Day</td>
<td>Church office is Closed</td>
<td>7:30 Spanish Church - Parish House</td>
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*Church office is Closed*
Bloomfield Presbyterian Church on the Green
147 Broad Street
Bloomfield NJ 07003

Phone: 973-743-1796
Thrift Shop: 973-743-2809
Fax: 973-743-0262

www.bpcog.org

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9am —1pm
Thrift Shop: Wednesday and Friday, 10 am - 2:30pm
Saturday 10am – 1:00pm
Food Pantry: Wednesday and Friday, 9:30 -11am, 4th Saturday 10:00-noon
slay the spire mod graphic. improved core and more light for the game. Miscellaneous. By henriquemaster. Last month marked the launch of the fifth annual Morrowind May Modathon Modding Competition celebrating the 17th anniversary of The Elder Scrolls III: Morrowind and we are happy to say that the event has been a great success with a whopping ~230 new mods being uploaded by ~80 individual modders - veterans and newcomers alike! No, the responsibility rested absolutely with Slay the Spire. With my compelled and compelled complicity, how could I actually have resisted? Ugly focused. Slay the Spire is a part of a very unique category of video games, rogue-want to bolstered concrete mechanics. And in appearance in, uh â€¦; Properly, in