



Pennington Presbyterian



FAITH + COMMUNITY + SERVICE

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

"Imagine the floor under your feet is dirt...the only light is coming from candles...underneath Rome....we're in the catacombs."

This is how "Afraid: the Gospel of Mark," begins. What follows is an amazing experience that invites all of us to hear and see the story of Jesus in a fresh way. Frank Runyeon, a professional actor, will present this drama as a part of our worship service on Sunday, January 29. The service will begin at the normal time of 10:15 and will conclude around 11:45. There is no charge and visitors and friends are most welcome. A reception will follow. If you'd like to bring some cookies, fruit or muffins, please drop them off in the Deacon's Kitchen that morning. I am grateful to Bill Alford and the Worship and Music Committee of the church for bringing this drama to our congregation. It is supported by our Memorial Funds. Mark your calendar now, invite a friend, and plan to join in this special worship experience.

Our Science and Faith year-long program will kick off an Adult Education series beginning on February 5. Over the course of three months we will address three key questions: Where did everything come from? Where did human beings come from? How is God at work in the world today? We will approach these questions from the perspectives of both science and faith. It is our hope that we will all be enriched by these conversations. They will take place in Heritage Hall at 9:00 am on Sunday mornings. Other events will be held this spring so keep your eye out for the publicity. The Science and Faith leadership team is Bill Guthrie, Don Hirsh, Gordon Mikoski, Nancy Mikoski, Leeann Thornton and Don Wright. I am grateful for their energy and enthusiasm. I am also thankful for the Templeton Foundation and the grant that undergirds this project.

From February 1-4, Leeann Thornton and I will be in Chico, California meeting with the lead scientists and pastors from the other 29 churches across the country, who were also awarded grants in this program. It will be a great opportunity to meet our counterparts and to learn from one another.

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OF SPECIAL INTEREST IN THIS EDITION:

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- Special Performance Jan. 29 - Save the date! (pg 3 & Insert)
- YOTB Celebration (pg. 4) ■ Offering Envelopes (pg. 4)
- HomeFront meals (pg. 4) ■ OAM Brown Bag Lunch (pg. 4)



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**Next issue: 2/1
Deadline Monday 1/30
9:00 AM**

Focus is issued the first and third Wednesdays of each month, except July & August. During those two summer months, only one Focus newsletter is published per month.



CALENDAR

These are exciting days and we are blessed to have one another and an amazing God. I thank God for you and for our life together.

In Christ,
Nancy

Nancy
Nancy Mikoski



REGULAR WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday

9:00 AM— Church School for all ages
10:15 AM – Worship Service followed by coffee hour

(Note: Cherub Choir for pre-k through grade 1 meets during part of the worship service)

7:00 PM—Jr./Sr. Highs

Wednesday

9:15 AM—Shalom Women's Bible Study

4:30 PM—Genesis Choir (grades 2-5)

5:15 PM—Gloria Deo Choir (grades 6 and up)

7:30 PM – Young Adult Bible Study

Thursday

7:00 PM—Bell Choir

8:00 PM—Adult Choir

LOOKING AHEAD...

Jan. 19 – HomeFront meals

Jan. 22, 29 – Inquirers class

Jan. 23 – Parish Callers

Jan. 29 – Frank Runyeon's "Afraid: The Gospel of Mark" during worship service

Jan. 29 – Year of the Bible Celebration

Jan. 30 – Session

Feb. 12 – Youth Sunday

Feb. 22 – ASH Wednesday
Service in our sanctuary

Feb. 25 – New Member Party

Feb. 26 – Celebration of Psalms during worship service



WORSHIP SCHEDULE Sundays

■ **Sunday, Jan. 22, 10:15 AM** – Sermon: Rev. Nancy Mikoski

■ **Sunday, Jan. 29, 10:15 AM** – Frank Runyeon's Drama "Afraid: Gospel of Mark"

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Pennington, NJ 08534**

CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHOOL Sunday 9 AM

■ **J.A.M.I. ("Jesus and Me!"); k-thru-5th grade** meets in Lower Titus Hall to be shepherded to weekly hands-on workshops. Through science, drama, music, art, cooking, and more kids gain insight into recurring Bible stories and themes. ■ **INFANTS THROUGH PRE-K** please see page 3 for room locations.

ADULT CHURCH SCHOOL Sunday 9 AM

■ **FORUM** (topics include current events, community concerns, theology, the Bible and Mission) ■ **MAKING FAITH REAL** (group-led open discussion of faith and Spirit in our daily lives). ■ **BIBLICAL LITERATURE AND FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH** (two tracks – one focusing Biblical books, themes and questions and another focusing on core beliefs and practices of the Christian faith)

See website for current offerings

Sunday School's not just for kids!

KIDS, FAMILY, AND SEASONAL DOINGS

■ SR. HIGHS (9-12 GRADE) & JR. HIGHS (6-8 GRADE)

SUNDAY, 7 – 8:30 P.M. (unless stated otherwise)

JAN. 22 Jr. Highs will play Laser Tag. Meet at church at 6:30 p.m.
Sr. Highs will meet in the "pit"

■ SUNDAY AM CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENTS:

Infants – 2yr. olds: Room 209

3 yr olds - Pre-School: Room 102

6th – 8th: Balcony classroom

Sr. Highs: The Pit

Interpreting the Bible: The Upper Room

Forum: Heritage Hall

Making Faith Real: Room 206

Rotations for K-5th grade: Start in Lower Titus Hall then rotate to different locations.

■ **PPNS REGISTRATION** Pennington Presbyterian Nursery School, which offers half-day classes for two, three and four-year-olds, begins registration for the 2012-2013 school year on Sunday, January 22, 2012. Church members receive priority registration through Sunday, January 29th. If you are interested in learning more about the school, taking a tour, and receiving our new brochure and registration form, please e-mail director Hope Anderson at hopeanderson.ppns@gmail.com, call 737-6622 x12 or visit PPNS website at www.ppnschool.org. ■ **PPC INQUIRERS CLASS** Are you looking for a church home? If so, come to our Inquirers Class to learn more about Pennington Presbyterian Church. On January 8, January 15, January 22 and January 29 during the education hour (9:00 - 10:00 am) the group will meet to learn more about our worship, our goals and vision, our many internal and outreach programs and our church building itself. Child care is available. Please contact Rev. Nancy Mikoski or Joe Tully if you are interested. (nancy@pennpres.org or call 737-1221 x 14 or jmp.tully@verizon.net) ■ **SAVE THE DATE** Frank Runyeon, television, screen and stage actor, translator and performer of Biblical texts will be performing "Afraid!: The Gospel of Mark" during the 10:15 am worship service on January 29th, 2012. Look for more information on this exciting event in this week's insert. **P.S.** If you can provide brownies or cookies for a special coffee hour following the performance, please contact Debbie Ryan at dryan@dhs.state.nj.us or 443-1542. ■ **A CELEBRATION FOR PAUL RHEBERGEN** On January 28, the Rev. Paul Rhebergen, who served here as Interim Pastor before Nancy Mikoski's arrival, will be celebrating thirty-five years of service as a pastor in the PCUSA. His family is holding a celebration to honor him and would appreciate any cards/stories/notes from folks who remember him and his ministry. Please send them to Paul at: 9 Center Street, Hopewell, NJ 08525. Thank you! ■ **PRES PLUS** Thursday, Jan. 19, 10:00 a.m. in Upper Titus Hall, Ed York the author of "The Pennington Area Presbyterians 1709-1984" will speak about his new book, "Opportunity Valley: A History of Delaware Valley Before 1800". All are welcome to come and listen to this presentation. ■ **PEACE VIGIL THANKS** A big thank you to the Mission Committee for organizing this event. It was very meaningful to those who attended. ■ **WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE FOR HOMEFRONT** There is a box by the church office for winter coats, sweaters, scarves, and hats for men, women and children. Collection from Jan. 9 – 31.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, we give you thanks for your church and your guidance. By your Spirit, we are able to accomplish wonderful works when we unite in love to serve you. May we always come together in singleness and gladness of heart to further your kingdom. Amen.

- taken from Mission Yearbook, PCUSA

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD ALL THE EARTH
PSALM 100:1

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

■ Please keep Kevin Swaim in your prayers.

■ We extend our sympathy to Robin Hepburn, Jack Koeppel and their family on the death of Robin & Jack's mother, Jean Koeppel. A service for Jean, a long-time PPC member, will be held in our sanctuary Saturday, Jan 28, 2 PM.

■ Please pray for members of the congregation who are battling physical illness, dealing with emotional struggles or facing financial difficulty.

Per Capita

Our church has been assessed for **566** members, for a total of **\$15,972.52** due during 2012. The difference between what our members pay and the amount due is made up in our operating budget. This difference amounts to about \$10,000 each year, and some years even more. We'd like to encourage each adult and confirmed member to pay their Per Capita before the year end.

Per member for 2012:
General Assembly - \$6.63
Synod - \$3.95
Presbytery - \$17.64
Total: **\$28.22** for each confirmed member in each household

 FOCUS

GROUP EFFORTS



FOR YOTB GROUP

Congratulations to all of you for the effort you made to read the Bible in one year. We would like to invite you to a YOTB Celebration, whether you read the entire Bible or not, to discuss the experience and to rejoice in the undertaking.

Date: Sunday, January 29

Time: 3:00pm Place: Heritage Hall
We will have refreshments reflecting some of the foods mentioned in the Bible as well as great conversation about the YOTB experience, questions that are on your mind, and ideas for how to continue to learn more about the Bible and draw closer to God. RSVP to the church office by Wednesday, Jan. 25 or to Kim Newport at 737-7101. We would appreciate the RSVP so we know how much food to prepare.

■ **OFFERING ENVELOPES** Per capita envelopes, pledge offering envelopes and Open Door envelopes are available. They can be picked up in the Reception Room before or after Sunday services or mailed if requested. *Note:* The envelopes are not numbered, so please make sure you put your name on the envelope when you make your contributions. ■ **HOMEFRONT MEALS PREP & DELIVERY—THUR., FEB. 16** If you can provide cookies, please call Dee Wilson at 737-7675. (Please note: The cookies can be store bought.) Have questions about HomeFront? Call Dee at the phone number listed above. ■ **BOWLERS NEEDED** Tuesday evenings a group from our church bowls in the YMCA Church League. Please call Clark McAvoy (882-5201) if you are interested in bowling – both men and women welcome! Team members and subs are needed. ■ **STEPHEN MINISTRY** If you are undergoing life stress at work or at home, we have a Stephen Minister to help. Our Stephen Ministers are trained confidential, caring listeners ready to walk alongside you through life's difficulties. Whether it is illness, job loss, strained relationship or depression, we have someone to be a partner to you in this time. If you, or someone you know, needs some help please contact Karin McAnlis (737-0536), Andrea McDonough (737-6981) or Bob Fletcher (393-7610) for more information. ■ **OAM BROWN BAG LUNCH** On Feb. 3rd, there will be a "Brown Bag Lunch" at 12:30, sponsored by The Older Adult Committee. Jack Koeppel, a member of our church, will speak on "Glimpses of the Past – Hopewell Valley". Jack was born and raised in Hopewell Valley and as past President of the Hopewell Valley Historical Society, he has been involved in preserving local history since 1985. He owned and operated Queenstown Gallery for 25 years. All are invited to come and bring a sandwich. Beverages, fruit and cookies will be provided. ■ **SEEDS TO SOW INTERNATIONAL NEEDS FABRIC** Seeds to Sew International, Inc. is a Hopewell-based non-profit organization with the mission of improving the lives of women and girls in disadvantaged communities through education and job skills training. Their goal is for the women and girls in their program to use these job skills to make money and support themselves and their communities. The group is currently working with a Maasai farming community in Kenya, Africa and they are looking for fabric to teach basic sewing skills to the women and girls. For more information go to www.seedstosew.org or call Blair Turner at 306-8747.

PENNINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

13 S. Main Street
Pennington NJ 08534

Return Service Requested



“Imagine...

The floor under your feet is dirt...

The only light is coming from candles...

...We're in the catacombs...

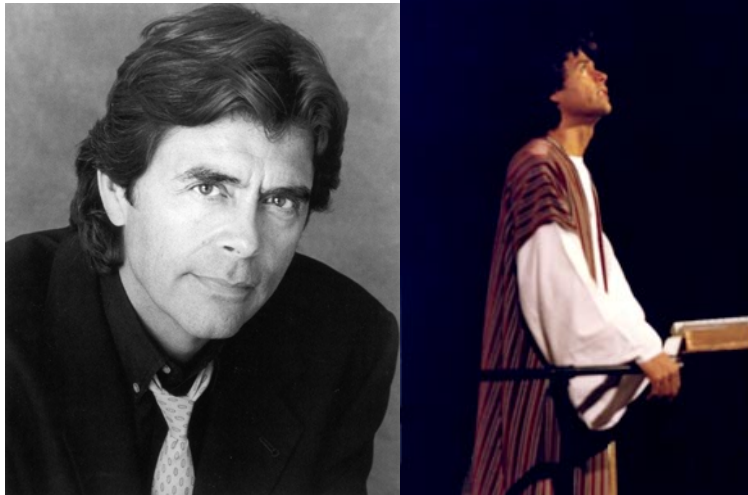
...underneath Rome...”



What is AFRAID? *Afraid!* Is a one-man play, staged with dramatic lighting and entertaining audience inter-action. Its text is the Gospel of Mark, translated into contemporary American speech. As characters and settings and lights constantly shift, the Gospel engages the audience’s imaginations, surprises them with flashes of humor, and drives relentlessly forward with all the dramatic suspense you would expect from great theater.

Who is Frank Runyeon? Frank Runyeon has gained national acclaim in recent years as a translator and performer of Biblical texts. He has performed the gospel for hundreds of thousands of people in almost every state in America.

He is probably still best known, however, from his many years on television. He starred opposite Meg Ryan on *As the World Turns*, as Father Michael Donnelly on the Emmy award-winning *Santa Barbara*, and as tycoon Simon Romero on *General Hospital*, opposite Emma Samms. Frank has also guest-starred in recurring roles on *L.A. LAW* as talk show host Brooks Tapman, on *Falcon Crest* as chess genius Jovan Dmytryk, on *Melrose Place* as Father Tom, and on *All My Children* as Forrest Williams. He also starred in the feature film *Dark Streets*.



Mr. Runyeon received his B.A. in Religion from Princeton University, and studied at Fuller Seminary and Yale Divinity School before receiving his Masters, with honors, from General Theological Seminary. He continues his studies towards a doctorate while touring his current five productions:

- The Gospel of Mark: “AFRAID!”
- Sermon on the Mount
- The 3 ½ Stories of Christmas
- The Gospel of John: “SIGNS”
- SALT & LIGHT: a *comedy for kids*

AFRAID is Evangelism. Every Christian has wondered what it would have been like: to have been there, in Galilee, and met Jesus... Afraid! Is an effort to help those in the audience have that encounter. How? By doing exactly what the evangelist Mark did: by telling the story in the present tense, here and now, from beginning to end, in everyday language—and by making the audience members part of the action...

Audience members are addressed individually as the actor roams the room... They are healed, asked for a coin, or given bread... And they are challenged to “go out” and tell the story to others—if they’re not too afraid... (MK16:8) By the time the last candle is blown out, each audience member has a sense that they are part of the story God is writing—not simply spectators... That Jesus is a very real Presence among them... And that they are called, not to be afraid, but to follow Him.

◆“Afraid!” will be held on Sunday, January 29th, at the 10:15 am service. ◆

For more details about Frank Runyeon see:

www.frankrunyeon.com