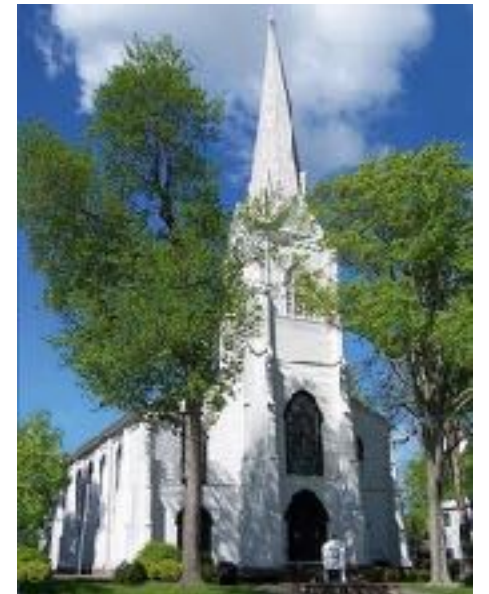


First Presbyterian Church  
298 Main Street  
Hackettstown, NJ 07840

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
298 MAIN STREET  
HACKETTSTOWN, NJ 07840  
REV. BIRDA FERGUSON  
OFFICE: 908-852-4011  
e-mail: fpchnj@gmail.com  
Church website,  
<http://www.fpchack-ettstown.org>

Light  
from the

**NOVEMBER  
2018**



Steeple

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HACKETTSTOWN, NJ  
CHURCH OFFICE: (908) 852-4011**

**Pastor:** Rev. Birda Ferguson  
**Choir Director/Organist:** Lorinda Ravo  
**Treasurer:** Al Ravo  
**Financial Secretary:** Deborah Gulick Shepherd  
**Head Usher:** Kim Newton  
**Church Secretary:** Mary Lightfoot  
**Sexton:** John Mark Wojcicki

**2018 SESSION**

**Class of 2018**

Sandy Archer  
 John Mark Wojcicki  
 Sandy Woolcock Patton

**Class of 2019**

Carl Erickson  
 Don Luques  
 Ryan Van Orden

**Class of 2020**

Jim Butts  
 Grace Clegg  
 Jim Simmons

**2018 BOARD OF DEACONS**

**Class of 2018**

Jen Bramley  
 Donna Erickson  
 Cynthia Luques

**Class of 2019**

Marge Conroy  
 Barbara Cors  
 Chris Roguso

**Class of 2020**

Patricia Butts  
 Gilles Djongang  
 Sharon Heil

**2018 HEAVEN SENT NURSERY SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**OFFICE: 852-2006**

Dan Gardner - 2018  
 Carl Erickson - Session Liason  
 Ginny Plumbo - 2019  
 Connie Quinn - HS Parent

**PRAYER LIST**

**Please keep the following in your prayers:**

Rachel Becker,  
 Floyd Smith's  
 granddaughter  
 Jeff Beddow  
 Richard  
 Bodycomb  
 Mary Brodt  
 Eris Bunnel  
 Jenny Buzan  
 Barbara  
 Courtright  
 Pam Covert &  
 her dad Jim  
 Alisa Dartnell's  
 mother  
 Lauren DelPlato  
 Maria & Garry  
 Ferguson,  
 Birda's In-Laws  
 FPCH  
 Dee Fletcher, Dottie  
 Kapper's sister-in-law  
 Friends of FPCH  
 Terry Gretchen  
 Dorothy Knauer  
 Judy Kolwicz  
 Dotty Landiak  
 Mary Kate Lee  
 The Lee Family  
 Emily Ligarzewski

Maikuu  
 congregation,  
 Kibwezi Kenya  
 Diana Merzoian  
 Members of the  
 Armed Forces  
 Martin Nyland  
 Barbara Pace,  
 niece of the  
 Prestopines  
 Edith Payton -  
 mother of  
 Sharon Heil  
 Elizabeth  
 Robitsch  
 Lauren Scavo -  
 niece of Glenn  
 Ferguson  
 Fred Sentner  
 Shepherd/Quiroz  
 Families  
 Mark Tilney  
 Brian & Nancy  
 White



## DATES TO REMEMBER: NOVEMBER 2018

- 01: FPC Ringers - 6:40 PM in the Music Room
- 01: Senior Choir - 7:30 PM in the Music Room
- 03: Roast Beef Dinner - 4:30-7:00 PM, Chapel
- 04: Church worship and communion - 10 AM;  
Sunday School; Stewardship commitment
- 06: Election Day - VOTE!
- 07: Yarn Girls - 1 PM in the Conference Room
- 08: FPC Ringers - 6:40 PM in the Music Room
- 08: Senior Choir - 7:30 PM in the Music Room
- 10: Men's Breakfast at the Chapel - 8:30 AM
- 10: Church grounds cleanup - 9:00 AM-12:00 PM; Chapel
- 11: Church worship - 10 AM; Baptism of Henry Christopher  
Gelsinger; Sunday School; fellowship afterward
- 11: Monetary donations for Board of Education food program due  
(make checks out to FPCH)
- 13: Newton Presbytery; First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon,  
New Vernon, NJ 1 PM
- 15: FPC Ringers - 6:40 PM in the Music Room
- 15: Senior Choir - 7:30 PM in the Music Room
- 17: Ladies' Breakfast at the River Star Diner - 9 AM
- 18: Church worship - 10 AM; Sunday School; Congregational  
Meeting - 11 AM; Poinsettia orders due
- 20: Joint meeting of Session and Board of Deacons - 6:30 PM,  
Conference Room
- 22: THANKSGIVING DAY, Church Office closed
- 25: Worship; Little Lights Choir sings; Sunday School 10 AM;  
Hymn Fest, Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 7 PM
- 27: PLEFF Dinner event - 6 PM at Pub 517, Andover, NJ
- 28: Advent Study #1 - 11 AM, 6 PM; Conference Room
- 29: FPC Ringers - 6:40 PM in the Music Room
- 29: Senior Choir - 7:30 PM in the Music Room



## A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

**Dear Friends,**

By now most of you have heard the news that I plan to retire in the New Year. We officially “dissolved the relationship” between the congregation and me at the special Congregational Meeting in October. My final Sunday will be January 13<sup>th</sup>.

Between now and then I will continue to visit, preach, and participate in the life of our church, even as I ramp up the process of sorting and packing! As many times as I have moved from one home to another and one congregation to another, it never becomes routine or easy. “Bittersweet” accurately describes the feeling of ending one life chapter in order to begin another.

In this newsletter, you will see reminders about the Beef Dinner November 3<sup>rd</sup>; Stewardship Commitment November 4<sup>th</sup>; the Congregational Meeting November 18<sup>th</sup>; the Hymn Fest November 25<sup>th</sup>; and the first Advent study *before* Advent begins. Life goes on!

Our nation's official day of Thanks-giving this year is November 22<sup>nd</sup>. As people of faith, we believe that *every* day is an opportunity to give thanks to God for the gifts of life and love—and, especially, for the Christ.

May we open our hearts and our minds to share God's love and joy in this world.

Ever grateful to be your pastor,

**Birda Buzan Ferguson**

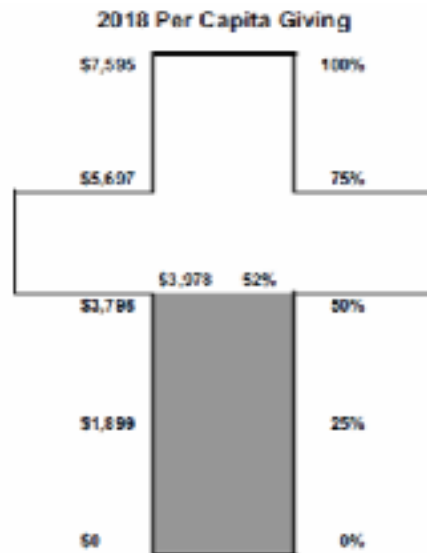


## SEPTEMBER 2018 FINANCIAL \$NAPSHOT

BY: AL RAVO

The Expenses Paid and Income amounts below do not include the funds transferred from the Endowment to meet the church operating expenses.

Date	September	Year to
<b>Income</b>	\$20,152.64	\$155,058.85
<b>Expenses Paid</b>	\$11,806.21	\$141,729.14
<b>Net Operating Income/Deficit</b>	\$ 8,346.43	\$ 13,329.71
<b>Amount Needed from Endowment</b>	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00



At the end of September, there were \$1,998.97 in invoices received and pending obligations due in October. These expenses were credit card charges of the fire alarm system inspection, internet, phone, office supplies along with payroll processing fees.

The 2018 Per Capita is \$35.00 for each of the 217 members of our Church. The total amount due in 2018 is \$7,595.00 or \$632.92 monthly. In September, \$0.00 was received for the Per Capita leaving the total received in 2018 at \$3,978.00 or 52% of the annual amount due.

Please contact Al Ravo if you have any questions or would like to discuss the Church's operational finances, the Endowment Funds or Per Capita.

## CHOIR NOTES

BY: LORINDA RAVO

### November 4: Let Heavenly Music Fill This Place-Senior Choir

This anthem, by Gordon Young, was commissioned by First Baptist Church in Reidsville, N.C.

### November 11: For The Beauty of the Earth-FPCH Ringers and Joyful Noise Bells .

Our two bell choirs: the Chime Choir and the Children's Bell Choir join forces this morning to play the hymn "For The Beauty of the Earth"!

### November 18: A Song of Joyful Thanks-Senior Choir

#### Offertory Anthem by Kate and Paul Sobolewski

The Senior Choir sings Ruth Elaine Schramm's tender anthem of thanks this morning as we prepare for the Thanksgiving holiday later this week. During the offertory, members Kate and Paul Sobolewski will be providing special music.

### November 25: O Lord You Are My God and My King-Senior Choir Make a Joyful Noise: Little Lights Sunday School

#### Choir

On this Christ the King Sunday, the Senior Choir sings an anthem in honor of this final day of the Liturgical Year. The Little Lights Sunday School Choir sings a song based on Psalm 100.



#### LITTLE LIGHTS SUNDAY SCHOOL CHOIR

Our Little Lights will be singing on Sunday, November 25, when they'll sing the lively "Make a Joyful Noise". When the children arrive at church, please help them put on one of the robes, located outside of the children's area in the sanctuary. During the children's sermon, they'll be sharing their talent with our congregation, and we can't wait!



## HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT JOINING CHOIR?

Our choirs, both vocal and chime, are open to anyone who would like to give it a try. You DON'T need to be able to read music. You DON'T need to audition. You DON'T need to sing alone, EVER! You DON'T need to be able to attend every rehearsal or every Sunday. What you do



need is a desire to share in the joy of making music, of leading worship, and of being welcomed and accepted as soon as you walk through the door.

FPCH Ringers rehearse on Thursday evenings from 6:40-7:20 pm, and FPCH Senior Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings from 7:30-8:30 pm. Come on in and give it try. You know you've always wanted to!

We look forward to seeing you on

Thursday night!



## HYMN FEST TO TAKE PLACE 11-25

BY: LORINDA RAVO

Our Choirs, both the Senior Choir and the FPCH Ringers, will be participating in the Seventh Hymn Fest, to be held on Sunday, November 25 at 7:00 pm at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, located on the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Baldwin in Hackettstown.

This wonderful event brings choirs from many of our local churches together as well as a congregation of anyone who would like to attend. Each choir presents an anthem of their choice, and then the congregation and all choirs join their voices in a couple of the verses of familiar and well-loved hymns.

There is no admission fee, but those attending are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food donation for a local food pantry.

Please plan to come and enjoy an evening of inspiration and beautiful music!

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1: Mark Heil
- 2: Roy Pierson  
Cody Gelsing
- 3: Harry Knauer
- 5: Grace Clegg
- 6: Sandy Sentner
- 7: Tyler Newton
- 13: Lynn Gilmore
- 15: Linda Gardner
- 20: Bev Saunders
- 21: Lori Fleischmann  
Otto Fleischmann  
Pat Butts
- 24: Emma Maze
- 29: Megan Gelsing
- 30: Cindy Pierson  
Les Carpenter

## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 6: Mark & Marsha Gulick  
Lamont & Heather Melendez
- 23: Jan Courtright & Diane Hull
- 26: Gianni & Heather DeRosa



## PLEFF TO MEET NOVEMBER 27th

The PLEFF group enjoyed dinner at Maria Bonita in Independence in October, and we're looking forward to our next outing, with the date and time to be determined. These dinners are always enjoyable for all who attend! If you'd like to be included on the email list that will give you date, time, and location, please be sure to talk with Winnie Slachetka!

## LADIES WHO LUNCH

We're now planning our November lunch get together, and if you'd like to be notified of date, time, and location, please talk with Sharon Heil or Lorinda Ravo.

# GREETERS FOR NOVEMBER

- NOV 4: Peg Russack and Dave Ryan
- NOV 11: Pat and Geo Gohlich
- NOV 18: Maria Koskulics and Russ Reed
- NOV 25: Ellen and Bruce Bergman



## “NO MORE WHISPERS”

“No More Whispers” is a free event offered to Congregation Members, Pastors, and leaders and citizens of our community who have been touched by experiences surrounding mental illness and related behavioral health and substance abuse issues.

To Register: Contact the Reverend Randy Parks, spiritual Care Manager and Chaplain at the Newton Medical Center: 973-579-8626. A complimentary Healthy Box Dinner at 5:45 pm. is offered to all who RSVP by Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>!

**Tuesday, November 13, 5:45 – 8 p.m., at First United Methodist Church, 111 Ryerson Avenue, Newton, NJ.**

“No More Whispers,” is an evening of Education, Resources, and Real Life Experiences sponsored by the Newton Medical Center Spiritual Care department, Newton Medical Center’s Faith Community Health Partnerships, and Atlantic Behavioral Health.



## POINSETTIA ORDERS!



*Christmas is coming, and we are looking forward to decorating the church sanctuary with beautiful poinsettias. If you would like to participate in this beloved tradition, please fill out the form below and send it to the Deacons:*

1. Place in collection plate. (Make checks out to The Deacons).
2. Mail to the church at 298 Main Street, Hackettstown, NJ 07840.
3. Give to Pat Butts (908-852-8176) or any of the Deacons.

A portion of the proceeds supports the charitable works of the Deacons.

**THE DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS: Sunday, November 25.<sup>h</sup>**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Thanksgiving for \_\_\_\_\_

You may purchase a live poinsettia for \$11.00 that you may pick up after the Christmas Eve Service or you may sponsor a silk poinsettia for \$5.00 that will remain in the Sanctuary during the holiday season.

Red Poinsettias – 6.5” pot / \$11.00 # plants \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Red Silk Poinsettias - \$5.00 # plants \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

White Silk Poinsettias - \$5.00 # plants \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# FELLOWSHIP AND NURTURE

BY: GRACE CLEGG

Mark your calendars: our Family Christmas Dinner will be held on Saturday, December 1st from 5:00 - 7:00 PM in the Chapel. Our Chefs, Carl and Don, will be preparing Roast Beef, Roast Pork and Potatoes. The committee will provide desserts and beverages. If you have a favorite salad or vegetable dish that you would like to bring, you can let us know on the sign up sheet which will be in the front of the Sanctuary on November 11th.

Please join us for good food, fun, and fellowship at our Family Christmas Dinner. We hope to see you there!

The Fellowship and Nurture Committee

## CALL FOR A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

By order of the Session, the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown, NJ, is called to meet on November 18, 2018, following worship, to conduct the following business:

- Elect three members to the Session, Class of 2021
- Elect three members to the Board of Deacons, Class of 2021
- Elect two members to the Personnel Committee for a one year term from the Congregation.

No other business may be transacted at this meeting.

Public notice of this meeting will be posted for two successive Sundays.

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If you, or someone you know, is interested in serving on the Session, Board of Deacons, or Personnel Committee, contact Elder Jim Butts, Moderator of the Nominating Committee.

a

# STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT

The annual Stewardship Commitment letter and response card are available for pick up in the church sanctuary or you may have received it in the mail. Please respond before November 4th, Stewardship Commitment Sunday, when they will be dedicated to the Lord. The return card gives you the option to indicate "no specific pledge" so that you can receive a box of envelopes and send what you are comfortable with when you can.

Please remember--God has given us everything we have. When we willingly give back to God, it becomes a means of grace through which the Spirit of God transforms our hearts and turns the gift into a spiritual blessing for us and for the benefit of our church and its endeavors.

If you have already responded, we thank you. If you have not, it is never too late to make your commitment to God.

In God's Service,

Your Stewardship Team

(Including Stewie,  
our Stewardship Mascot)





# HOLIDAY MARKET AND VICTORIAN TEA A HUGE SUCCESS

BY: GRACE CLEGG

The Presbyterian Women hosted their Holiday Market and Victorian Tea. on October 19th. The chapel looked beautiful. A number of tables were set for the tea; other tables were filled with holiday items, and the bake table had a variety of homemade goodies. After all was said and done, we realized around

\$ 4 5 0 . 0 0 which will be used for our church and mission projects.

A heartfelt thanks to all of you who helped to make the day extremely special.

The PW will not meet on Wednesday, November 21st, since it is the day before Thanksgiving. We will, however, come up with a date that we can get together to discuss the Holiday Market and any plans for the rest of the year.

Take time to enjoy this beautiful time of the year

Photos of the event courtesy of Lorinda Ravo



# SCHOOL NEWS

## HALLOWEEN CANDY TITHING!

BY: LORINDA RAVO

For the fourth year, we will be collecting Halloween candy to ship to soldiers serving our country overseas through an organization called "Operation Gratitude".



Last year, we were able to ship approximately over 60 pounds of candy, and hope to top that this year! How can you help?

Use this as an opportunity to help your children understand the idea of sharing their bounty with others. We suggest that for every 10 pieces of candy the children get during

trick or treating, they give 1 piece to the collection at church. Please have the children bring their candy on the first Sunday after Halloween (November 4), as it has to be shipped to Operation Gratitude no later than November 10. And if you have left over candy that wasn't handed out and want to donate that, we'll gladly accept that as well!

If you'd like a colorful reminder to bring in your candy, you'll be able to pick up a brightly decorated Halloween bag on Sunday, October 28.

As always, thanks for your generosity! The soldiers certainly appreciate the sweet treats!





## 2018 ADVENT STUDY!

Our 2018 Advent Study will begin Wednesday, November 28, at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. and end December 19. Both sessions will be in the Conference Room of the Church building.



Our book, titled *To Live Again*, is an original Advent course written by Sheila Jacobs. It is based on, and inspired by, the film *It's a Wonderful Life*, starring James Stewart and Donna Reed.

Just as Christmas can promise so much and often deliver so little, our own lives can seem bittersweet when we consider dreams we may have had that never came to pass.

But, as George Bailey discovered in the classic Christmas movie, it is never too late to re-evaluate our lives, to find much to be thankful for, and to live again. This can also be a time to discover new hope in our relationship with God.

The four study sessions, are structured around key scenes from the film. Each section includes timing references for watching scenes from the movie on a DVD, questions for discussion, and suggested prayers. Join us to discover what it means to "live again" with faith.

Suggested donation for the book: \$6.99.

We look forward to seeing you there!

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Chris and Ellyn DeCaro**, whose practice, **Northern Hills Physical Therapy** in Flanders, NJ, was selected for an award from the New York and New Jersey Clinical Education Consortium as a top practice in our states for graduate students to come and learn! Well done!

## Sharing God's Bounty

### We are Accountable

The need for us to be accountable is well illustrated in the Parable of the Talents found in Matthew 25:14-30. Three servants were entrusted with a lot of money before their master went on a journey. One servant was given five talents, one two, and one one. They were given a period of time to put their funds to work. In Matthew 25:19 we read, *"After a long time the Master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them."* The servants knew the Master would return from his trip, and they would have to give an account of the money given to them. There would be a Day of Judgment, an accounting of their responsibilities. Two servants were very faithful and went out and invested their talents wisely, and they heard the words we all want to hear, *"Well done, good and faithful servant."* For those who do well, the accounting is a time for rejoicing. If a man is able to turn his talents from five into ten, he is praised for doing good work.

The parable is truly a picture of life itself. We are born into the world with certain talents and abilities which we do not choose. They are gifts from outside us, talents from God. Each of us is given a period of time in which to use these talents—our life span. Then at the end, beyond death, comes judgment, an accounting to render of our days upon earth.

As stewards, we understand our need to be responsible in our stewardship because we know that we at some time we will be held accountable. Our accountability provides an encouragement for us to use our time, talents, and treasures faithfully and properly. Accountability does imply hard work and effort. It conveys our responsibilities, not to take our tasks lightly. However, we know that God is always with us, and, with his help and strength, we can accomplish much.

We are accountable to God because he is the creator and owner of all. We become his stewards because he has chosen to entrust us with his love, grace, and mercy for which we are to render faithful and wise service. As the Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 4:2, *"Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful."* Jesus' words, recorded in Luke 12:48 are, *"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."*

God, who loves us and calls us each by name, will enable us to be faithful and accountable stewards.

# THIS THANKSGIVING, BE THANKFUL

BY: MARYANN SIMMONS

Oftentimes, we don't stop to think about why we are thankful. I charge you, therefore, with the following thoughts.

1. Be thankful for your health.
2. Be thankful for your spouse and children.
3. Be thankful for your pets.
4. Be thankful for your close friends and neighbors.
5. Be thankful for music in your life.
6. Be thankful for performing work that matters.
7. Be thankful for movies and books and theater.
8. Be thankful for peace and safety
9. Be thankful for your gifts and talents.
10. Be thankful for the gift of Grace.



This Thanksgiving, remember all that you are thankful for, but more importantly, show your gratitude throughout the year.

Love and peace to you all this Thanksgiving!

## ROAST BEEF, ANYONE?

Our annual roast beef dinner will be held on Saturday, November 3rd, from 4:30 PM - 7:00 PM at the Chapel. Roast beef, mashed potatoes, green beans, and coleslaw, as well as bread and butter, beverages, and dessert will be the standard meal. Tickets are \$15.00 (adults) and \$8.00 (children under age 12) and may be purchased at the door if you haven't already done so. Contact Ellen Bergman (908-637-6236) or Donna Erickson (908-637-6007) for tickets.

Proceeds from this event will benefit our church Building Fund to repair and improve the exterior of the church.

We look forward to seeing you on the 3rd!

The Church Dinner Planning Team

# DID YOU KNOW?...

BY: DEB GULICK-SHEPHERD

From 1959 through 1979, FPC sponsored hobby classes for the community. Ten weekly sessions were held every Thursday from mid-January to mid-March. The classes were organized by church members. Over the years volunteer instructors led groups in tole painting, hospital sewing or missions, furniture refinishing, chair caning, rug hooking, rug braiding, Swedish embroidery, leather crafting, charcoal drawing, making lamp shades and Christmas ornaments, dressmaking, ceramics, painting, crewel embroidery, sewing, Norwegian rosmåling, crocheting, knitting, and needlepoint. The classes ran from 10 AM to 3 PM with the students providing their own lunches.

## DEACON-SPONSORED CLOTHING DRIVE SUCCESSFUL



This year's clothing drive was a huge success. We collected over 100 bags of material and monetary proceeds will be used for their compassionate ministry.

Thank you to all who donated!

The Board of Deacons

## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Thanksgiving is a wonderful time of year. It is time for us to reflect upon all of the joys we have had throughout the year and give thanks to God for those joys. It is also a time devoted to family and friends and celebration of all that we have.

I thank God for the little things in life and for the people in this church congregation.

This month, may you find joy and happiness in the small opportunities life has to offer.

God bless you.

MaryAnn Simmons