

The Pipe Organ

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH New Vernon, NJ

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June, 2012

Rick's Reflections

"And every day in the temple and at home they did not cease to teach and proclaim Jesus as the Messiah."

Acts: 5:42

I have been reading a new book by Michael Sandal entitled, "What Money Can't Buy." The author explores the way we have moved from being part of a market economy to being a market society where it seems like everything has a price tag. In his exploration of what money can't buy, Sandal gives some interesting examples of what it CAN buy:

- A prison cell upgrade in Santa Anna, California:
 \$82 a night
- Access to the car pool lane with only one driver in Minneapolis: \$8 a day.
- A surrogate mother from India: \$6,250
- The right to shoot an endangered Black Rhino in South Africa: \$150,000

He gives some examples of ways that people can make money as well.

- Be a human guinea pig for a possibly dangerous drug for a pharmaceutical company: \$7,500
- Rent out space on your forehead for an advertising tattoo in New Zealand: \$777
- Fight in Afghanistan for a private military company: \$1,000 a day

Sandal questions the ethical aspect of everything having a price tag. But long before our time, a magician named Simon saw the power that flowed from the Holy Spirit through the apostles in the early church. He tried to buy that power, but he found out that it was not for sale. And in spite of the many ways that market thinking permeates so much of our lives, there are still things that money cannot buy and upon which no price tag can be placed.

The simplest and most significant of these is the love of God. Bill Gates could not afford it. And the

poorest person in the world can access it for free. The power of the Holy Spirit that caused the church to come into being and continues to empower us to be the body of Christ is not for sale.

There are other issues that should be beyond the power of market price. Things such as the value of a human life, the dignity of the human spirit, and the freedom to believe as one sees fit should never be given naming rights or be sold for the right price.

As believers, we need to continue to proclaim that the most important things in life are not things at all. And that they are not for sale.

Peace, Pastor Rick

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FPCNV Staff

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Aimee Bloom, Moderator Robyn Brown Janet Bruns Fenton Chaney Lisa Chapman Andrea Di Ruggiero Sandy Finlayson Barbara Gill Nancy Gockley Barbara Kephart Eileen McDonald Denice Monaco Sue Nobleman **Prudy Sweeney Anne Thomas**





Amanda Tsukamoto Joins PCNV Staff

Amanda Tsukamo feels blessed and is thrilled to be serving as Co-Minister of Music at PCNV.

An 8th-grade math teacher at Chatham Middle School, Amanda lives in Madison with her dad, Andy, a corporate attorney for Maersk; mom, Jeannie,

Madison Borough Council President; and brother, Andrew, a senior at Delbarton, who will be attending Princeton in the fall. Her grandmother is an organist in California and late grandfather, a Methodist Minister.

Amanda graduated summa cum laude from Drew University in 2010 with a B.A. in music and a B.A. in mathematics. While at Drew, she was the President of the Drew University Music Society, a Jill Spurr Titus Music Scholar, and the keyboard section leader for the Drew University Orchestra. She received Drew's distinguished annual Music Award at graduation.

A member of the American Guild of Organists, Amanda first substituted for Maggie at PCNV three years ago. She was most recently the Organ Scholar of Grace Episcopal Church in Madison. She has been a freelance organist, often serving at Christ Church of Short Hills, Community Congregational Church in Short Hills, Ogden Memorial Presbyterian Church in Chatham, and Madison Presbyterian Church, among others. She worked as a staff musician for the Drew University Theological School chapel and as the organist and children's choir director at the Green Village United Methodist Church. Amanda has performed solo recitals, including the New Jersey Summer Baroque Festival and Grace Episcopal Church's Lenten recitals. A member of the Madison Arts and Culture Alliance, she is also a private piano teacher. In her spare time, she enjoys volunteering in the community.

Amanda looks forward to sharing her love of music and being a part of the PCNV community.

Sing Praises to the Choir & A Warm Welcome to Amanda!



Tsukamoto. Sunday, June 17 Coffee Hour, hosted by the Deacons, will honor our singers and musicians, who faithfully contribute their time and talent to enrich Sunday morning worship services.



MAY SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



The following are highlights from the May 22, 2012 Session Meeting.

The meeting opened with Jane Coyle reading devotions.

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Adult Education: Programs for the fall include a demonstration on the use of the online directory led by Prudy, a discussion on Alzheimer's conducted by Pastor Rick and a program on *The Four Agreements* by Beth Smith.

Finance: Plate offerings are , but the Committee continues to investigate opportunities to increase revenue.

Membership: The brunch at Eileen McDonald's home, for members who have recently joined our church, was well attended. Thank you to Eileen and her family for hosting this event. Pastor Rick and Caroline Ford are currently reviewing the membership list for inactive members.

Worship and Music: Amanda Tsukamoto will start as the new organist on June 3. Concerts will be scheduled in the fall; more information to follow.

Youth Education: The Confirmands presented their faith statements to the Session for review. Ten Confirmands will be accepted into membership on June 3, Confirmation Sunday. Pastor Rick and Gordon are gearing up for next year's confirmation class.

Congregational Life: The annual Church Picnic is Sunday June 10 at the home of the Sheeleighs on Sand Spring Road. Sign up in Fellowship Hall.

Mission & Outreach: The Committee is critically analyzing those non-profit organizations we currently support and will decide which ones to continue to support and which to replace. If you would like to join the Committee contact Nancy Burrows.

Building & Grounds: The corrosive water in the water system at 16 Lee's Hill Road has led to the deterioration of the boiler, incurring an unexpected expense.

Stewardship: Stay tuned for next year's Stewardship Theme. Thank you to those members who have contributed over their pledge amount. Look for a letter explaining per capita dues paid to the Presbytery.

Communion will be served on Sunday, June 3, 2012. The next Session meeting will be on Tuesday, June 19, 2012.

Reverend Sweeney adjourned the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Jane Coyle , Clerk of Session



The String Bean Lesson

There she was at the kitchen sink, working on the cutting board. My mother was a very good cook, but she was even more frugal. She made it her business to see that nothing went to waste, even if she couldn't think of a use for it right away. Frugality was not only reserved for food products, it carried over to fabric swatches, old clothes, broken gadgets, and even people. Nobody sat idle for very long in our home without mom reminding us that there was weeding to be done, a dog to be brushed, or some other task to be accomplished.

Often times, however, my mother would be completely content to let me watch her prepare meals in the kitchen. I recollect one day watching her prepare string beans. Now for those of you who think this means fetching a plastic bag of beans from a freezer, tearing open the bag, and dumping the contents into a pot of boiling water, you're far off the mark.

Her process began with a trip to Mrs. Cox's farm stand that used to be in Basking Ridge on the southern side of Madisonville Road between the traffic light and the pond. My mother and our neighbor would pile us kids into the Dodge Coronet station wagon and drive several miles to get vegetables. When we got home, it was time to clean them. Clean them? Well, of course. They were fresh from the garden, so they still had dirt on them. After we washed the beans, we removed the stem tip from each bean and pulled the fibrous string from the crease along the length of the fruit. (Yes, string beans are fruit, since they are produced from flowers.) If the beans were extra-long, we might snap them in half to make them more bite sized.

When the process was completed, we had two piles; one contained the prepared beans, and the other contained the waste... err... I mean... non-edible parts. There was no waste in my mother's eyes. Quick as a rabbit and before anyone could imagine dumping the strings and stem tips into the trash, my mother would say, "off to the compost with those."

On one occasion, we were having company for dinner and had prepared a ponderous pile of string beans, enough beans for nine people. This time, when the moment came to dispose of the non-edible pile, my mother hesitated. She gave the pile a second look. "Wait a second, honey. Look through that pile again; there might be something good in there." Spreading the bits of bean stems out on a towel, I found she was right. There among the refuse were three whole beans. "Good thing we didn't throw those in the compost," she said with a wink. "As long as there's possibility and hope, it's always worth a second look. You never know what goodness you may find. You know what I mean?"

I knew what she meant. My mother was talking about more than string beans. She was talking about life. She was talking about how we treat other people, and she was referring to the way in which we treat ourselves. How many times do we give up on something when the possibility of goodness still exists? Obviously, we shouldn't keep returning to situations that are toxic or unhealthy, but we need to keep in touch with possibility and hope. Frugality can be a precious commodity, one that can easily be lost to our disposable, "what's happening next, out with the old, in with the new" culture in which we are encouraged to set our sights on the newest and the brightest.

Try this approach on for size. Go out into the world and take a good, hard look at the familiar. Dig deeper. Maybe you'll find something you didn't know you had. When you can do that with objects, take it up a notch. Have a second look at the people around you. Look deeper in your heart, too. Maybe there's someone with whom you lost touch and can rekindle a friendship. Maybe there's someone you thought you didn't even need to know because you assumed they had nothing to offer you. Well, before you figuratively toss them aside, try to see them as possibilities to uncover something marvellous, perhaps a side of them and you that you didn't "see" before now.

You think you know someone? Think again. Relationships are ripe with hope, so go ahead and take another glance. Remember, as long as there's possibility and hope, it's always worth a second look. You never know what goodness you may find. You know what I mean?



Sunday School 2012-2013

Believe it or not, it is time to think about our Sunday School program for 2012-2013. If anyone is interested in teaching Sunday School next year, please contact Susan Fischer at:

908-204-0820 or shfischer@verizon.net

We are looking for teachers to volunteer one Sunday a month. Our curriculum is extremely user friendly. Teaching a class using this curriculum can be done easily without any prior teaching experience.

Our Sunday School program relies on volunteers to be successful. Please consider teaching, especially if you have children in our program.

Our Rafiki in Nairobi

Prudy and I had the delightful experience of hosting Peter Mruttu, an elder from the Presbytery of Central Nairobi, for one week. Peter was here as part of a continuing program of cooperation between our Newton Presbytery and the three Presbyteries of Nairobi that are part of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa.

Peter was a thoughtful representative of his country and his Presbytery. He shared a great deal with us about life in that part of the world. He taught us much about being faithful and thankful and joyful in spite of many challenges.



I would like to ask you to join us in praying for Peter and his family and the wonderful work that is being done in the name of Christ in Kenya. We are part of that work through our Mission and Outreach contributions. But we can also be part of that work through our prayers. The Kiswahili word for friend is rafiki. Please keep our rafiki, Peter Mruttu, in your prayers.

Pastor Rick

(Photo: Prudy Sweeney)

FPCNV Book Club June Selection: A Perfect Spy

Tuesday, June 12 at 7:00 pm in the Library



A Perfect Spy by John LeCarré

Le Carre's latest commences with the sudden disappearance from his posting and family in Vienna of elegant British master-spy Magnus Pym. The narrative immediately splits and alternates: one voice, dubious, insistent, tells of the diligent and urgent race among ex-agent wife Mary, co-worker Jack Brotherhood, and ubiquitous Czech agent "Sergeant Pavel" to find the possible defector; the other voice (Pym's own), ruminative,

wry, relates the colorful history and amoral motivations behind the successful spy.

By the time the two voices converge in the present, the comprehensive character Pymas seen by others and by himself, stands alone, ready to carry out his decision. Not a spy novel in the usual sense, then, but a skillfully manipulated, complex, and probingly written study spiced with lively anecdotes. To be savored.—Library Journal.



Homeless Solutions' New Venture: Furnishing Solutions

Homeless Solutions Inc. (HSI), a Morristown non-profit providing emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent affordable housing to families and individuals, is excited to announce its new venture, Furnishing Solutions - a furniture resale store whose proceeds will benefit HSI programs and services. The store is being managed by two of our parishioners, Blake Cook and Donna Miller, and will be opening in July in the Powder Mill West Plaza on Route 10 in Morris Plains.

Furnishing Solutions is now accepting donations of furniture, artwork, decorative items, mirrors, lighting, rugs, curtains and housewares. To schedule a donation, please email donations@furnishingsolutions.org.

In addition, we are actively looking for interested volunteers to be part of Furnishing Solutions. There are opportunities in a variety of areas on a regular basis or for an occasional shift. To volunteer, email Nina Nemeth at volunteer@furnishingsolutions.org.

To learn more, visit http://www.homelesssolutions.org/FurnishingSolutions.html





Covenant of Membership

Trusting in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and being a member of the First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon, I commit myself to strive toward the following goals:

- Regular participation in the corporate worship and the sacraments.
- A daily private discipline of the personal spiritual growth grounded in scripture.
- Integration of faith into daily life.
- Participation in some group, role or task in the life and mission of the church.
- Financial stewardship to support the life and mission of the church.
- Sharing in the fellowship, support, and caring of others in this expression of the body of Christ.

Community Soup Kitchen News & Needs

A NOTE FROM THE SOUP KITCHEN

Last summer was one of major transition for us as we were required by the Board of Health to comply with the same regulations as any other retail food establishement. Sadly, this prevents us from accepting perishable food that has been prepared offsite and results in a \$150,000 financial deficit to the Soup Kitchen since we must now purchase all the ingredients for our main meals from approved and inspected suppliers. Your help is needed now more than ever as we continue to see many new families and individuals in our dining room.

Community Soup Kitchen & Outreach Center

"Caring, Connecting, Changing Lives for 27 Years" 973-267-0709 / www.cskmorristown.org

CURRENT DONATIONS NEEDED

Non-Perishable Foods

- large bags of white rice
- large boxes of instant mashed potato
- large cans of turkey gravy
- large containers of seasoned bread crumbs
- large cans of diced tomatoes
- hearty meals in a can (stews, chili, ravioli), preferably flip-top

Toiletries

- Shampoo, razors, and bar soap
- Men's cotton sports socks

To donate food items:

http://www.yougivegoods.com/products.php?id=366

To make a cash donation: http://www.active.com/donate/communitysoupkitchen/fristpresbyterianofnewvernon [sic]

Community Soup Kitchen Youth Council

The Youth Council of the Community Soup Kitchen and Outreach Center provides an opportunity for 7th and 8th grade students to take a leadership role in solving the local problems of homelessness and poverty. Participants are chosen from area schools and work collaboratively with fellow students, Soup Kitchen staff and volunteers to understand homelessness, poverty, and to communicate the causes effectively and inspire change in their own community. Students then take the knowledge and leadership skills they have developed at the Soup Kitchen back to their schools and use them to plan and organize an educational fundraising event.

A few highlights of the Youth Council program will include:

- Participation in the "Hunger in Our Own Backyard" program
- ♦ Participation in a Youth Council Serving Day
- Preparing casseroles with Youth Council members during the Healthy Choices Cooking! sessions
- Planning and organizing a fundraising event and/or donation drive at school while raising awareness of the hunger that exists in our own communities.

The Community Soup Kitchen provides a noontime meal 365 days a year to the homeless, elderly, mentally ill, disabled and working poor members of the community and has done so for over 20 years without ever once closing its doors. Through our Outreach Center, we provide additional services to our guests to help empower them to better their lives by facilitating access to social services, health programs, educational opportunities and employment counseling. In 2011 alone, the Community Soup Kitchen served over 54,000 meals, distributed over 50 tons of food, and through our Outreach Center provided over 2,500 referrals for additional services to adults and children in need!



Community Soup Kitchen and Outreach Center Youth Council Application for 2012 - 2013 (Please submit no later than July 1, 2012)								
Date:	(Ficuse)	submit no later than se	my 1, 2012)					
Student Name:			Nickname:					
Home address:								
Home Phone:	Ce	ell Phone:	Email:					
Age:	Grade:	School:						
How did you learn abo	out the Community S	oup Kitchen?						
Please describe your p	past and current extra	acurricular activities / vol	unteer service:					
Please describe why y you will bring to the g		peing a part of the Youth	Council and what skills/talents you feel					
you will bring to the g	, oap.							
Parent Endorsemer	nt and Photo Relea	se:						
			mission for the Community Soup Kitchen coverage pertaining to the Soup Kitchen.					
		Signature:						
		Printed Name:_						
(Please send complete	ed application to Lois	Nichols Assistant Direct	or. Community Soup Kitchen and					

(Please send completed application to Lois Nichols, Assistant Director, **Community Soup Kitchen and Outreach Center**, 36 South Street, Morristown, NJ, 07960. Visit us at www.cskmorristown.org!)

Other Youth Opportunities at the Community Soup Kitchen & Outreach Center.

- Conduct a non-perishable food drive at your school or congregation based on our Most Current Needs
- Arrange an on-line food drive via www.yougivegoods.com to benefit the Soup Kitchen
- Prepare Breakfast To Go bags for our guests to take home for themselves or other family members. For example: small box of cereal, shelf-stable milk, breakfast or granola bar, juice box, small can of fruit, and similar non-perishable food items
- ♦ If you are a 7th or 8th grade student, consider joining our Youth Council
- Conduct a non-perishable food drive for our Healthy Choices Market visit our website for details
- Participate in our HUNGER WALK in October go to www.cskmorristown.org for more information and to learn all the exciting details!
- Collect loose change or conduct a Coins for a Cause drive or a Penny War
- Bake desserts at home and deliver during one of our Tours to learn more about the CSK & OC
- Conduct a Miles of Pennies fundraiser
- Volunteer to help with a Pantry Transfer after school
- Conduct a toiletry drive collecting shampoo, soap, toothbrushes and similar personal hygiene items
- Collect sleeping bags, blankets, warm coats (gently used or new in adult sizes), mittens, scarves and new socks
- Run a bake sale or lemonade stand and donate the proceeds to the Community Soup Kitchen and Outreach Center
- Do chores around the house for money to donate to the Community Soup Kitchen
- Conduct a neighborhood garage sale by collecting items from neighbors and explain the proceeds are for the Community Soup Kitchen and Outreach Center
- Organize a work party to clean the kitchen, stock groceries, or sort canned goods
- Make seasonal centerpieces to decorate the tables in the dining room
- Organize a car wash to raise money and prepare fliers/posters to advertise the event
- Support our cause by shopping at CharityBlast.com
- Volunteer to serve a meal if a new volunteer, please attend one of our 45-minute New Volunteer
 Orientation sessions
- Volunteer to help at a Healthy Choices Market after attending one of our New Volunteer Orientation meetings
- Hand out a list of our Most Current Needs in front of a store and collect donations as shoppers exit
- In lieu of gifts for a special occasion, ask for either a financial donation or a donation of non-perishable food and/or toiletries
- Make a financial contribution to the Community Soup Kitchen and Outreach Center
- Consider giving a Community Soup Kitchen and Outreach Center certificate as a gift for a special occasion
- Call our office at 973-267-0709 to arrange a tour of the Community Soup Kitchen and Outreach Center or visit our website (www.cskmorristown.org) for details regarding anything mentioned above

Confirmation of Class 2012



















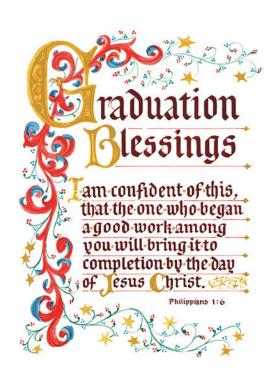
The Confirmation Class of 2012 developed their faith and had fun during retreats at the Cross Estate and at the Liebenzell Retreat Center.

Photos: Gordon Ward



Congratulations





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A Note to Graduates from Pastor Rick

Congratulations to all of our graduates!

This is an exciting time of celebration and transition. You successfully completed one important task. Now it is on to the next phase.

Always remember that there is a God who loves you the same in success or failure. Remember also that there is a church family that loves you and prays for you. All the best in what comes next,

Pastor Rick

Member News ~ Baptism & New Member Luncheon





BAPTISM: On Sunday, May 13th, Lauren Lee, daughter of Min Kwon and Leonard Lee, was baptized. Her grandparents, Yoojae and Ted Kwon, stood as witnesses. Lauren's Aunt, Yoon Kwon, who is first violin with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, and Uncle Justin Berrie, renowned international flutist, joined in a musical celebration of this blessed event. We warmly welcome Lauren into the community of faith. Photos: Gordon Ward









NEW MEMBERS: Eileen and Mike McDonald hosted a luncheon for all of those who have joined our church in the past year. Most were able to attend. The food was delicious and the time to get to know our newer members was special. Thanks to the McDonald family for being such welcoming hosts. Photos: Prudy Sweeney

June 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 AA Meeting noon	2
					NV Fire Dept. Steak & Lobster Dinner 6-10 pm	
7th Gr Pre- Confirmation 9:00-9:30 am	Women's Bible Study 9:00-11 am	5	Youth Group Dinner & Cookie Min. 6:00-8 pm	7 Bible Study 9-10 am	8	9
Communion Sunday					AA Meeting noon	
Confirmation				Choir 7:30 p		
10 Church Picnic at Sheeleighs' Home 4-7 pm	Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	12	13	14 Bible Study 9-10 am	15	16
4-7 pm					AA Meeting noon	
	7:30 Deacons	Book Club 7:30 pm		Choir 7:30 p		
17 Last Day of Sunday School	Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	19	20	21 Bible Study 9-10 am	22	23
Happy Father's Day!					AA Meeting noon	
Deacons' Party for Choir & Amanda	Finance Committee 7 pm	Session Mtg. 7 pm		Choir 7:30 p		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
YES: Biking 12-2 pm			Youth Ministry BBQ & Swimming 1:00-3:00 pm		AA Meeting noon	

Worship at FPCNV ~ June 2012

Sunday, June 3

Trinity Sunday

Communion and Confirmation

Preacher: Dr. Sweeney Liturgist: TBA

Sermon: It's You

Text:

Romans 8:12-17 Isaiah 6:1-8

Sunday, June 17

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Preacher: Dr. Sweeney Liturgist: Jane Coyle

Sermon: Mighty Mite

Text: I Samuel 16:6-13

Mark 4:26-34

Sunday, June 10

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Preacher: Bob Hicks Liturgist: Bob Hicks

Sermon: TBA

Text: TBA

Sunday, June 24

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Preacher: Dr. Sweeney Liturgist: Ann Talcott

Sermon: In the Valley of Elah

Text:

I Samuel 17:1a, 4-11, 19-23 I Samuel 17:32-49

Thank You

May Coffee Hour Hosts!

The Finlayson Family
Barbara Kephart
Denice Monaco and Larry Malm
The Myers Family
Patricia Tiensch and The Adult Education Committee

The Pipe Organ First Presbyterian Church 2 Lee's Hill Road, PO Box 218 New Vernon, NJ 07976-0218

Highlights This Month:

Saturday, June 3
Confirmation

Sunday, June 10Annual Old-Fashioned Church Picnic

Sunday, June 17 Last Day of Sunday School



Wishing all of our Fathers a very Happy Father's Day!

E-mail Addresses

Have you sent us your e-mail address? If you want to stay current on what's going on at the Crossroads, please e-mail office@pcnv.org or call 973-538-8394.

CHURCH OFFICE

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