

The Pipe Organ

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
New Vernon, NJ

VOL. 61 NO. 2

February, 2012

"You Philippians indeed know that in the early days of the gospel when I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you alone. For even when I was in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once more."

Philippians 4: 15-16

Rick's Reflections

What does it mean to be Presbyterian? There are many ways we could answer that question. We are part of the reformed family of faith. We believe in salvation by grace alone. We believe in the authority of scripture. There are doctrinal statements that define us by what we believe. But there is another marker that defines us. We are connectional.

We are part of something greater than just this congregation. We are part of the Presbytery of Newton. That includes all of the Presbyterian Church USA congregations in our area. We are also part of the national church governed by the General Assembly. We have a Constitution and a Book of Confessions that guide us in how we live as a church and what we believe.

Notice that in each of these statements of who we are, we use the word WE. Presbytery is not "THEM." Presbytery is US! WE are connected to all of the other churches in our Presbytery and all of the Presbyterian churches in the country. We are connected to them in mission and governance and theology.

As a member of the Presbytery, I have observed the good work that WE do as part of that body. When churches are in trouble, the Presbytery is there to help. When Paul wrote to the church in Philippi, he thanked them for helping the church in Thessalonica. The New Testament understood the importance of churches being connectional, and we should too. The Presbytery also provides educational opportunities and guidance in calling

a pastor and coordination of mission efforts beyond what the local church could do alone.

I never think of Presbytery as them. Presbytery is you and me. We are all in this together. So I want to ask you to do something for your Presbytery. I want you to pray for the leaders and the volunteers who do great work in our Presbytery. I want you to pray that they will know the blessing of being faithful to God's call to a ministry that includes us all. I want to ask you to pray that God will send more workers

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Anne Thomas
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into the field of ministry at the Presbytery level—maybe you.

I count it a blessing to be a part of the Presbyterian Church. It is my hope that, in the years to come, we will increase our involvement and support of our Presbytery and our denomination. Then we can celebrate what WE as Presbyterians are doing together.

Blessings,

Pastor Rick

Did You Know?

Did you know that the Presbytery is supported financially by a per capita apportionment? That means that each church sends \$29 to the Presbytery per member.

This amounts to a cost of \$12,000 a year for our church. That money does a lot of good ministry, and it is part of our responsibility to the greater church.

Thank You

Thank you to our outgoing officers: Jane Asdal, Jane Coyle, Olin Friant, Judith Shelton, John Thomas, and Carol Vellekamp, for all of your thoughtful service as Elders and Deacons. The congregation appreciates all of your thoughtful work on our behalf.



JANUARY SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



The following are highlights from the January 17, 2012 Session Meeting.

The meeting began with Tom MacCowatt leading devotions. He reflected on *Isaiah* 40:6, which talks of the flowers of the field and how quickly their splendor fades in the presence of the Lord. This passage is a good reminder for us during the football playoff season. While many of us are focused on the urgency and importance of each game, all this becomes totally insignificant when we think of the magnificence of God in our lives.

Committee Highlights:

Congregational Life: This committee is *urgently* in need of new members. At present, it is largely comprised of several deacons who are doing “double duty” and truly need a break! Other church members might consider stepping in to foster the spirit of fellowship within our community.

Finance: While the financial position of the church is slowly recovering, the Committee continues to seek out ways to balance our budget. Traditionally, our budget has covered the annual per member fee collected by the Presbytery. Session has approved *a motion made to invite the members of our congregation to contribute \$29, above and beyond their other financial support of the Church, to pay their per capita apportionment.* More information on this will be provided in a special mailing to the membership.

The Nursery School reports five new students are starting in January. Thanks to the leadership of Scott Noyes and Jane Coyle, the School is now on track for becoming “whole” in terms of supporting itself financially.

Worship & Music: The search is on, and auditions are being held for a new organist.

Stewardship: The 2012 “On A Roll” campaign has come to a successful end, with eight new pledges received this year. Additionally, many ongoing contributors have increased their pledge from 2011. Exact numbers will be shared at the upcoming congregational 2012 budget review meeting. Pledges will continue to be accepted at any time during the year!

Buildings & Grounds: The sanctuary floor beneath our organ was recently replaced and several roof leaks repaired.

Membership: The Newton Presbytery is offering a program called *New Beginnings* that offers consultation services to evaluate a church’s strengths and potential, and helps a congregation to define and develop their church going forward. The Committee is looking deeper to see if participation in this program might be cost effective and beneficial for our church family.

The *Personnel Committee* is working to complete the staff evaluations.

Session thanks Min Kwon, new member and world renowned concert pianist, who will sell her CDs at Coffee Hour, donating 100% of the proceeds to our church.

The Congregational Meeting to receive the 2011 Annual Report and 2012 Budget is now set for **March 4, 2012** following Sunday Service. This is a change from the previously announced date.

Communion will be served on Sunday, February 5, 2012. Next Session meeting: Tuesday, February 21, 2012.

Pastor Rick adjourned the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Jane Asdal – Clerk of Session



Learning to See

When I was a child, no one saw Bald Eagles. Oh, they could be seen in zoos or stuffed in some museums, but to see one in the wild, as part of everyday life, just didn't happen. In 1967, the species was listed as endangered, their numbers decimated by loss of habitat and reproductive impairment due to pesticides and heavy metals in the

food chain. Even though I was interested in birds, I never used to look for Bald Eagles. Most of the remaining eagles were in Alaska, and to hope for a sighting in New Jersey was considered futile.

Thankfully, conservation measures have done a great deal for the eagles since that time, and on June 28, 2007, the Interior Department took the Bald Eagle off the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants. Even though the numbers of these eagles have grown considerably since I was a child, it took some time before I spotted one. My expectations had to change. I had to learn how to see them.

My first eagle sighting in the wild was in 1992 while I was on a tour boat along the coast in Maine. Since then, I have viewed nesting pairs from a kayak in Maine, spotted them above reservoirs in New Jersey, and even viewed one soaring above my home. Not too long ago, I had my closest encounter to date. I had rounded the McCann Mill Road Bridge on my morning run with my dog Aztec. Heading up the dirt road in the lightly falling snow, I spotted, from a distance, a large bird in a tree, which, I presumed, would turn out to be a vulture. It wasn't. Something about it seemed odd to me because vultures usually group together, and this solitary bird was out over the water. It turned out to be a beautiful, mature Bald Eagle! It was content to sit there on its branch overlooking the Lamington River as we walked past it, actually getting within forty feet of it. I was spellbound, but the eagle was not spooked at all. Its gaze was fixed on us, having seen my dog and me, I'm certain, long before we saw it. Eventually, Aztec and I continued our run, leaving that magnificent bird to continue looking for fish in the swollen river. Cresting the rise in the road, I turned back one more time, and I saw the bird lift off from its perch and rise above the trees heading downstream. What a way to start the day!

I think, for many of us, we encounter God the way we might encounter eagles. There are lots of people who think God is on the endangered list, if he even exists at all. Some consider him to be extinct, categorizing any identification of God in the world as cases of misidentification. Sure, they've seen images of him in churches, a broken, lifeless corpse suspended from a crucifix. Churches can be kind of like God museums where many go to catch a glimpse of the deity that's supposed to be the creator of the universe. Church is often the place where many people have been exposed to stories and movies about God and even confessed to a faith in him, but, sadly, that's where it often ends. Other than church, many people don't expect God to show up anywhere else in their lives, and, as a result, they don't look for him. They think the search is futile.

Well, here's the good news. God was never on the endangered list, and there are endless opportunities to see him. He blends in very well with his environment, so you need to know how to see him, but once you know how to look, he'll be seen more and more often. Take a look and change your expectations because God is all around you. Look! God is in the stranger who holds the door for you in the elevator. God can be seen in the cancer ward wearing scrubs and holding the hands of the patients. God is there in the courage you feel inside of you when you confront the challenging times of your life. He's in the love and hugs you get from a family member. When you find yourself far from home, he's the breeze on your cheek that reminds you of the kisses from your children. He's there in every momentous sunset and sunrise of your life, and he's also beside you in the midst of your daily routine.

It doesn't matter where you are on your path of life. Take a moment and stop. Look around you. Do you see God? He's seen you since you were born. His gaze has been fixed on you during every step you've taken on your journey. He's there on his post over the river of life as much during your morning run as he is beside you on the commute to work. Look over your shoulder. God is and will forever be aloft, lifting off and soaring above and among us. We should be learning to see.

Cheers!

Gordon

Adult Education Events

India: A Country of Contradictions

By population, India is the largest democratic state in the world, and because of its status as a secular state, it has allowed many religions to flourish and coexist.

Four of the world's major religions originated here, Christianity arrived in the 1st century with the landing of the Thomas, the disciple of Jesus. From an economic perspective, the Indian emergence into fields such as IT has brought great wealth to its entrepreneurs.

Conversely, the country faces constant religious warring (St. Thomas was eventually martyred), extreme poverty, malnutrition of its youth, and condemnable abuse toward women.

Please join us on **February 12** for Adult Education as pastoral intern, Bob Hicks, shares with us his stories and what he learned from his three-week educational trip to India.



Naked Spirituality ✧ Four-Part Series

Have you ever wondered why evangelical churches seem to be growing while mainline churches seem to be in decline? Have you ever wondered about your own spiritual journey and if there are others who have similar passages in faith? Pastor Rick will lead a four-part Adult Education series on Brian McLaren's book, *Naked Spirituality*. The dates are February 26, March 4, 11, and 18. We will meet in the Library at 11:15.

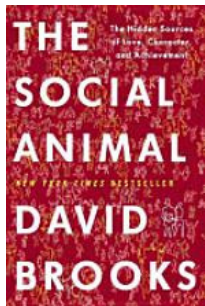
McLaren investigates four stages of spirituality:

- I. FEBRUARY 26 **Simplicity**: The season of spiritual awakening. The main words that express this stage are HERE, THANKS, and O.
- II. MARCH 4 **Complexity**: The season of spiritual strengthening. The main words that express this stage are SORRY, HELP, and PLEASE.
- III. MARCH 11 **Perplexity**: The season of spiritual surviving. The main words that express this stage are WHEN, NO, and WHY.
- IV. MARCH 18 **Harmony**: The season of spiritual deepening. The main words that express this stage are BEHOLD, YES, and SILENCE.

As people and churches work through these stages, we can still echo the transforming power of Christ in the world. As with most things, these stages are not once and done, automatically moving on to the next stage. They cycle in our lives more than once. We will explore these stages as we try to better understand our own spiritual journey without all the window dressing that sometimes obscures our vision. Please join us for this study.

FPCNV Book Club

Schedule



February Book Selection:

***The Social Animal: The Hidden Sources of Love, Character and Achievement* by David Brooks**

With unequalled insight and brio, New York Times columnist David Brooks has long explored and explained the way we live. Now

Brooks turns to the building blocks of human flourishing in a multilayered, profoundly illuminating work grounded in everyday life. This is the story of how success happens, told through the lives of one composite American couple, Harold and Erica. Drawing on a wealth of current research from numerous disciplines, Brooks takes Harold and Erica from infancy to old age, illustrating a fundamental new understanding of human nature along the way: The unconscious mind, it turns out, is not a dark, vestigial place, but a creative one, where most of the brain's work gets done. This is the realm where character is formed and where our most important life decisions are made—the natural habitat of The Social Animal. Brooks reveals the deeply social aspect of our minds and exposes the bias in modern culture that overemphasizes

rationalism, individualism, and IQ. He demolishes conventional definitions of success and looks toward a culture based on trust and humility. The Social Animal is a moving intellectual adventure, a story of achievement, and a defense of progress. It is an essential book for our time—one that will have broad social impact and will change the way we see ourselves and the world.

~ Random House Publishers

Meeting Dates and Book Selections

Where: Library

When: 7:30 pm

Feb 14	<i>The Social Animal: The Hidden Sources of Love, Character and Achievement</i> by David Brooks
Mar 13	<i>Years of Wonders</i> by Geraldine Brooks
Apr 10	<i>A Perfect Spy</i> by John LeCarré
May 8	<i>The Art of Racing in the Rain</i> by Garth Stein
Jun 12	<i>The Empire of the Summer Moon</i> by S.C. Gwynn

New members are welcome.

A Note from Christmas Is for Children

To: All the wonderful, generous members of the congregation of New Vernon Presbyterian Church

Thank you for again sponsoring nearly twenty-five children from the Morristown Area Eric Johnson House.

We deeply appreciate your long-term commitment to our organization.

Sincerely, Ellen Donoghue, Dir., Volunteer Services



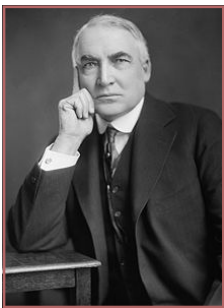
New Vernon Presbyterian Nursery School News



New Vernon Presbyterian Nursery School (NVPNS) is now accepting enrollment for our 2½, 3, and 4-year-old classes for the 2012-2013 school year. We are a non-denominational, educational program that offers a warm and nurturing environment that helps your child prepare for kindergarten. All of our classes start at 9:00 am and are 2½, 3½, or 4 hours in duration, respectively. We support our busy parents with optional early morning drop-off, Stay 'n Play until 3pm, summer camp, and enrichment programs. Most importantly, our children and parents have fun!

Established in 1986, NVPNS is located in Fellowship Hall of the New Vernon Presbyterian Church at the crossroads of Village Road and Lee's Hill Road. Please call our Director, Laurie Ptalis, at 973-326-9839 for a tour and visit their website at www.nvpns.org. They look forward to hearing from you!

Warren G. Harding



**February 23
10:30 am**

Harding Seniors will meet at the Kemmerer Library at 10:30 am on

Thursday, February 23 to learn more about Warren G. Harding, our 29th President. Our town is named in his honor.

Gary Kraidman will be the speaker. His collection of Harding memorabilia will be on display in the Library until March.

All are welcome.

Next Movie Night

THE GUARD (2011) R

**Wednesday, March 7
7 pm at the Chaney's**

When tightly wound FBI agent Wendell Everett (Don Cheadle) invades an Irish village in pursuit of international drug dealers, wisecracking local copper Gerry Boyle (Brendan Gleeson) does his best to annoy the American and get on with his circumscribed life. But soon there's a murder, and Boyle finds himself swept up in detective work way beyond his pay grade.

John Michael McDonagh directs this action-filled comedy.



Our Newest Members



Min Kwon and Dr. Leonard Lee

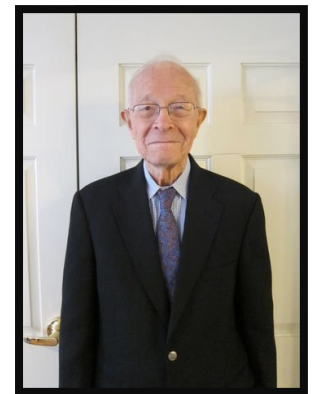
Dr. Leonard Lee is currently chief of cardiothoracic surgery and vice chairman of Heart and Vascular Hospital at Hackensack University Medical Center. Leonard received all of his training in New York City and was on the faculty at New York Presbyterian Hospital-Cornell for ten years prior to joining Hackensack. Leonard grew up in New Jersey (Watchung Area) and attended The Pingry School, Lehigh University, UNDMJ Medical School, and pursued his cardiac fellowship at Cornell. He is married to Min Kwon, a concert pianist and Associate Professor of Music at Rutgers University, Mason Gross School of the Arts.

Min moved to the US with her family from Seoul, Korea in her teens. While her family lived in Bergen County, Min made her American debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra at the age of 16, and received her training at The Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia (Bachelor of Music), The Juilliard School in New York (Master of Music, and Doctor of Musical Arts), and The Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria. She has been on the faculty at Rutgers for the past ten years and is also founder and director of a non-profit, The Center for Musical Excellence NY/NJ. Their daughter, Lauren Lee, was born on the Fourth of July, 2011. Min and Leonard have been married for six years and resided in New York City prior to Lauren's arrival. They are happy to be back in New Jersey and to make their permanent home in New Vernon.

Bob Mims

Bob Mims has attended the First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon (FPCNV) over the past 15 years. He and his wife Doris lived in New York but spent the weekends with their daughter Grace and son-in-law Carmine Petti in New Vernon.

They loved FPCNV. He and Doris were active in the Sunday 8 am Bible Study led by Stacy Chandler, then assistant pastor. They were permanent greeters at the Sunday 5 pm service held at that time.



When Doris died two years ago, Bob moved to New Vernon to live with Grace and Carmine. He faithfully attends the Thursday Morning Bible Study and enjoys being involved with our church team at the Soup Kitchen.

Bob was born and grew up in North Louisiana. During WW II, he served in the Navy, stationed in New York. He attended church in New York and there met Doris. They fell in love, married, and raised a family.

Bob, at age 91, studies the Bible daily...he lives the gospels in his quiet and kind ways.

Our Newest Members

Kathy and Matt Sheeleigh

Matt and Kathy Sheeleigh met at Vanderbilt University and married after graduation. Matt was originally from Summit, NJ; Kathy grew up in Evansville, IN. Matt owns a heating and air-conditioning distribution company, headquartered in West Caldwell. Prior to starting a family, Kathy taught math and worked at a company that manufactured super computers. Currently she is active in a number of local charities.



Matt and Kathy have three children: Elizabeth, who attends Seton Hall Law School; Katherine, who recently graduated from Harvard University and is studying to become a Doctor of Physical Therapy; and Matt IV, a freshman at Harvard University and economics concentrator.

After renovating and building a number of houses in NJ, the Sheeleighs finished construction on their final home on Sycamore Farm Road in Harding last year. Their traditionally-styled home is a LEED-certified gold structure. The house demonstrates that “green” homes don’t have to be modern in design.

The Sheeleighs enjoy all outdoor activities, especially hiking, biking, and organic farming.



Rene and John Williams

The Williams family has been attending the First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon since May. Originally from Salt Lake City, they lived in San Francisco before relocating to New Jersey in 2007. John was the CIO of Party America in California before becoming Vice President of IT at Party City and is an avid soccer player on the side. Hailing from Kansas City, he has also lived in Puerto Rico, South Africa, Des Moines, and Chicago.

René attended the University of Utah, where she was on the Volleyball team and continued to play professionally for two years. She was a project manager with the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics, where she managed multiple venues, including the cyber house for the athletes in the Olympic Village. René was part of the Salt Lake City committee sent to Australia for the 2000 Summer Olympics.

René and John have two children. Christian (9) is in the 3rd grade at Harding; he is interested in Taekwondo and achieved his black belt last March. Christian is an enthusiastic baseball, basketball, and soccer player. Katelyn (6), a first-grader at HTS, enjoys performing in gymnastics. She takes riding lessons and competes at Crew Hill Stables.

Youth Yoga

Middle School and High School Students



Sunday Afternoons
1:00 – 2:15 pm
In Fellowship Hall

MJ Turnbull, certified yoga teacher

This is an active class for youth that will focus on athleticism, strength, balance, and flexibility.

Please bring a yoga mat.

\$10 suggested donation,
Parental permission required.

Stewardship Campaign for 2012

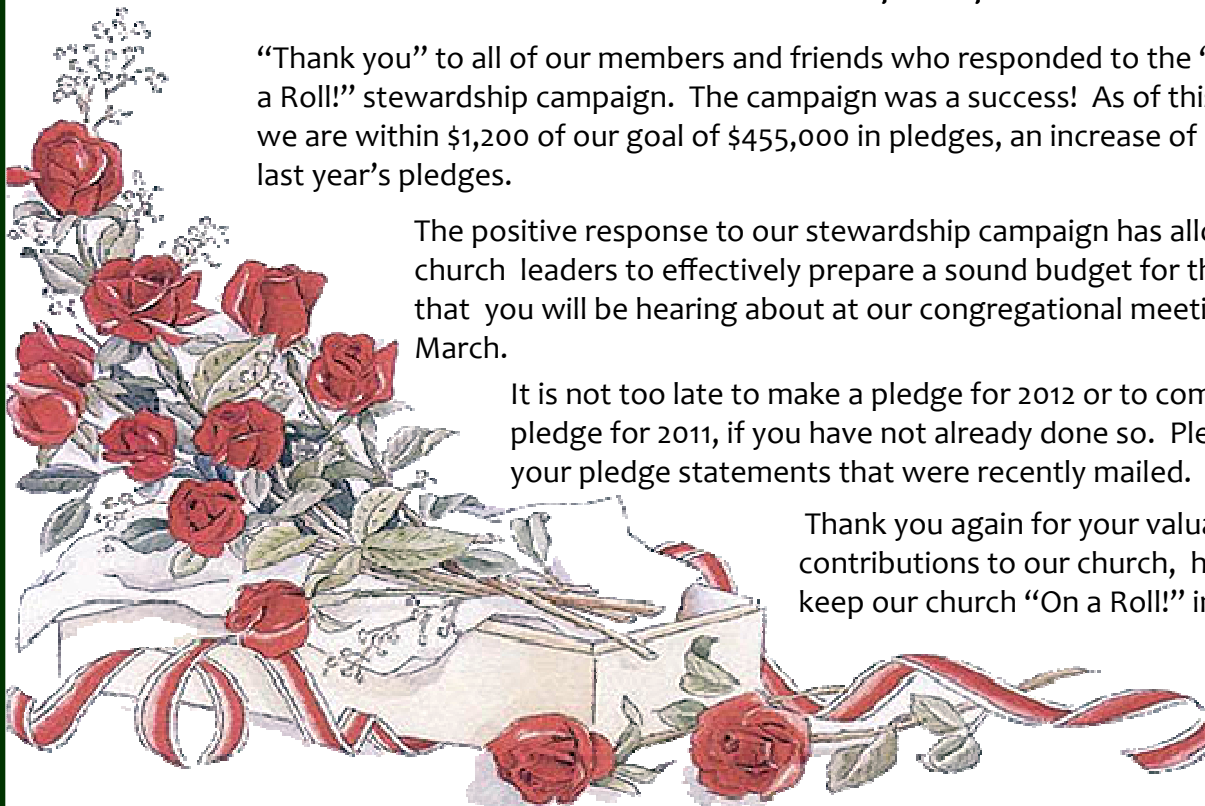
“We’re On a Roll” Wrap-Up

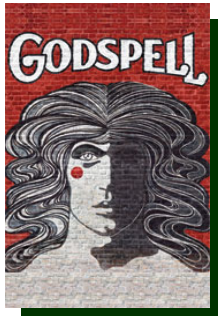
“Thank you” to all of our members and friends who responded to the “We’re On a Roll!” stewardship campaign. The campaign was a success! As of this writing, we are within \$1,200 of our goal of \$455,000 in pledges, an increase of 5% over last year’s pledges.

The positive response to our stewardship campaign has allowed our church leaders to effectively prepare a sound budget for the New Year that you will be hearing about at our congregational meeting in March.

It is not too late to make a pledge for 2012 or to complete your pledge for 2011, if you have not already done so. Please review your pledge statements that were recently mailed.

Thank you again for your valuable contributions to our church, helping to keep our church “On a Roll!” in 2012.





Godspell on Broadway

Saturday, April 14 Matinee

Adult Ed is planning a trip to see *Godspell* on Broadway for a matinee on Saturday, April 14.

This new version of *Godspell* has received great reviews. The *Wall Street Journal* calls it “a family-friendly romp that deserves to run forever.” *USA Today* says “*Godspell* is a cause to rejoice.” It will leave you a “believer in the transporting power of musical theater.”

We need to reserve tickets as soon as possible to get a group rate, so please email or call Nancy Barrett by Friday, February 3 at:

973-425-1414 or nancyfbarrett@gmail.com

Cost: \$89.50 per ticket

Community Soup Kitchen “Souper” Bowl Sunday Event

February 5th during Coffee Hour

Thanks to the efforts of many dedicated volunteers, *The First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon* has been actively helping to change lives right here in Morris County.

Since 1984, the *Community Soup Kitchen & Outreach Center* in Morristown has never missed a day, serving 300 or more homeless, working poor, elderly, and disabled in our area a hot noontime meal. In addition, the Center directs guests to the medical and social services they need to help get them back on their feet. During the last year, the Soup Kitchen served over 54,000 meals, distributed over 50 tons of food, and provided over 2,500 referrals through the Outreach Center.

Over and above the challenges presented by a growing number of guests, new Board of Health regulations prohibit the Soup Kitchen from accepting donations of home-cooked food. As a result, annual expenses are expected to soar by \$150,000 to cover the cost of the food once lovingly prepared by volunteers.

To help offset this increase, our church will host a “**Souper**” Bowl **Sunday** fundraiser on **February 5** after worship. There will be soup pots decorated for each of the Super Bowl teams. When you place a donation in the pot of your choice, you won’t just be rooting for a team but also helping to feed our neighbors! For more information, visit www.cskmorristown.org.

Your support will be warmly appreciated!



February Outreach Focus: Deirdre's House



There's a cozy Victorian house sitting amongst the tall brick buildings of the Morristown Courthouse complex. Flower boxes line the walkway and a teddy bear can be seen through the

front window. There is no name on the door, but those who have been inside don't need a sign to remember. This place is Deirdre's House, a nationally accredited child advocacy center. It is a place where children who have been abused or neglected can receive comprehensive services from a collaborative group of professionals committed to treating and preventing child abuse.

What does that mean? It means that an abused child can receive expert investigative, medical, and mental health services geared toward their individual needs—all located under one roof. The facility is the home of the Morris County Multidisciplinary Team (MDT), a group of professionals from law enforcement, mental health, and child protective services who examine, discuss, and review child abuse cases in order to provide a coordinated and collaborative response that maximizes services, minimizes trauma, and ensures the victim's needs are met. The MDT approach increases the success of prosecution and the overall recovery of the child.

The homelike and child-focused environment is less traumatic than a police station, where armed and uniformed officers and handcuffed suspects are prevalent. Children who feel safe, secure, and comfortable are more likely to share their experience, which can often be embarrassing or frightening. Deirdre's House is designed to create such an atmosphere. Following the interview, children can receive a medical examination from a pediatric abuse specialist, a doctor specially trained in the recognition and treatment of child abuse.

Early intervention can offer child victims the tools they need to recover from the horrors they faced and stop the tragic consequences of abuse, such as depression, suicide, and substance abuse, from

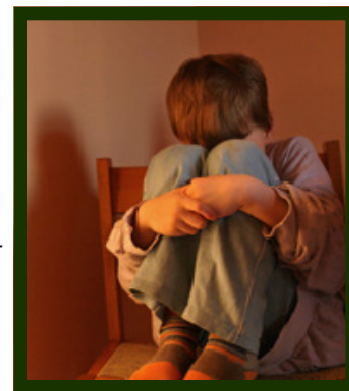
materializing. The Clinical Counseling Program provides individual, family, play and/or group therapy, free of charge and available in English and Spanish, to child victims, guiding them through the healing process and helping them regain some of the carefree joy of childhood so cruelly taken from them.

Families dealing with child abuse are often dealing with many other hardships, often directly resulting from the abuse. In many cases, the abuser is a child's parent. When the abuser is removed from the home, their income is also removed. This can cause an immediate financial crisis. Deirdre's House can provide emergency help through the Healing Fund.

Deirdre's House also provides emergency child care for children whose parent is seeking legal protection from an abuser. The program assists children who are awaiting immediate placement in foster care, allowing them to spend the day at a comfortable, child-focused facility as opposed to a diner or office conference room.

Not forgotten are the social needs of these vulnerable children. One of the tragic effects of abuse is how it forces children to grow up before their time. Deirdre's House offers scholarships through DEAR Camp and the SHINE fund so that children can attend summer camp, extracurricular and afterschool activities, thus allowing them to regain a sense of normalcy and embrace the joy and wonder of being a child.

As important as it is to focus on the reaction to child abuse, Deirdre's House also recognizes the need to examine ways to prevent abuse. Through such programs as Community Education and Prevention and the Child Abuse Prevention Collaboration, information and practical knowledge is disseminated to the public through conferences and seminars, public service announcements, school-based programs, and appearances at public events.



A Father's Letter to Deirdre's House

I am writing to you today as a father. A father who is grateful there is a place like Deirdre's House who helps families such as mine.

One day I received a frantic call at work from my wife. I could not believe what she told me. My daughter, my sweet, innocent angel, had been abused. How did this happen? Why did this happen? As the questions raced through my mind, I sat lost, not knowing what to do next. You see, this kind of thing doesn't happen in my neighborhood, or to my family, or to my 8-year-old daughter. What do you do? Who do you call? I didn't have the number for "child abuse" listed in the phone book next to our pediatrician or the pizza delivery place. I felt like I had failed my little girl. I couldn't protect her from the monster that hurt her, and now I didn't know how to help her. As a parent, watching your child in pain is one of the worst things in the world. The other is not being able to stop that pain.

The following days flew by in a haze, a waking nightmare. My wife cried, my daughter stopped playing and refused to go to school, and I tried my best to hold it together. By the time we arrived at Deirdre's House to be interviewed by a detective, we were a family on the verge of collapse. What we found at your place that day saved us, and most importantly, I believe saved our daughter.

The compassion and caring we found at Deirdre's House was amazing. I had envisioned this process full of hospital rooms and police stations, watching men with guns interrogating my daughter. However, now I sat and watched as my daughter laughed for the first time in days, playing with a beautiful dollhouse, comfortable in a room that could have been in our own house. I listened as a detective explained what was happening and answered what seemed like a million questions. I relaxed when a doctor told me that my daughter had suffered no permanent physical injury. I cried as a counselor reassured my daughter that "No, you didn't do anything wrong."

It has been a long road and I know we are far from the end, but I shudder to think about what fathers and daughters and mothers and sons before me, who didn't have a place like Deirdre's House, had to endure. I couldn't begin to put a value on what we received from you. My daughter's smile and spirit are priceless. Thank you for saving them.

This is just one of the hundreds of families that Deirdre's House serves each year. Services like those described above are provided on a daily basis to children. In 2011, Deirdre's House saw over 1,700 child visits.

TEN WARNING SIGNS OF ABUSE

- Unexplained injuries
- Changes in behavior
- Returning to earlier behaviors
- Fear of going home
- Changes in eating
- Changes in sleeping
- Changes in school performance and attendance
- Lack of personal care or hygiene
- Risk-taking behaviors
- Inappropriate sexual behavior

Why don't people report abuse?

The most common reason is lack of knowledge about child abuse and reporting laws. Other reasons include:

- Thinking that the situation can be taken care of "within the family" or other informal system
- Fear or unwillingness to get involved
- Fear of "making matters worse"
- Worry of angering or alienating the family
- Fear of losing contact or the relationship with the child
- Believing that someone else will do something
- Fear of retaliation or reprisal from the family, legal or otherwise. Lack of faith in "the system"

If you know or suspect abuse or have a concern regarding a child's safety, you have one responsibility—contact the appropriate professionals and make a report.

February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Bible Study 9-10 am Choir 7:30 pm	3 AA Meeting noon	4 Youth Group Movie Night 6:30-8:30 pm
5 Communion "Souper Bowl" in Fellowship Hall at Coffee Hour Youth Yoga 1:00 pm Fellowship Hall	6 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	7	8	9 Bible Study 9-10 am Choir 7:30 pm	10 AA Meeting noon	11
12 Bob Hicks' India Presentation Library at 11:15 am Youth Yoga 1:00 pm Fellowship Hall	13 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am Deacons' Meeting 7 pm	14 Book Club 7:30 p Library	15	16 Bible Study 9-10 am NV Garden Club 9:00 am Choir 7:30 pm	17 AA Meeting noon	18
19 Youth Yoga 1:00 pm Fellowship Hall	20 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am Presidents' Day Church Office Closed	21 Session Mtg. 7 pm	22 Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm	23 Bible Study 9-10 am Choir 7:30 pm	24 AA Meeting noon Congregational Life Game Night 7:30 pm	25
26 Naked Spirituality Part One Library at 11:15 am Youth Yoga 1:00 pm Fellowship Hall Wall Climbing at Gravity Vault 1-2:30 pm	27 Women's Bible Study 9:30-11 am	28	29			

February Worship at FPCNV, 2012

Sunday, February 5

5th Sunday After Epiphany

Communion

Preacher: Dr. Sweeney

Liturgist: Melissa Pennett

Sermon: *Paul the Chameleon*

Text:

Mark 1:29-39

I Corinthians 9:16-23

Sunday, February 12

6th Sunday after Epiphany

Preacher: Bob Hicks

Liturgist: Eileen Urban

Sermon: TBA

Text: TBA

Sunday, February 19

Transfiguration of the Lord

Preacher: Dr. Sweeney

Liturgist: TBA

Sermon: *Let's Stay Here*

Text:

II Kings 2:1-12

Mark 9:2-9

Sunday, February 26

First Sunday in Lent

Preacher: Dr. Sweeney

Liturgist: TBA

Sermon: *A New Investment Strategy*

Text:

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Annual Meeting of The Congregation

Session has called an Annual Meeting of the Congregation to take place on Sunday, March 5. The meeting will begin immediately following the Worship Service.

The Pipe Organ

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

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

Souper Bowl Sunday

Sunday, February 5 at Coffee Hour

Bob Hicks's India Presentation

Sunday, February 12
11:15 am in Library

Naked Spirituality—Part One

Sunday, February 26
11:15 am in Library



E-mail Addresses

The Church Office is still collecting and correcting e-mail addresses from our members. If you would like to be included in various e-mail mailings, please e-mail Office@pcnv.org or call 973-538-8394.

CHURCH OFFICE

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