

# The Pipe Organ

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
New Vernon, NJ

VOL. 61 NO. 4

April, 2012

“For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”  
I Corinthians 1: 18

## Rick's Reflections

Christopher Hitchens was an articulate proponent of atheism. He was a very intelligent and well educated man who wrote books and articles about how absurd the idea of God was to anyone who had any wisdom at all. He is now dead. All that he was and all the thoughts that he thought died with him. He did not live long enough to understand a deeper wisdom: the wisdom of God.

Human beings are given a wonderful gift by the creator. We are given minds that can contemplate life's meaning and origins. We have the mental capacity to make great discoveries and solve difficult riddles. But so many of us seem to lack the ability to acknowledge that there is a higher form of wisdom: the wisdom of God.

If we accept our culture's definition of wisdom and power, we will not be on the same level as the wisdom that Paul explains in his letter to the church at Corinth.

Take crucifixion, for example. It would be foolish from a human perspective to consider one who was executed in such a way to be a victor. But God's wisdom is greater than human wisdom. God's wisdom tells us that, in that crucifixion, God reconciled the world to God's love. Does that make any sense? It does to God. And Paul says that, when we open our minds to God's wisdom, it begins to make sense to us too. To those who are busy dying, like Mr. Hitchens, it is foolishness. But to those of us who are being saved by God's grace, it is the power of God.

In this Holy week, we will replay the events of long ago. We will feel the shadows lengthen on Thursday night. We will feel the terror of Friday's darkness. We will watch through an empty tomb on Saturday. And we will rejoice in an empty tomb on Sunday. Through it all, we will learn once again the wisdom of God. The cross IS the power of God. The wisdom of God has the final word on death, and we live in the eternal season of Easter. Don't be fooled by what humans call wisdom. Trust God's wisdom. He died for us. He is risen. That is God's wisdom.

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 Sandy Finlayson  
 Barbara Gill  
 Nancy Gockley  
 Barbara Kephart  
 Denice Monaco  
 Sue Nobleman  
 Prudy Sweeney  
 Anne Thomas  
 Eileen Urban

**GREETERS NEEDED**

To volunteer, please use  
 the sign-up sheet in  
 Fellowship Hall  
 or  
 contact:

**Janet Bruns**  
 973-267-5023

**USHERS NEEDED**

To volunteer,  
 please contact the  
 Session Member  
 of the month.

April:  
**Anne LaPré**  
 973-543-0442

**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS**

Volunteer to be a Coffee Hour host.  
 Bring your favorite snacks and help make  
 this time of fellowship a pleasant one for all.

A Deacon will be available  
 to help you on Sunday morning.

Contact the Deacon of the Month:

May:  
**Denice Monaco**  
 973-822-2276

**A note from Janet Bruns about being a Greeter:**

*We always need greeters. All you have to do is arrive 20 minutes early, wear your name tag, and put a smile on your face. You will meet new people, as well as make your friends feel special with a handshake and greeting.*

*~ Janet*



## MARCH SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



The following are highlights from the March 20, 2012 Session Meeting.

The meeting began with Reverend Sweeney leading devotions. He read from a book called *Run with the Horses* by Eugene Peterson.

### **Committee Highlights:**

**Adult Education:** There are several exciting programs coming up, including a visit from Bishop McBride from the Mormon Church on April 1, a Harvard Justice Series on Moral Murder on April 22, and June Tamburro's presentation on Women in Judah's Lineage on April 29.

**Finance:** Investments are up due to solid performance in the stock market.

**Administrative Review:** The annual audit was completed in February. Ushers will no longer be required to initial the collection sheet for plate offerings.

**Youth Education:** The Youth Education Sunday (YES) program is in full swing with lots of fun activities planned for our youth! A brain-storming session will be coming up for the High-Schoolers.

**Congregational Life:** The Committee is planning a lovely celebration on April 15 for Bob and Maggie Gray to thank them for their years of dedication and the incredible contribution they have made to our church community.

**Worship & Music/Personnel:** Amanda Sukumoto is the front runner for the job as the new organist. Details will follow shortly.

**Buildings & Grounds:** Bret Fischer is still looking for willing and able committee members to assist him in keeping our church and surrounding properties in good working order.

**Membership:** A new Covenant of Membership sign will be displayed in the narthex. The next New Members Class is scheduled for April 29.

**Mission & Outreach:** The Committee is looking for suggestions for charitable organizations needing our support.

**Communion will be served on Thursday, April 5, 2012. The next Session meeting will be on Tuesday, April 17, 2012.**

Pastor Rick adjourned the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Coyle, Clerk of Session



## Out of the Deep



I recently heard from a friend of mine named Kelley who told me of a whale watch trip she took during a recent trip to Hawaii. If you've never been on a successful whale watch, it's something you need to do. If you have experienced the sighting of whales, then you know the unique feeling you get when you encounter these behemoths of our oceans.

Whales are wild. They're not trained. Sometimes they show up, and sometimes they don't, but they're always out there below the surface of the waves. On an average whale watch excursion, I would guess that people get to see a handful of these magnificent creatures, and some companies even guarantee sightings. Kelley was extremely fortunate on her trip. It ends up she went out with a non-profit research/preservation group, rather than a commercial company, and estimates their group must have seen 80-100 whales! In addition, her group saw at least ten, full, out-of-the-water breaches! Even the crew exclaimed that, on a scale of 1 to 10, this particular trip was a 27!

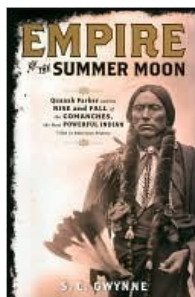
The crew members were actually scrambling for *their* cameras when this enormous Humpback whale started "playing" with Kelley's boat! Understand, the law requires that boats stay at least one hundred yards away from any whales. Problem is, no one told this whale! In cases where these gentle giants wander in nearby a boat, the crew is required to shut down the engines and wait for the whale to move on and away from the boat. On Kelley's trip, a huge (and she emphasizes HUGE) fellow surfaced about two feet from the side of the boat during the return trip. It then proceeded to go under the boat and come up on the other side and continue doing so, back-and-forth and back-and-forth, pleasantly holding the watchers "hostage" for at least an extra half hour with an absolutely amazing display!

Needless to say, Kelley arrived back in port a changed woman. There's something deep inside all of us that is touched when we experience communion with another creature, especially one that is so vast and unfamiliar. It affects the way we view our place in this world and our scope of the complexity of the world around us.

Do you know where I'm going with this? Sometimes we encounter God in a similar manner. We can hear of this immeasurable, indescribable, creator of the universe and be told he exists and loves us beyond what we could ever imagine. That's one way to know God. But...when he interjects himself into our lives in a visible manner, it floors us. We are awestruck, absolutely amazed, that such a vast God could actually have a personal interest in us. There are God-moments that occur in our own lives when we can truly sense God at work, right beside us. These moments, these experiences, are indescribable and fill us with a sensation of wonder.

# FPCNV Book Club

## April Book Selection and Schedule



***The Empire of the Summer Moon* by S.C. Gwynne**

### Synopsis

In the tradition of *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*, a stunningly vivid historical account of the 40-year battle between Comanche Indians and white settlers for control of the American

West, centering on Quanah, the greatest Comanche chief of them all.

S. C. Gwynne's *Empire of the Summer Moon* spans two astonishing stories. The first traces the rise and fall of the Comanches, the most powerful Indian tribe in American history. The second entails one of the most remarkable narratives ever to come out of the Old West: the epic saga of the pioneer woman Cynthia Ann Parker and her mixed-blood son Quanah, who became the last and greatest chief of the Comanches.

### Meeting Dates and Book Selections

Where: Library

When: 7:30 pm

<b>Apr 10</b>	<i>The Empire of the Summer Moon</i> by S.C. Gwynne
<b>May 8</b>	<i>The Art of Racing in the Rain</i> ~Garth Stein
<b>Jun 12</b>	<i>A Perfect Spy</i> by John LeCarré

**New members are welcome.**

S. C. Gwynne's account of these stories is meticulously researched, intellectually provocative, and, above all, thrillingly told.

~ Good Reads.com

## 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. NVPNS is a non-denominational, educational program that offers a warm and nurturing environment to help your child prepare for kindergarten. All classes start at 9:00 am and are 2½, 3½, or 4 hours in duration. Busy parents are supported through optional early morning drop-off, Stay 'n Play until 3pm, summer camp, and enrichment programs. Most importantly, both children and parents have fun!

Established in 1986, NVPNS is located in Fellowship Hall. Please call Director Laurie Ptalis at 973-326-9839 for a tour and visit their website at [www.nvpns.org](http://www.nvpns.org).

They look forward to hearing from you!



## Adult Ed ~ Coming Events

### THE MORALITY OF MURDER APRIL 22

The program centers on a video of a Harvard lecture by Michael Sandal, who tells several stories to get his listeners thinking about how we decide issues of right and wrong. We will follow the video with some discussion of our own views. This is sure to be an interesting hour. It will make you think about how we arrive at our ethical decisions. Join us in the library after coffee.

### OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN KENYA May 6

The Presbytery of Newton has a longstanding partnership with the Presbytery of Nairobi, Kenya. We will be hosting several guests from that Presbytery the first week of May. They will be with us for an Adult Education time on May 6<sup>th</sup> in the library after worship to talk about their churches in Africa and the needs of the people there. They will also be available to answer questions we may have. Please plan to be there for this offering from the Adult Education Committee.

### TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME! June 3

No, you won't need your glove or your bat, but please bring a spirit of fun as we play a Bible trivia game called "Bible Baseball." Everyone at the Coffee Hour will be on one of two teams. You may be called on to "bat up." You can choose a single for an easy question (What was Adam's wife's name?) or go for more difficult questions with a double, triple, or home run! (The home run question might be, "How will you know Adam in heaven?" Answer: "He will be the one without a belly button.") Fellowship hall will be decked out in baseball décor. This should be a lot of fun. Don't worry if you don't know a lot of Bible trivia. Although steroids will not be tolerated, a little cheating will be.



## Soles 4 Souls For Kentucky

Please help our youth group collect shoes for Lotts Creek, Kentucky by dropping off your new or gently-used, clean shoes in the collection boxes on the Fellowship Hall stage any time from April 15-May 13.

Pairs of shoes must be fastened together with rubber bands.

Thank you!



## Congregational Life News

*From The Congregational Life Committee:*

### Old-Fashioned Church Picnic Sunday, June 10~Save the Date!

On what we hope will be a sunny Sunday afternoon in June, we will again hold the Annual PCNV Old-Fashioned Church Picnic. More information will be available in the next edition of the *Pipe Organ*.



The picnic is a perfect opportunity for the congregation to enjoy fun and fellowship at the end of the school year and kick off the summer!



The Membership Committee has created a new poster to hang in Fellowship Hall (see below). It reminds us of the relationship between us as individual members and the church as an institution. We are each responsible for ourselves and for the church. Everyone should practice these commitments to ensure that our church remains a vibrant place in which to worship. Take a look...



## 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.

# Maundy Thursday Service

## Journey to the Cross

Thursday, April 5 ~ 7:30 pm

Please join us for this special service to  
bear witness to the lengthening of shadows.



### Easter Decorations

*If you would like to make a donation in memory of or in honor of a loved one, please complete this form and send in your donation by April 2nd.*

*Please select your preference:*

☐ In memory of      ☐ In honor of

Dedication From:

---

---

Dedicated to:

---

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# Easter Sunday Schedule



## Sunrise Service

Bayne Park

6:30 am

*But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb...*

*Luke 24:1-2a*

Start your Easter with this Sunrise Celebration of our Risen Lord.

## Worship Services

9:00 am & 11:15 am

There will again be two Worship Services on Easter Morning.



## Easter Morning Breakfast

Hosted by the Deacons

Fellowship Hall

10:00-11:00 am

Join us for ham, egg casserole, sausage, bagels, muffins, fruit salad, cold cereal and milk, coffee, tea, and fellowship.

## Children's Egg Hunt

Fellowship Hall

10:00 am

In our traditional Egg Hunt, bright eggs will be hidden throughout the grounds for your children to find. The egg is a symbol of the rebirth of the earth in celebrations of spring and was adopted by early Christians as a symbol of the resurrection of Jesus.

*Children, bring a basket or bag to collect your eggs in.*



## Women's Bible Study

New Study ~ Book of Genesis

Beginning on April 16, 2012

Beginners and seasoned Bible students are all welcome to join the woman's group as we begin a new study on the Book of Genesis. You won't want to miss this opportunity to explore a foundational book of the Hebrew Scriptures and the "cast of characters" used to work God's purpose from the Creation to the Exodus stories.

New class will begin on Monday, April 16, 9:30-11:00 am. Please contact June



## Share the Bounty Benefit

Please support the Community Soup Kitchen and Outreach Center's **Share the Bounty** benefit to be held on Thursday, April 19th at The Madison Hotel from 6 to 9 pm. This year, the Soup Kitchen will be celebrating 10,000 consecutive days of serving and never missing a day. To reserve your spot, please visit [www.cskmorristown.org](http://www.cskmorristown.org) or call the office at 973-267-0709.

In 2011, the Soup Kitchen had an extremely busy year: over 54,000 meals were served, over 50 tons of food were distributed, and over 2,500 social and medical service referrals were made through the Outreach Center.

Items are needed for the silent auction, all types of items, gift cards, or certificates for services are welcome. By contributing to the silent auction, you will be helping the Soup Kitchen raise funds to ensure that doors remain open 365 days a year. Thank you for your support!

You may contact Marla Drury at

[marla@cskmorristown.org](mailto:marla@cskmorristown.org)

or

973-267-0709

for more information.



# Maggie & Bob Gray's Farewell Luncheon

## Sunday, April 15th

during Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall

Maggie and Bob Gray are so much a part of our lives at FPCNV and so dearly beloved that their departure to live closer to their daughters and their families in San Francisco is bittersweet. We share their joy and excitement at their upcoming relocation, and wish to pay them tribute and send them off with our best wishes on Sunday, April 15.



We will enjoy Maggie's artistry at the organ during worship (where she will be joined by many of the guest musicians who have played with her over the last 40 plus years) and then celebrate with a luncheon following the 10 o'clock service. Please save the date and plan to join us in sending Maggie and Bob off with our thanks for all that each of them has contributed to FPCNV.

## Jesus' Female Ancestors

### Harlots or Heroines?

#### Sunday, April 29 ~ 11:15 am in the Library

Come to the Adult Education hour on Sunday, April 29 to learn about the five women named in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus:

Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary.

Hear how their stories have been colored or erased by Church tradition, and consider how their ancestral roots may have influenced the ministry of Jesus. What might their stories mean for us today?

June Tamburro, the Women's Bible Study group leader, will be our facilitator for the morning.

# Min Kwon and International Rising Stars Recital



**Saturday, April 28 ~ 4:00 pm**

**Fellowship Hall**

Church Member Min

Kwon, a world renowned concert pianist and Steinway artist, will be performing with her Rutgers Doctoral students in a recital in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, April 28 at 4:00 pm. All of Min's students are well established in professional careers and have won international prizes for their artistry.

Various countries and backgrounds will be represented in the recital. Min will introduce each student, and there will be a short Q & A to help the audience learn about the artists.

A collection of solos and duets will be performed; Min will also be playing. Following the performance, there will be a meet-and-greet with the artists.

Min will happily sign copies of her CDs and there will be CDs available for purchase.



## Adult Education An Ecumenical Program on Mormonism

**Sunday, April 1**

**DURING COFFEE HOUR**

**Fellowship Hall**

Bishop McBride will be our guest following worship on Sunday, April 1. He will give a general presentation on Mormonism followed by a Q&A session.

Bishop McBride is the leader of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ward (congregation) in Morristown, which is located on James Street. We look forward to learning more about Mormonism: how it is similar to and different from Presbyterianism.

We are pleased that Bishop McBride is able to join us.

## New Member Classes

**April 29 & May 6  
8:45 am**

New member classes will be held on Sunday, April 29 and Sunday, May 6 at 8:45 am, in the upstairs conference room.

If you would like to join our church, let us know by contacting Debbie in the Church Office:

973-538-8394  
or  
[office@pcnv.org](mailto:office@pcnv.org)

We would love to add you to the class.

**Friends of  
The Kemmerer Library  
will Host**

## *A Celebration*

**Honoring Michael FitzPatrick,  
Ginny Moriarty, and Kim Zsitvay**

**Friday, May 18  
7-10 pm**

**Basking Ridge Country Club**

### **Next Movie Selection:**

## **The Last Temptation Of Christ**

**Wednesday, April 25 ~ 7 pm at the Chaney's'**

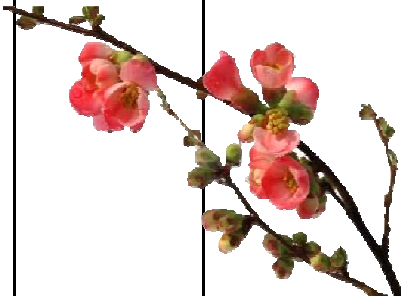
**1988 R 164 minutes**

Nikos Kazantzakis's landmark novel comes to life in director Martin Scorsese's moving, spiritual and highly controversial film that challenges the Christian notion that Jesus (Willem Dafoe) was both a man and a divine being.

The all-star cast includes Harvey Keitel, Barbara Hershey, Harry Dean Stanton and David Bowie, and portrays Jesus as unmistakably human, susceptible to the desires, doubts and temptations that all men face.



# April 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 <b>Women's Bible Study</b> 9:30-11 am	3	4 <b>Cookie Baking</b> (Cookie Ministry Team) 6:00-8 pm	5 <b>Bible Study</b> 9-10 am  <b>Maundy Thur. Service</b> 7:30 pm  Communion	6 <b>Church Office CLOSED</b> Good Friday  AA Meeting noon	7
8 <b>Easter Sunday</b> 6:30 am Sunrise Svc 9 am Worship Svc. 10 am Egg Hunt 10-11 am Breakfast 11:15 am Worship	9 <b>No Bible Study</b>  <b>Deacons</b> 7:30 pm	10  <b>Book Club</b> 7:30 p Library	11	12 <b>No Bible Study</b>   <b>Choir</b> 7:30 pm	13   AA Meeting noon	14
15 <b>Gray Luncheon</b> Fellowship Hall Coffee Hour	16 <b>Women's Bible Study</b> 9:30-11 am  <b>Finance Committee Meeting</b> 7 pm	17  <b>Session Mtg.</b> 7 pm	18 <b>Youth Group</b> Dinner, Movie & Popcorn 6:00-8:00 pm	19 <b>Bible Study</b> 9-10 am   <b>Choir</b> 7:30 pm	20   AA Meeting noon	21   Basking Ridge Presbyterian Elders Retreat All day
22 <b>Confirmation Class</b> <b>Visit to CTK</b> <b>10:30-11:30 am</b>  <b>Justice Series</b> <b>Library</b> <b>Coffee Hour</b>  <b>YES: Bowling in Madison</b> 12-2 pm	23 <b>Women's Bible Study</b> 9:30-11 am	24	25	26 <b>Bible Study</b> 9-10 am   <b>Choir</b> 7:30 pm	27   AA Meeting noon	28   Min Know and International Rising Stars Recital  Fellowship Hall 4:00 pm
29 <b>New Member Class</b> 8:45 am  <b>Confirmation Class</b> 8:45-9:30 am  Jesus' Female Ancestors 0 June Tamburra 11:15 am	30 <b>Women's Bible Study</b> 9:30-11 am					

# April Worship at FPCNV, 2012

## Sunday, April 1

Palm Sunday

Preacher: Dr. Sweeney

Liturgist: Noah French

Sermon: *"The Hour Has Come"*

Text:

*Isaiah 50:4-9a*

*Mark 14:26-42*

## Thursday, April 5

Maundy Thursday

7:30 pm

Communion by Intinction

Preacher: Dr. Sweeney

Tenebrae Service

## Sunday, April 8

Easter Sunday

Preacher: Dr. Sweeney

Liturgist: 9:00 am—Bob Hicks

Liturgist: 11:15 am—Bob Hicks

Sermon: *The Main Event*

Text:

*Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24*

*John 20:1-10*

## Sunday, April 15

Second Sunday of Easter

Preacher: Dr. Sweeney

Liturgist: Bob Hicks

Sermon: *In a Little While*

Text:

*John 20:19-31*

*John 16:16-24*

## Sunday, April 22

Third Sunday of Easter

Preacher: Richard Cox

Liturgist: Linda Cox

Sermon: TBA

## Sunday, April 29

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Preacher: Dr. Sweeney

Liturgist: TBA

Sermon: *Comfort Food for the Soul*

Text:

*John 10:11-18*

*Psalms 23*

## The Pipe Organ

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



## APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

**April 5 ~ 7:30 pm**

**Maundy Thursday Service**

**April 8 - Easter Services**

Sunrise Service: 6:30 am at Bayne Park

Worship Services: 9 am & 11:15 am

Children's Easter Egg Hunt 10 am

Easter Breakfast 10 am

**Sunday, April 15**

Maggie & Bob Grays Farewell Party

**Sunday, April 22**

Justice Series-The Morality of Murder

**Saturday, April 28 at 4 pm**

Min Kwon & International Rising Stars Recital

**Sunday, April 29 at Coffee Hour**

Jesus' Female Ancestors

## E-mail Addresses

The Church Office is still collecting and correcting members' e-mail addresses. If you would like to be included in various e-mail mailings, please e-mail [office@pcnv.org](mailto:office@pcnv.org) or call 973-538-8394.

# CHURCH OFFICE

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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