

# Chapel Chimes

The newsletter of New Hope Christian Church, 57 Main Street, Monsey, New York

April 2013

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## Pastor's Letter

*Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." (John 3:1-8)*

**H**ave you been born again? You say you've been baptized? That's good. You're a member of the church? Excellent! You believe in Jesus, go to church regularly, tithe, read the Bible, pray, and work at a soup kitchen on Thanksgiving? All well and good.

But have you been born again?

"Born Again Christian" has sometimes been used as a way to put down evangelicals, making us out to be "holy rollers," or what used to be called "enthusiasts," Christians who are too excitable, too emotional, unbalanced, probably not very smart. That's how many people think of born again Christians, including many pastors and members of mainline and non-evangelical denominations and churches.



Jesus makes it very clear, however, that unless you have been born again, you cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus asks him the very sensible question, how can you possibly be born again?

The answer to that question is simple: you can't—except by a supernatural spiritual miracle from God. You can't go back into your mother's womb a second time and be born once more as an act of will. A dead person also can't come back to life as an act of will. But Jesus can call the spiritually dead person back to life, and that awakening

or regeneration ("new birth") is what takes place when you are born again.

Of course, when you are born again, you are not aware that this is happening. Some people will have an "ah ha!" moment of conversion when they are born again that they will always remember. But not everyone will have an experience like that, at least not one they can pinpoint. Nevertheless, everyone who has been born again will have a telltale mark that can never be erased:

*A sense of sin and unworthiness that leads us to cling in loving gratitude to Jesus Christ as the only one who has secured our pardon and accomplished all that is necessary for our salvation.*

Do you have it? It's called saving faith. If you do have it, you can thank God for it, because it's a gift from him to you. It is that supernatural spiritual miracle I mentioned before. God gave you a gift by sending his Son to die for your sins. Since Christ had already died for you, he applied that gift to you by calling you back to life, so that you will live forever. The first inward sign of the new birth to the person who has been born again is saving faith, which always accompanies the spiritual new birth itself.

—Phillip Dennis

## Drought in Kenya

At our March 3 service, the Deacons' Fund was designated to go to our sister church, Joy Reformed Presbyterian Church in Nakuru, Kenya, an area that has been afflicted by drought. **You contributed a total of \$329**, which was sent by Western Union to the Rev.

Benson Akello in the form of almost **27,000 Kenyan Shillings**. Pastor Akello received the money and sent us a word of thanks: "We did get the money and it is very helpful for feeding. Please kindly give our love and thanks to the congregation of your church!"

## All-Church Road Trip

*Destination: Lancaster County Sight & Sound Theatre*  
August 9-10, 2013 (Friday-Saturday)

### Psalm 19:1-6

Beginning April 14, our new opening Psalm from the Trinity Psalter will be Psalm 19:1-6, about how God's glory is revealed in his created world. You can find a link to the tune in the blog on our website to learn in advance. Read the lyrics, understand them, compare them to Psalm 19 in your Bible, and come lift your voice to the High King of Heaven.

The spacious heav'ns declare  
The glory of our God;  
The firmament displays  
His handiwork abroad;  
Day unto day doth utter speech,  
And night to night doth knowledge teach.  
Aloud they do not speak;  
They utter forth no word,  
Nor into language break;  
Their voice is never heard;  
Yet through the world their line extends,  
Their words to earth's remotest ends.  
In heav'n He set a tent  
A dwelling for the sun,  
Which as a mighty man  
Delights his course to run.  
He, bridegroomlike in his array,  
Comes from his chamber, bringing day.  
His daily going forth  
Is from the end of heav'n:  
The firmament to him  
Is for his circuit giv'n;  
And everywhere from end to end,  
His radiant heat he doth extend.

## Baby Bottle Boomerang



Every one of the baby bottles we distributed on January 20 to benefit Care Net Pregnancy Center of Rockland came back. **The total of your contributions came to \$485** that will help to care for mothers and their unborn and newborn children in our area. Thank you!

## Sunday School Resumes April 7

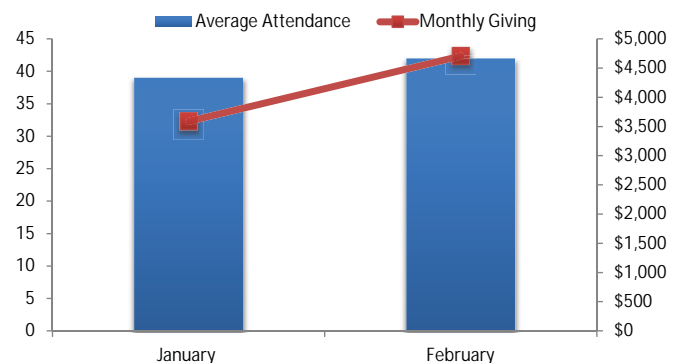
At **10 a.m. on Sunday, April 7**, adult Sunday school will resume. Child care will be available. The class will be an open-ended series of talks and discussions about the Bible and eventually a study of Romans. Tell the Pastor what questions or topics you want addressed.

Pastor urges everyone in the church to plan to make Sunday school at 10 a.m. part of their weekly routine.

## Statistics

February average attendance: **42**

February giving: **\$4,707 total, weekly average \$1,177**



# Street Fairs, Litter Pick-Up, and Work Day

The sun is out, the snow is melted, and our spring outreach calendar is full of activities.

Our first **Adopt-a-Highway litter pick-up** will be on Saturday, April 13. Arrive at the church by 9 a.m. and help us pick up litter up and down Main Street. For those who can stay until the end (around noon) we will provide lunch. The women's book study and Eileen Bakker's Classical Conversations meeting (see p. 4) will be taking place at the same time, and we would prefer for women to participate in those rather than the litter pick-up. (Women, if you want to stay after to help with the litter and eat lunch, you're welcome to!)



The morning shift starts at about 9 a.m. You just sit under our shaded canopy and people watch. Be friendly, smile, give away literature and freebies to people who stop by, and enjoy a pleasant day out in the community.



On April 27, our **spring work day** will start at 9 a.m. There are a number of easy tasks that need to be completed (sharpening pew pencils, for example) and some harder ones like helping to renovate the kitchen. We also need lots of help by people who like to garden to get our planters and beds cleaned up and planted for spring. Talk to Hank Bakker about the gardening.



Can you volunteer to help at the **Nyack Spring Street Fair**? It will be Sunday, April 14. Glen Mapes will take care of setting up and tearing down the booth, but we need a total of four volunteers to staff the booth during the day. Two will have to miss church in the morning, and two will relieve them for the afternoon shift.

Would you volunteer to staff our booth at the **Suffern Spring Street Fair**? That will be Sunday, April 28. Same thing applies to this as to the Nyack fair: we need two volunteers for the morning and two for the afternoon.

## Bairns and Bantlings

Bairn: noun \ˈbern\  
*Chiefly Scottish: child.*

Bantling: noun \ˈbant-liŋ\  
a very young child

**We have two exciting things to announce about Christian education for our bairns and bantlings:**

First, toddlers now have Nursery Church led by Miss Allison. Each week they get a little Bible story and do a related craft so they can start learning about God at this early age.

Second, both Nursery Church and Children's Church classes are now using the Show Me Jesus curriculum published by Great Commission Publications (GCP).

GCP's Christ-centered Show Me Jesus curriculum is doctrinally sound, spiritually nourishing, and equips children by rooting them firmly in God's word. The curriculum teaches the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation. All age levels include colorful visuals and take home activities for children to complete or review with their parents. Because of our small size, we are using the Preschool materials in our older Children's Church, but as we grow we will have separate Younger Elementary (grades 1-2), Middle Elementary (grades 3-4), and Older Elementary (grades 5-6), as well as Junior High classes.



*From Genesis...to Revelation.*

The spring quarter's theme for Nursery Church is "God's Love," focusing on Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, and our need to trust him. The quarterly theme for Children's Church is "Jesus is God," which is about encountering Jesus through his powerful signs and wonders.

On Facebook, search for Show Me Jesus Toddler and Show Me Jesus Preschool. Like these pages to get updates, interesting facts, inspirational Bible verses, and tips for parents and teachers.



# Women's Book Study

GLOW is sponsoring a monthly study for all women based on Stormie Omartian's book *The Power of a Praying Woman*. Women wanting a strong and fruitful prayer life will find the means to that end in this book written for the feminine heart. Stormie uses personal illustrations, Scriptures, and heartfelt prayers to help women develop a vision for their future, avoid a "pray-and-run" existence, and find wholeness and completeness in God's embrace.

The first meeting is **Saturday, April 13, at 9:30** in the church fellowship hall, and the second Saturday of every month thereafter. **Child care will be provided**

for this first meeting and possibly for future meetings if there is a need.

## Reading assignment for first meeting:

WEEK ONE: MARCH 25 - 29

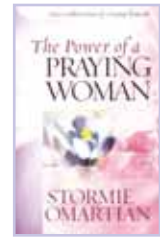
- The Power (introduction)
- Lord, Draw Me into a Closer Walk with You

WEEK TWO: APRIL 1 - APRIL 5

- Lord, Cleanse Me and Make My Heart Right Before You

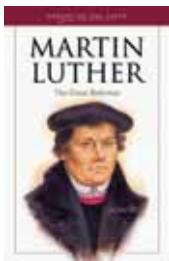
WEEK THREE: APRIL 8 - APRIL 12

- Lord, Help Me to Be a Forgiving Person



# Librarian's Recommendations

**Tony Veno, our church librarian, has three recommendations for you this month:**



**Martin Luther: The Great Reformer** by Dan Harmon.

Part of the Heroes of the Faith series of biographies for children in grades

7-9, this book also makes light and informative reading for adults who want to learn more about the Reformation of the 16th century.

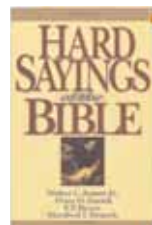


**The Complete C. S. Lewis Signature Classics** by C. S. Lewis

This hardback collection of some of the 20th cen-

tury evangelical writer's most important works including *Mere Christianity* and *The Screwtape Letters*, two real eye-openers that every Christian should read. The other titles included are *Miracles*, *The Great Divorce*, *The Problem of*

*Pain*, *A Grief Observed*, and *The Abolition of Man*.



**Hard Sayings of the Bible**, edited by Walter Kaiser, Peter Davids, and F. F. Bruce

What does Paul mean when he says

that women will be saved through childbearing (1 Tim. 2:13-15)?

When Jesus says in John 5:28-29 that those who have "done good" will experience the resurrection of life, is he teaching salvation by

works? What is the meaning of Jesus' parables, many of which can be very confusing for modern readers? You'll find answers to these and lots of other questions about hard sayings of the Bible in this handy reference.

*As always, if you want to borrow these books, or any other materials including our growing collection of DVDs, just see Tony. He and Pastor Phillip can also make recommendations if you want to learn about something in particular.*

*Are you curious about homeschooling your children with the help of a Classical Christian community?*

## You are invited to our Classical Conversations Informational Meeting

Saturday, April 13 from 10 to noon in the church sanctuary  
See Eileen Bakker for more information. Childcare will be provided.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 11a Summit Park Hospital Chapel	3 7:30p Prayer Meeting	4	5	6
7 10a Sunday School 11a Worship (Communion and Deacon's Fund) 12:30a GLOW 3:15p Northern Metropolitan Chapel †† Mrs. Dennis ☉ Bakker	8	9	10 7:30p Prayer Meeting ☪ Christina Anane	11	12	13 9a Litter pick-up 9:30a Women's Book Group 10a Classical Conversations info meeting
14 <b>Nyack Street Fair</b> 10a Sunday School 11a Worship 2p Ramapo Manor Chapel †† Mr. Mapes ☉ Delmar & Ortiz	15	16 7:30p Session	17 7:30p Prayer Meeting	18	19	20 8:30a Men's Breakfast
21 10a Sunday School 11a Worship †† Miss Mapes ☉ Voss & Polloni	22	23	24 7:30p Prayer Meeting	25	26	27 9a Church Workday
28 <b>Suffern Street Fair</b> 10a Sunday School 11a Worship †† Mr. Rosales ☉ Kranites	29	30				

☉ Refreshments during coffee hour

†† Children's Church

☪ Birthday

**O send out thy light and thy truth; let them lead me.**

Family				Secret				
Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter	Date	Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter
Leviticus	4	Psalms	1, 2	1	Proverbs	19	Colossians	2
Leviticus	5	Psalms	3, 4	2	Proverbs	20	Colossians	3
Leviticus	6	Psalms	5, 6	3	Proverbs	21	Colossians	4
Leviticus	7	Psalms	7, 8	4	Proverbs	22	1 Thessalonians	1
Leviticus	8	Psalms	9	5	Proverbs	23	1 Thessalonians	2
Leviticus	9	Psalms	10	6	Proverbs	24	1 Thessalonians	3
Leviticus	10	Psalms	11, 12	7	Proverbs	25	1 Thessalonians	4
Leviticus	11, 12	Psalms	13, 14	8	Proverbs	26	1 Thessalonians	5
Leviticus	13	Psalms	15, 16	9	Proverbs	27	2 Thessalonians	1
Leviticus	14	Psalms	17	10	Proverbs	28	2 Thessalonians	2
Leviticus	15	Psalms	18	11	Proverbs	29	2 Thessalonians	3
Leviticus	16	Psalms	19	12	Proverbs	30	1 Timothy	1
Leviticus	17	Psalms	20, 21	13	Proverbs	31	1 Timothy	2
Leviticus	18	Psalms	22	14	Ecclesiastes	1	1 Timothy	3
Leviticus	19	Psalms	23, 24	15	Ecclesiastes	2	1 Timothy	4
Leviticus	20	Psalms	25	16	Ecclesiastes	3	1 Timothy	5
Leviticus	21	Psalms	26, 27	17	Ecclesiastes	4	1 Timothy	6
Leviticus	22	Psalms	28, 29	18	Ecclesiastes	5	2 Timothy	1
Leviticus	23	Psalms	30	19	Ecclesiastes	6	2 Timothy	2
Leviticus	24	Psalms	31	20	Ecclesiastes	7	2 Timothy	3
Leviticus	25	Psalms	32	21	Ecclesiastes	8	2 Timothy	4
Leviticus	26	Psalms	33	22	Ecclesiastes	9	Titus	1
Leviticus	27	Psalms	34	23	Ecclesiastes	10	Titus	2
Numbers	1	Psalms	35	24	Ecclesiastes	11	Titus	3
Numbers	2	Psalms	36	25	Ecclesiastes	12	Philemon	1
Numbers	3	Psalms	37	26	Song	1	Hebrews	1
Numbers	4	Psalms	38	27	Song	2	Hebrews	2
Numbers	5	Psalms	39	28	Song	3	Hebrews	3
Numbers	6	Psalms	40, 41	29	Song	4	Hebrews	4
Numbers	7	Psalms	42, 43	30	Song	5	Hebrews	5