

THE KERK

St. John's Reformed Church, 126 Old Post Road North, Upper Red Hook, New York 12571

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July/August 2011

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From the Interim Minister's Desk

A Step in Faith: that's what the Consistory decided to do. They wanted to step forward into a brighter future, rather than "pull back". The question: should the Search Committee proceed forward in seeking a full time pastor, when we are projecting about a \$15,000 to \$20,000 short fall of the budget that includes a full time pastor? (Note: We are not that far behind in actual income over expenses in our present year with a part time interim pastor.) Consistory said, we have confidence in the people of St. John's and we should move forward in faith. With your help, God will provide a way. In order to "grasp" the future, we need a full time enthusiastic pastor to lead in our Church and community. We, the Consistory, believe we have your support to move forward. Because we love Christ and St. John's Church, we believe the only way is forward. Will we have to find a way to examine our own level of commitment? The answer is yes; but remember the joy of "Miracle Season". Also, think of the joy of a new pastor and family living in the renovated parsonage. Think of the excitement of a "new beginning" in the next chapter in the history and ministry of St. John's. We are trusting you for your support as we move into the future. Pray for our Search Committee.

Now some summer notes:

Worship is at 9:30 a.m. one service. In this service, expect a contemporary choral group. Expect some wonderful special music of soloists and instrumentalists. Expect some visitations from our college youth. If you're not away on vacation, see you in Church. I'm counting on you. Remember to support your Church even when you are away.

In the fall, the Sunday after Labor Day will be extra special. We are working on it and it is ending with an ice cream social out on the lawn. There may even be balloons. Sunday School begins, so plan on a new school beginning for your children. However, the ice cream is for all ages – "A sweet kick-off for our fall season".

We are stepping out in faith so stay in touch, God loves you and we all are here for you.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Dave

CONSISTORY NEWS

In the June meeting of Consistory we discussed nine points that Pastor Dave felt we affirmed during our retreat on June 11. They are:

1. We are and desire to be a program church.
2. A program church supports their ministries with full or part-time staff positions.
3. Our focus for growth is to serve the needs of young families. Our focus is for all.
4. The servant leadership style for pastor and staff best serves our church.
5. Pastoral care is diversified. Pastor for crisis care, while church ministries and groups nurture the congregation.
6. Consistory is the final authority in the church. Staff and committees serve to implement the vision and ministry approved by the Consistory.
7. Worship is the single most important gathering of the congregation. Focus and creative energy are necessary and essential.
8. We are a Christ centered church within the Reformed tradition.
9. Membership is by affirming faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and a willingness to work in harmony, not conformity with the fellowship of the church, making use of one's talents and abilities for the furtherance of its ministries.

The Search Committee is receiving minister's profiles which are confidential to the Search Committee and for their use only. Pastoral candidates use our Church profile to determine their interest in serving here, and this profile is available in the Church office during office hours to anyone who would like to read it on the Church premises and returning it to the office. It contains information that is pertinent only to our congregation.

Future projects proposed by members of the congregation were discussed. Another mission trip to Shadow of His Wings Orphanage is being planned for the summer of 2012. The maximum number of participants is 24. Several adults and youth are planning to attend and more participants are welcome, please speak to James Walrath if you are interested.

The Consistory would like to thank Barbara Coe and Jackie Fenaroli for their leadership of the Brain Games group since this program has finished. Senior exercise is continuing.

There is some interest in a new member's class this fall, please contact the Church office if you are interested.

We will be continuing our brief second Sunday meeting at 10:30 a.m. and encourage you to let Pastor Dave know if you have a subject of interest to bring up. This is an exciting time in our church because there are so many ways to serve. Feel free to contact a member of the Consistory.

Cary Robinson
Clerk of Consistory

CONSISTORY RETREAT

On Saturday morning, June 11, the Consistory and Pastoral Staff met in retreat at Rhinebeck Reformed Church for a prayerful, joyful, thoughtful time together to discuss where we are and where we are going in the life of St John's Reformed Church. Reverend Luis Perez extended a very warm welcome and opened our meeting with prayer. Pastor Dave Hondorp and Desiree Albizu led our discussions.

We affirmed that we feel St. John's has a mission to operate at the Program Church level, but then performed an exercise that

showed that it is difficult to choose what you expect from your Pastor in terms of pastoral or program leadership; what your brain says may be different than what your heart says. To give you a quick definition of what I mean, a Pastoral Church is one in which the minister can attend all the fellowship events, visit all the members who are in need, and lead the Bible studies as well. The difficulty comes when so many people are drawn to the ministries of the church that it is just not possible for one person to be in charge of everything. We at St. John's have been blessed with that situation for many years now and the purpose of our retreat was to explore the many ways this impacts life at St. John's.

The first area we discussed was Pastoral care. As in any family we all need to care for each other. For instance, Pastoral care needs a team to actively visit in times of need, and the program groups of the church need to focus as a caring group for the individuals in the group. There are times when the comfort of the Pastor is needed for a member and the desire of the Pastor as a shepherd leads him/her to Pastoral care, but the Pastor's direct involvement is a subjective matter that is determined by his judgment, because he/she cannot care for everyone in a large church. The Pastor is the director of the team effort. That we not only care for each other, but try to understand each other in differences of opinion and come to a point of grace in accepting our differences, and accept each other as brothers and sisters in Christ is important.

After a coffee break we formed three groups. The premise is that our future is not to maintain the status quo, but what idea would recapture our future. It was affirmed that a focus on programs and activities that would reach the needs of young families is important and it is also important to be aware of the needs of the entire congregation. The attitude that leaders project should portray excitement and an anticipation that something good is

happening. Ideas for implementing were, a "kick-off" party in September, small commitments from many people to bring us together, intentional contact of absentees to encourage them and welcome them back, developing a satellite service in the community, and invite people you know, talk us up.

How does all this relate to the Pastor we are calling? We are looking for a person who feels called to lead by developing and guiding other groups in the spiritual leadership of the church. A person who perhaps has children of his/her own and will relate well to younger families and youth. This Servant Leadership style focuses downward to empower leaders and encourage members, and keeping in mind that worshiping the Lord is our first priority.

As to the role of other leaders in the church, it is important to work together with the staff who invest more time, have more resources, and have a spiritual calling as well as professional training. In the Consistory ideas are important, but pushing your agenda and mistrusting others is not helpful. Leaders should take initiative to resolve tension or disagreement and support consensus because we can't always achieve unanimous agreement. Leaders would seek unity, respecting the needs of all groups. Let go of the past, and pray about the future.

The Consistory and Pastoral Staff are excited about the future of St. John's and look forward to hearing your ideas and questions as we move toward finding a new Pastor and growing together in faith.

Cary Robinson
Clerk of Consistory

**DESIREE'S DESK
THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF MINISTRY**

As most adults learn, troubles are not behind us once we reach 21 years and can make all our own decisions. Growing up is something we look forward to as children and teenagers, but our immaturity leads us to believe it will all be fun.

Being part of God's Kingdom doesn't insulate us from challenges either. We don't get "special treatment" as believers as was pointed out to me recently in my New Living Translation Daily Study Bible for Women. This was something we discussed in Communicants Class as well.

A year ago as a church we were in a low spot, but much has been done since then to re-direct our life as a congregation. We have been blessed with Pastor Dave and his faith-filled wife Marvelle with her lovely singing voice. We had a miraculous "Miracle Season" that helped us end a spiritually and financially poor year on a very positive note. Worship has been enhanced by all Pastor Dave's efforts to help us glorify God each Sunday morning. Missions continue. A group of 14 will depart in weeks for another Workcamp, eager to serve much like those who went to the Shadow of His Wings School back in January. We had 11 students go through a year of Communicants Class in the absence of a fulltime minister. We have ministered to each other through visitation, fellowship events and committee work. As of this writing, we are looking forward to celebrating with our high school graduates and a week later to witness the commissioning of the Shepherds. God is indeed good, and still very present with us at St. John's. He hasn't gone anywhere even if we have been physically or spiritually absent.

We have learned that we are not immune to troubles that other churches have. Many, if not most, churches are going through financial difficulties. We are not alone in that

respect, nor are we alone without God.

If you have been physically apart from the congregation, please accept this call to come back and worship with your brothers and sisters in Christ. If you have been spiritually apart, please speak to Pastor Dave, or a member of Consistory or the staff about your lingering concerns, and then give those cares over to God.

Desiree Albizu,
Associate in Ministry in
Christian Education

There are a few copies left of "At Home with the Word", the daily Lectionary Bible readings in the little pink booklets. They may be found in the racket containing the greeting cards on the table in the fellowship hall. It's never too late to start if you would like to begin reading along with the rest of us. It is only 3-5 minutes a day.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday, June 12 was Children's Day. The children participated in the 9:15 a.m. worship service, and very quietly sang a song they had learned. Their favorite part was making the animal noises. Third graders received Bibles and the Sunday School staff and education leaders were recognized. We also collected boxes of cereal for children in need in our community. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

If your child does not own a Bible and is in third grade or older, or was not present on Children's Day to receive one, please see Desiree Albizu to obtain a Bible for him or her.

The Children's Summer Program began June 19 and runs, starting in July, during the 9:30 a.m. worship service. Children are welcome to join in each Sunday. We need parents to take a turn leading this program so that the teachers get to worship as well

this summer. You can sign up on the sheet in the fellowship hall to volunteer for a Sunday. This program will run through Sunday, Sept. 4. Sunday School will resume again September 11.

The Sunday School sent \$250 to the Rural Migrant Ministry to help with their summer programs for children. The thank you from the RMM Board Secretary read, "Thank you so much! Your gift will help make this summer special for those who otherwise would have no opportunities for summer fun!!" The money sent came from our two bake sales this program year.

MISSION TRIP STUDENTS COLLECTING CANNED FOOD

The excitement is beginning to build for those students and adults who will head out on the Workcamp trip to Elizabethtown, PA on July 31.

This summer GROUP Cares (formerly Workcamps Foundation) is hoping to stock the food pantries in each city or town where the camps will be held. Our students will be collecting canned food in July to take with them when they depart. If you would like to make a donation, please leave your donations in the box in the fellowship hall. Thank you for support of this mission.

We have fourteen people going this summer. How amazing that these young people and their adult advisors are willing to serve the Lord, and the people of Elizabethtown by giving up a week of their summer. Those going are Roy Provencher, Susan Balogh, Terry Laibach, Olivia Bartles, Erin Hoagland, Christopher Knight, Ross Morrison, Patrick Robinson, Jennifer Piacente, Cara Search, Anthony Snyder, Gian Stagnaro, Tamara Wambach, and Michelle Zeliph.

Participants will prepare their minds and hearts for the week with devotions written

specifically for this Workcamp. This year's theme "Connect" is based on the scripture passage from John 15: 5, "Yes, I am the vine and you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing." Each daily devotion on the work sites and every evening's worship service will focus on part of this passage, and how participants connect with Jesus, their family members, their church community, their friends, and the world.

On Sunday, July 24 there will be a commissioning at the 9:30 a.m. worship service for those going on the mission trip. All participants are encouraged to attend.

Thank you to all who supported our fundraisers to make this trip possible. Know that you are part of making lives better for people in Elizabethtown, and that those who are going appreciate your support, encouragement, and prayers.

EMMAUS ROAD YOUTH MINISTRY

If you would like to work with the Middle School or Senior High youth group in the upcoming program year, please contact Associate Desiree Albizu, albizu@valstar.net or (518) 537-4221. Each group meets twice a month at church with another outing or event during the month.

THE BOOK LOVERS' CLUB

We will meet Wednesday, July 11 at 11 a.m. in room 3 of the education wing to discuss their last two books The Elephant Keeper and Stalina. All readers are welcome to join in the discussion.

Everyone in the church is welcome to join us in our summer read- Heaven is for Real: A Little Boy's Astounding Story of his Trip to Heaven and Back by Todd Burpo & Lynn Vincent. Look for dates this fall to discuss this book.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT ST. JOHN'S AGAIN THIS AUGUST

With high-energy music, games, and challenges, children will be introduced to parables and stories of the Bible the week of August 15-19 as we host Vacation Bible School at our Church. VBS's "Inside Out and Upside Down on Main Street: How

Jesus Makes a Difference Every Day" will run each day from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Children ages 4 years through sixth grade are encouraged to attend. Visitors to the community are always welcome, so bring those young children who might be staying with you that week.

If you have helped out in the past, we invite you to do so again this summer! If you have never helped out, give it a try! You will be surprised at how easy and how much fun it is to lead children to Jesus. The leaders' guides supply more activities than we could possibly use in five mornings. We need teachers for every grade level except second grade and 5th & 6th combined, music leaders, rec. leaders, and snack ladies or gents, so we are eagerly seeking more volunteers. If you can help in any way, please contact Desiree Albizu at (518) 537-4221 or albizu@valstar.net Youth seventh grade and older are greatly appreciated as helpers, and we can never have too many of them.

Bright lime green VBS registration sheets are available on the table in the fellowship hall or you can print one off the church website at www.stjohnsreformed.org. They can be turned in to Desiree Albizu's box in the education wing, e-mailed back to the Church, or brought already filled out on the first day of VBS.

If your children can not be there every day, they are welcome to attend as many days as possible. Transportation can be arranged if you have a conflict in getting them to or

from VBS. Just let us know, and we will work with you to make arrangements.

Hope to see you there!

CHURH PICNIC 34 ATTEND AT WILCOX PARK

Thirty-four people attended the Church Picnic on Sunday, June 12 at Wilcox Park. Although the weather was cloudy, it was very comfortable. The children spent time in the small creek running through the grounds catching minnows. Nancy Castillo was surprised when her sister Eileen Zeliph brought out a cake all lit up with candles for Nancy's upcoming birthday. Hop Michael and Pete Fenaroli grilled the prerequisite hot dogs and burgers. Thank you to those who brought dishes to share. The committee members brought a fine array of delicious desserts (think chocolate and gooey) along with the traditional watermelon. Thank you to the committee members who worked to make this picnic fun.

All were caught unaware that Dutchess County was now charging everyone an admission fee, whether or not they were county residents, along with the \$100 fee we pay to reserve the pavilion. Many thought the price was growing too expensive to gather there at Wilcox any longer, so plans are already in the works for a new setting in 2012.

If you would like to be placed on this committee that never meets except at the picnic, please contact Elder Vickie Young or Deacon Nancy Jordan.



WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE SEARCH COMMITTEE?

Although you may not have heard much from the Search Committee a lot has already been done. We have worked through numerous steps.

- The Reverend Classis of Mid-Hudson has appointed the Rev. David Brechter as our Supervising Minister for our Consistory and Search Committee.
- Pastor Dave has joined us as an interim minister.
- We have completed a self-study to discover the nature of the Church's current ministry and to begin planning for the future ministry. The entire congregation was involved in this through surveys.
- We have filled out a profile form for ministerial candidates to read about St. John's and the surrounding community.

Steps remaining in our search for the next Minister of Word and Sacrament at St. John's:

- Gather ministers' profiles (resumes) and prayerfully read through them.
- Extend invitations to ministers for interviews.
- Hear the candidate(s) preach at his/her church and/or in a neutral pulpit.
- Choose one candidate to recommend to Consistory.
- Have the candidate come to St. John's to preach and meet the congregation.
- The Congregation casts an advisory vote.
- The Consistory votes.
- The Candidate signs the call document.
- The Reverend Classis of Mid-Hudson approves the call.
- We welcome our new minister.
- The Reverend Classis of Mid-

Hudson installs the minister and we celebrate!

You may also visit the Reformed Church in America website, www.rca.org to learn more about the search process yourself; type "Pastoral Search Handbook" in the search box.

CAMP FOWLER JUNE NEWS

Greetings!

By the time you read this, some of our summer staff will already be at Fowler and we will begin our 58th summer camp season. Another season of singing, s'mores, work camps, worship, arts and archery. As I step into my 25th summer at Fowler, I remember how people say camp is a "bubble"; "it's not real life". That sounds silly to me. What could be more real than waking up to the birds, not cell phones? What could be more real than sitting together for meals or working together to climb mountains or paddle rivers? What could be more real than being face to face with real people "chatting," "updating your status," and "making friend requests?"

A week at Camp Fowler is about learning how to live a real life. I can't promise that any camper will be a better soccer player, score higher on an exam, or be turned 'from a child into a man' (or woman, I guess). Some camps will promise those things. I only promise you or your child a glimpse at a real life, the kind of life that Christ calls us to, filled with laughter, hope, joy, and, yes, some sorrow.

There's still some room in most weeks. I'm hoping that those empty bunks will have children sleeping in them soon. Thanks for giving us another chance to share this special place and time with all who come.

Walk in balance,
Kent Busman
Fowler Executive Director

Note: Along with the many campers that go to Camp Fowler in Speculator from St. John's, college student, Michelle Zeliph will be there as a camp staff member this summer. Jessica Albizu will also be there as a Cabin Counselor for Triple A, the teen week, and then at Camp Warwick as an assistant out-camp leader. Please keep them all in your prayers that they may enjoy the camping experience while spending time with other Christians, that they may be safe and healthy, and that they may come to grow closer to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

JULY MISSION OF THE MONTH THE PEOPLE'S PLACE

The People's Place is a food pantry and thrift shop in Kingston which we have been helping since 2001. It is the largest in the area, having served 5537 families with emergency food during 2010. People who qualify for food can receive 9 meals, 3 days supply, once per month.

The thrift shop and food pantry are open Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Clothing, household items, and some furniture are sold. The thrift shop is a vital service to the community because shirts, pants, or blouses can be purchased for \$2 each. This kind of bargain level pricing throughout the store is an important service to individuals and families in need. St. John's Reformed Church has been operating the thrift shop on the second Saturday of each month since October 2001 in an effort to increase income to "pay the rent".

This past year 452 families received Thanksgiving dinner baskets, 736 children received toys at Christmas, and emergency funds are provided for people throughout the year.

All this is accomplished by a team of 44 volunteers who provide the work force, and the director who is the only paid person. This volunteer commitment has

kept The People's Place running since the 1970's since the only funds received are from grants, donations, and income from the thrift shop.

Our commitment can help in two ways. Your service as a volunteer on the second Saturday of the month or one day per week Monday through Friday would be a wonderful help. Or, since you can appreciate that every not-for-profit organization is having financial difficulty, your donation can be a large help in purchasing the 108,000 pounds of food distributed each year.

Please consider helping The People's Place this month, many needy families will appreciate your support.

Cary Robinson
Mission and Outreach Committee

AUGUST MISSION OF THE MONTH SCHOOL SUPPLIES

The cost of school supplies for an elementary school student typically runs between \$20 and \$35. This can be a hardship, especially for families with multiple children in the elementary school. The Mission and Outreach Committee is requesting donations of school supplies to assist these families.

Please support this worthwhile cause by purchasing one or more of the items listed below, and dropping them off at the collection table in the dining hall, on or before **Sunday August 28**. Thank you.

Pencils #2 wooden, sharpened
Colored pencils
Erasermate pens
Red pens
Zipper case for pencils
Crayons, 24 count
Pink erasers (not art gum)
Yellow highlighter

Scissors
Glue sticks (not white glue)
Elmer's glue
Ruler, centimeter & inch
Scotch tape
Clipboard
Pocket folders with metal clips
1 ½ inch soft vinyl binder
1 inch hard binder
Dividers, 1 pkg 8 tab
Wide spaced notebook paper
Book covers
Assignment pads
Marbleized composition notebook
Small blanket
Smock (small) for art
Zip Lock bags, sandwich size
Book bag or backpack
Liquid soap
Tissues, large box



CONGRATULATIONS TO:

The members of the Confirmation Class who joined the Church on May 22; **Brian Moore, Ross Morrison, Summer Mosher, Miles Nicholas, tom Ranieri, Patrick Robinson, Hayley Scott, Cara Search, William VanKleeck and Brad Wolfe.**

Kerry Peterson the winner of the 2011 Rev. Roger and Mrs. Bernice Leonard Scholarship.

The Class of 2011 High School Graduates: **Olivia Bartles, Quinn Brooks, Steven Cox, Laura Hennessy, Tristan Jordan, Sabrina Lincoln, Sam Migliorelli, Michael Moore, Julianna Pearson, Kerry Peterson, Jennifer Piacente, Anthony Snyder, Alexander Wolfe and Michael Wyant.**

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LOAN CLOSET

If anyone has durable medical equipment that they are no longer in need of (other than walkers), please contact Beverly Kipp, 758-8545. The loan closet has had many requests for equipment and is running low.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Searles, Carrie

2013 Holly Stream Ct.
Brewster, NY 10509-2637

Piacente, Joseph

1624 Brookdale Rd.
Naperville, IL 60563-2127

PASTOR DAVE'S MESSAGES JULY AND AUGUST

July 3 – God's Sense of Humor

July 17 – The Lemonade Maker

July 24 – Bulrushes to Bushes

July 31 – The Case of the Blood on the
Door Posts

August 14 – Snake on a Stick

August 21 – A God of My Making

August 28 – Kadish-Barnia – A Time of
Decision

Croatia Update

Cherries, exams, defenses, graduation fill June

By Nancy Titus

June brought us a bumper crop of activity, with cherry picking, picnics, semester exams, student defenses, and a significant anniversary.

The weather has been unusually nice this, our fifth June in Osijek, with warm, dry days interspersed with cool days and even several loud, pelting thunderstorms. This combination has contributed to the extra long picking season for our backyard cherry tree.

Our days have been filled with the usual flurry of activity the end of the semester brings, from exams to defenses, and we also have had fun picnicking with both the seminary and local church communities.

But always in June, we feel especially blessed to have our cherry tree. All year round, it provides a fun place for our youngest daughter to climb or enjoy the swing attached to its branches. In summer, it gives shade. In the spring, it's beautiful blooms burst forth with a glorious reminder of God's faithfulness, usually timed just right, around Easter.

Then June comes along and it's tender, sweet variety of Rainier cherries ripen to a delicious red-yellow color. This year they have been especially good and plentiful.

This movement from bloom to fruit runs as the undercurrent to our days. They are always a reminder that the end of the semester is coming. Last year, Eric marked his dissertation progress by the maturation of the cherries, feeling the building pressure as they swelled, knowing his work had to be finished the first week in June.

One of the problems for us has always been that the fruit ripens during our busiest time, as we try to finish out the semester prior to graduation. Our landlord comes with family and friends and begins picking and urges us to do the same, but usually we cannot for at least a week after he starts and even then only intermittently. One year, I remember looking forward to the time when I could begin picking, and comforted my busy self with the promise that the afternoon after graduation I would start, only to find that a rainstorm the day before quickly sent our cherries from peak of ripeness to sodden rotteness overnight. That year, most of my

baking crop was from gleaning the good side of half-bad cherries.

This year, however, in addition to ideal weather conditions, a major factor extended our cherry harvest. The seminary schedule was changed so that graduation was set for the last Sunday in June about two weeks later than it has been in the past. This stretched some of the last-minute June activity across a longer time frame, making it more possible to spend little bits of time in the early morning or evening up in the tree.

I have frozen liters of cherries, all ready for future desserts. At this time of year, just about everything I cook centers around cherries so we have had cherry-vanilla-nut bread, cherry muffins, cherry limeades, cherry brownies, cherry-glazed ham, cherry ice cream, and of course, the main event, cherry crisp.

The cherry crisp is my usual dessert because it is easy to prepare and because my family likes it. It also crowns Samuel's list of our family's Croatian language bloopers.

Last year, I was trying to describe to a Croatian lady that I wanted her help me finish the crisp for a group of students who were on their way over. I had already mixed up the topping, and she was to pit the cherries. She doesn't speak English, so my directions were all in Croatian. After telling her about how much sugar to add, I wanted to tell her to add the *other* ingredients, meaning the topping I had already mixed. Unfortunately, I couldn't think of the Croatian word for *other*, and I substituted with the Spanish word, *otro*. Quickly I heard Samuel laughing out loud in the hallway, as he heard me say to add the *otrov*, which in Croatian means *poison*. Needless to say, my students loved this poison!

Eric and Nancy Titus are RCA missionaries in Osijek, Croatia, where they work at the Evangelical Theological Seminary and with the Reformed Christian Church in Croatia. They have three children: Samuel, 16, Valerie, 13, and Penny, 11.
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WOMEN WITH FAITH

Women with Faith will be taking a break for the summer. We will meet again in September to begin another program year of fun, fellowship and fundraising.

SCUDDER CIRCLE NEWS

On June 2nd, twenty ladies from St. John's met to have lunch on the porch at the Red Hook Golf Club Clubhouse. It was the end of our program year, and President Nancy Hetzler thanked all the people who had contributed to the success of our projects this year. It was noted that we have been able to send money to Church World Service for clean-up buckets, we have contributed to the Youth Group Mission Trip, and to Camperships for our young people who want to go to church camp. We have also contributed to Doug Leonard's mission work and adopted the cost of a new ceiling fan for the sanctuary.

With the special offering taken at our Luncheon, we were able to send \$500 to RCA to be used for English language books for the Titus' students at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Croatia. (Eric and Nancy Titus are RCA Missionaries there, and St. John's helps support them with ½ of a PIM share.) RCA has pledged to match funds raised, so our offering should be a good help for buying books.

It is not too soon to mark your calendars for the Scudder Pot Luck luncheon at the church on **September 15th**. Note that the date is not our usual first Thursday, but the **third Thursday** instead. Just bring a dish to share, if you can. Beverages and desserts will be provided. Pastor Dave will be our speaker.

At the June Scudder Circle meeting we decided that our September offering would go to World Vision to provide clean water to a village (probably in Africa). Here are some interesting facts gleaned from an article by

author Charles Fishman. In the U.S., 5.7 billion gallons of clean water are flushed down toilets every day. Americans spend \$21 billion on bottled water every year. Contrast this to women and young girls in third world countries who have to walk two or more hours twice a day to get water that is really not safe to drink. Children in these communities often die from diseases caused by the water they drink. A deep well can provide a village of 300 with clean drinking water. Plus women and young girls would be freed to do other things, such as go to school or plant and care for gardens. We can help. World Vision is doing this work now and 87% of what we donate will go toward a project to provide water which Americans take for granted. Please consider donating and we also ask for your prayers for the people who need water as well as those providing much needed wells in these areas.

We hope you will come to the luncheon. If you cannot be there but want to make a contribution for our water project, please make your check payable to Scudder Circle, and put it in the Scudder Circle mailbox in the Education wing.

SUMMER MUSIC AND PRAISE TEAM

The Senior Choir is on summer recess and we would like to extend an invitation to anyone who would like to sing or play an instrument during the offertory time in worship this summer. We would also like to present a praise music selection in worship and are forming a group of singers to lead the singing. Guitar accompaniment is also welcome. If you are interested in participating please contact Amy Cornwall-Robinson at 758 5779.

Sympathy to:

the family and friends of
Albert Feller who died
June 9;



TREASURER'S REPORT

General Fund

Year to Date Receipts \$85,355
Year to Date Expenses \$94,835
Year to Date Balance (\$9,480)

Donations to the **Mission-of-the-Month For May – Swart Medical Mission totaled \$1, 176!** Thank you for your generous contributions.

ADOPT-A-COST

If you would like to adopt one of the costs listed below, make your check payable to St. John's Reformed Church, indicating which item you are adopting, and place in the Sunday offering plate or mail to the Church Office. Adopted items will be shown in the following month's *Kerk* and more adoptable items will be offered.

Items are:

1. ~~Annual Sam's Club membership \$35~~
2. ~~Daily Freeman ad for 1 month \$24~~
3. Easter Evangelism postcards \$180
4. Roll of stamps \$44
5. Holy Week special bulletins \$83
6. Dutch Supper mailing \$54
7. Case of hot cups \$84
8. One month computer support \$88
- 9.1 share to repair Parsonage Hallway Ceiling (10 shares needed) \$100 each
 Adopted (4) \$400
10. Case of paper towels \$30
11. Case of paper plates \$11
12. Monthly garbage pick up \$83
13. Box of offering envelopes \$3.76
14. Denominational Assessment \$89.03 per person – yearly bill: \$14,956.21 (a total of **\$2,781** has been received thru 06/30)
15. ~~Paint for parsonage \$66.96~~

July Helpers

Flowers: If you would like to place memorial or special remembrance flowers in the Church, please sign the Flower Chart in the narthex, complete a form and leave in the slot AND call July Flower Chairs Holly Swart, 756-5159 or Bobbie Wilson, 835-8241.

Greeters & Ushers: If you cannot serve on the Sunday assigned, please phone, Captain Al Slingerland, 758-6174.

July 3

Greeters: Nancy and Tristan Jordan
Ushers: Gary and Nancy Finkle
Shepherd:
Nursery:

July 10

Greeters: Dale and Kristy Koerner
Ushers: Cliff King and Harry Craver
Nursery: Denise Gilhooly-Partrick

July 17

Greeters: Barbara and Norm Coe
Ushers: Bruce Unson and Glenn
Countryman

Shepherd:
Nursery:

July 24

Greeters: George Bobko and Ed. Moore
Ushers: Jack Doyle and Ralph Douglas
Nursery:

July 31

Greeters: Paul and Trisha Finch
Ushers: Tom and Evie Seils
Nursery:



August Helpers

Flowers: If you would like to place memorial or special remembrance flowers in the Church, please sign the Flower Chart in the narthex, complete a form and leave in the slot AND call August Flower Chair Eileen Zeliph, 518-537-4093.

Greeters & Ushers: If you cannot serve on the Sunday assigned, please phone, Captains Linda and Dennis Frankle, 758-0518.

August 7

Greeters: JoAnn Fisher and Anita Sprague
Ushers: Gary and Nancy Finkle
Shepherd:
Nursery:

August 14

Greeters: Linda Neilson and Bobbie Wilson
Ushers: Cliff King and Harry Craver
Nursery: Denise Gilhooly-Partrick

August 21

Greeters: Elizabeth Wacker and Suzanne Muldoon
Ushers: Bruce Unson and Glenn Countryman
Shepherd:
Nursery:

August 28

Greeters: Tom and Evie Seils
Ushers: Jack Doyle and Ralph Douglas
Nursery:



Red Roses and Thank You to:

Jane Bier, Denny and Judy Doyle for putting together the June Kerk;
to all the hands that helped to remove the cross from the sanctuary!
Nancy Jordan and Vickie Young and all their helpers for taking over Coffee Hour during Beverly's surgery and recovery.

SUMMER IS FINALLY HERE!!!

Again, the Health Ministry thanks you all for making this year's Lunch and Learn Seminars a great success. Without your ideas, attendance, these seminars wouldn't exist. THANK YOU!!!

We welcome ideas for this coming fall for our Lunch and Learn Seminars. If anyone has some, please contact Beverly Kipp or Jackie Fenaroli. We would be happy to hear your suggestions. ☺

Beverly and I would like to have some volunteers to serve on the Health Ministry Committee beginning this fall. Anyone interested, please contact us!! Thank you.

Enjoy your summer. Be safe and be happy!!! ☺



"I would like to thank all the church members who drive me to my doctor appointments. We in St. Jon's are blessed with many giving people. You are all in my prayers. You know who you are and I don't want to make it uncomfortable for this card.

Yours in Christ,
Emma E. Coon"

“To the congregation at St. John’s,
Thank you all so much for your kind
donations of arts supplies to Camp Fowler.
We are currently in the middle of staff
training and are all very excited for a
summer full of fun and working with
campers. We hope that this is our best
summer yet!

Thanks again,
Michelle Laura Zeliph”

“Dear Members of the Finance Committee,

I would like to thank you for choosing me
as the recipient of the Rev. Roger and
Bernice Leonard Scholarship Award. I feel
very honored! I am appreciative to the
whole committee for acknowledging my
hard work and integrity in my educational
career thus far. I will use this scholarship to
further my education and continue to
produce academic results that will surpass
expectations. This scholarship will help me
to further my effort to help and provide
service to others. I promise to continue to
strive for the best that I can in order to
achieve my goals. St. John’s Reformed
Church has given me so much throughout
my life, and I can only hope to give back to
the church and the community in the ways
that they have first given to me.

Thank you again for allowing me to be
the recipient of the rev. Roger and Bernice
Leonard Scholarship Award for the 2010-
2011 academic year.

Sincerely,
Kerry Peterson”

Thank you to everyone at St. John’s for your
cards and prayers during my surgery and
recovery.

Linda Frankle

Deadline for the **September**
Kerk is **August 10**.

Personal ads of no more than
3 lines will be accepted for \$1
per issue.

Business ads in the form of a
business card to be
photocopied will cost \$5 per issue



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Cell: (845) 702-5418

Mary Hennessy, LMSW
Licensed Master Social Worker

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Rhinebeck, NY 12572
Tel (917) 971-6892

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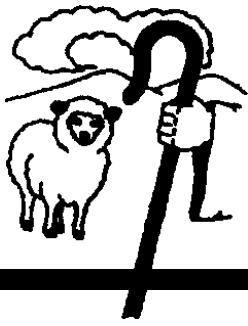
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The Shepherds Page

July August 2011

***"Be Shepherds of God's flock
that is under your care" 1 Peter 5:2***

A Shepherd

- S**erves the Lord with a glad heart
- H**ears and listens-to -the concerns of their flock
- E**mpathizes, but knows their own limitations
- P**rays for each member of their flock
- H**olds hands to steady, comfort and support
- E**xtends a helping hand
- R**eads and studies the Word and lives it
- D**rops in to visit, sends a note or calls

Missing Pronouns

You cannot pray the Lord's Prayer and even
once say I.
You cannot pray the Lord's Prayer and even
once say My.
Nor can you pray the Lord's Prayer and not
pray for one another,
To ask God for "our" daily bread, you must
include your brother.
For others are included ... in each and every
plea,
From the beginning to the end of it, it does not
once say Me.

Telling the SAME OLD STORY

James A. Hamish, in an Easter sermon, tells the story of a little boy who was not exactly happy about going to church on Easter Sunday morning. His new shoes were too tight, his tie pinched his neck and the weather was just too beautiful to be cooped up inside. As he sulked in the back seat, his parents heard him mutter, "I don't know why we have to go to church on Easter, anyway; they keep telling the same old story and it always comes out the same in the end."

Yes, we all know the ending. But, unlike the little boy in the story, we have the greatest "Good News" to tell! Yes, it is the old, old story. And NO, you can't tell it too often.

The hymn writer put it this way:

*1 love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat
What seems, each time I tell it more
wonderfully sweet.*

*1 love to tell the story, for some have never
heard*

*The message of salvation from God's own
holy Word.*

Each time a we pray in the name of Jesus, he or she retells the old, old story. We all will be reminded of that beautiful truth.

*Adopted from Lay Pastors Network News
Spring 2011 Rev. Tom Corbell*

Shepherds Serving St. John's

Barbara Coe - Desiree Albizu - Jo Ann Fisher - Nancy Finkle - Denise Partrick - Amie Parker - Stanton Tremper -
Joy Peterson - Diane Loughran - Eileen Zeliph - Linda Neilson - Carolyn Carr - Michael Carr -Marie Votava -Ruth Cole
Kristy Koerner - Barbara Spencer - Wendy Walrath -Bruce Unson - Nancy Castillo -Terry Laibach -

Priscilla Tremper Shepherd Coordinator

To Request a Shepherd call the Church Office 758-1184 or Priscilla Tremper 758-5657

PATRIOTIC PARFAIT

On the 4th of July, make this healthy, festive dessert to share with family and friends.

What you need:

- Clear glasses or plastic cups
- Spoons
- Vanilla yogurt
- Cut strawberries
- Fresh blueberries
- Coconut, whipped cream, red and blue sprinkles (optional)

What you do:

1. Place a couple of spoonfuls of vanilla yogurt at the bottom of each glass or cup.
2. Add cut strawberries to cover the yogurt layer.
3. Add more yogurt over the strawberries.
4. Add a layer of blueberries.
5. Repeat the layers until you reach the top of the glass or cup.
6. For extra fun, add coconut, whipped cream and sprinkles. Enjoy!



Freedom in Christ

This Independence Day, remember that our true freedom comes from faith in Jesus.

★★★★★

Directions: In each set of letters, determine the pattern. Then write the letter that completes the pattern, to reveal Galatians 5:1, niv.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

F	Q	L	V	C	R	O
G	R	K	U	D	Q	P
H	S	J	T	E	P	Q

— — — — —

I	O	B	H	A	L	P	Q	K	D	W
H	P	C	G	B	M	O	R	J	C	V
G	Q	D	F	C	N	N	S	I	B	U

— — — — —

F	E	U	L	P	W	E	D	V
E	F	T	K	Q	V	F	C	U
D	G	S	J	R	U	G	B	T

— — — — —

P	B	Q	R	V	C	O	H	B
Q	C	R	S	U	D	P	G	C
R	D	S	T	T	E	Q	F	D

— — — — —

Answers: It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. (Galatians 5:1, niv)