

THE KERK

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

Phone: 845-758-1184; Fax: 845-758-3675; email: office@stjohnsreformed.org

November 2011

VOL. 45, NO 11

From the Interim Minister's Desk

Friends of St. John's:

On the way to Church the other day we passed, as usual, the tree farm where we have often gotten our Christmas tree. "One more month and we get our Christmas tree." Marvelle said. Wow! It seemed not too long ago we just took down our tree. Christmas is coming up so soon.

We all are surprised by the passage of time. November marks a number of things. It is the beginning of my second year with you all at St. John's. So how's it going? What kind of grades would you give US? (Not me.) We are in ministry together. Soon we will be having a Baptism and reception of new members. These are positive signs of growth and the positive spirit people are finding at St. John's. Keep up the "sweet, sweet spirit in this place", as one hymn proclaims.

Secondly, it is Thanksgiving time! We will give thanks each Sunday. Beginning October 23, for four Sundays, people in our congregation are going to share how God has worked in their lives. There will be stories of thanksgiving here at home. Don't miss them.

A special service will be held at the Church on Wednesday, November 23 at 7 p.m. in order to give special thanks to God.

Thirdly, November is Stewardship time; time to think about how we can invest in the Kingdom of God. I don't want to give away our theme which you will receive in a special mailing. It should be fun, because generosity is a blessing.

Fourthly, November 27 is the first Sunday in Advent. Christmas is not far behind. Wow. Time flies when you're having fun! It also goes pretty fast when you're not. So try to enjoy the ride!

God's love and peace to you all,
Pastor Dave

**FROM DESIREE'S DESK
AT HOME WITH THE WORD YEAR TWO**

We have almost come to the end of our first year reading the Bible passages in the Revised Common Lectionary. Our current booklet ends November 26, Thanksgiving weekend. Since there are three years of Lectionary passages (A, B & C), we will begin another year on the first Sunday in Advent, the next day.

New booklets have been ordered to guide our reading. Once again they will cost \$1.50 each and will be found on the table in the fellowship hall.

The readings usually include a couple scripture passages from the Old and New Testaments, a Psalm, and an epistle, or letter, from the New Testament.

Six readings run Monday to Saturday to prepare you for the upcoming worship service on Sunday. If one were pressed to do so, you could read all six passages in less than 15 minutes once a week. Do what works best for you.

The goal is to get our members and friends reading the Bible throughout the year, if not daily. Come; accept this invitation to read God's word along with your brothers and sisters in Christ during Advent and throughout 2012. You may even find worship more meaningful having just visited these passages.

Desiree Albizu
Associate in Ministry in Christian Education

Along the lines of my "Best Intentions" article from last month, I found this quote from the Rev. Dorothy Weigart from the United Methodist Church who gave me permission to use it: "But we must not get so busy that we forget who we are and whose we are. We are God's children. We are called to minister to others, to praise God, to grow and live the way Jesus taught us."

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Thank you to all who baked or purchased baked goods at our October 23 bake sale. Proceeds of \$135 will go to help children's ministries affected by Hurricane Irene in the Catskills.

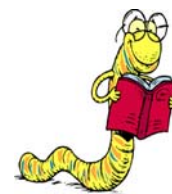


Our annual Used Toy Sale will take place Saturday, November 19 along with "Lunch with Santa" and the jewelry sale. (See more info elsewhere) When you are cleaning out closets, bookshelves and toy boxes this fall, remember us. We accept outgrown toys and books that are in good condition. Please do us a favor and make sure they are clean. It makes laying them out go so much faster. Toys may be dropped off Sunday, November 13 through Thursday, November 17 in the assembly hall/downstairs of the education wing. Money earned allows us to purchase Christmas gifts for the children and teachers.

There will be a Sunday School staff meeting Tuesday, November 8 at 7:30 p.m. in Room 3 in the education wing. Plans for Advent will be discussed. Curriculum for Advent will be distributed.

**BOOK LOVERS CLUB TO MEET
NOVEMBER 14**

The Book Lovers' Club will meet Monday, November 14 at 11 a.m. in the Associates' Office. The selection for the month is I Still Dream About You by Fanny Flagg. The Book Lovers Club is open to anyone who has read the books or listened to them on tape. Suggestions for future books are always welcome.



EMMAUS ROAD YOUTH MINISTRIES

There will be a Middle School meeting November 6 from 6:30 – 8 p.m. We're thinking bonfire!



All youth grades are encouraged to help with the fall work days at St. John's. Let's put some of those skills learned on mission trips to use here at St. John's.

Youth group students will be serving food on November 19 at the Lunch with Santa and Used Toy Sale. The youth took over this task for the Scudder Circle ladies a couple years ago. Now the ladies provide pies, baked goods, and soups for the public to enjoy.

Students are asked to serve for a 1-2-hour time slot. The day runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Thank you to those who have supported us by purchasing calendars and greeting cards. Both are on sale in the fellowship hall. Calendars are still \$6 and cards are \$8.

GROUP WORKCAMP DEPOSITS DUE NOW

There will be a Group Cares Workcamp for senior high and college students this summer, July 29 to August 4 in Brockton, MA. A non-refundable \$50 deposit is due now to reserve your space. The cost per person is \$449. Fundraising is possible to help pay off the registration fee for the trip. See Desiree Albizu if you have any questions.

LUNCH WITH SANTA NOVEMBER 19

The Arts and Crafts Committee has decided to take a break from coordinating the Christmas Bazaar but there are many who would like to carry on with some of the day's traditions.

The Sunday School will still be holding its Used Toy Sale. Now it will be in the downstairs assembly hall. Toys will be accepted from Sunday, November 13 to Thursday, November 17. Help will be needed to lay out and price toys on Friday, November 18 and then the day of the sale, in one to two hour shifts.

In the fellowship hall we will be providing food for sale including a special time 11a.m. to 1 p.m. for "Lunch with Santa". There will be kid-friendly food as well as the usual fare as soups, sandwiches, pies and cakes. Scudder Circle will host its Jewelry Sale and there may be more.

The day will run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. instead of the usual 3 p.m. There will be sign-up sheets in the fellowship hall so take a look and see how you might be able to help. Proceeds from the food sales go towards next summer's Group Workcamp.

Please join us there November 19!

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

As of mid-October, the Search Committee had one Skype interview completed and another set-up for October 23. We hope to begin viewing video tapes of these two candidates' sermons. Altogether we have reviewed 19 ministers' profiles at our weekly meetings. Please continue to keep our efforts in your prayers.

SCHOOL FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING AND SERVING COURSES

Registration forms for the courses listed below are available on the table in the fellowship hall. Please put them in Desiree Albizu's box in the education wing or mail them to her with your check for tuition to 575 County Route 19, Hudson, NY 12534. Registration deadlines are one week before the course runs. Contact Desiree if you need a scholarship, or have any questions at (518) 537-4221 or at albizu@valstar.net.

What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian: A Guide to What Matters Most (General Interest)

Instructor: The Rev. Ken Kobza
Date: Wednesday, November 9, 7-9 PM
Location: Walkkill Reformed Church, 45 Bridge Street, Walkkill, NY 12589
Tuition: \$15

Spurred on by discussion with an atheist who grew to believe in Jesus, author Martin Thielen attempted to answer the man's question in this provocative book looking at the core elements of the Christian faith. Part 1 looks at ten things Christians don't need to believe, while Part 2 delves into what matters most. Come and join in the discussion of this thought-provoking read. Rev. Kobza will lead a book discussion on this provocative new book by Martin Thielen.

The Funeral Service: Pastoral Care & Outreach (General interest, Consistory training, Preaching Elders)

Instructor: The Rev. Jay Vogelaar
Date: Saturday, November 12, 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Location: New Paltz Reformed Church, 92 Huguenot Street, New Paltz, NY 12561
Tuition: \$25

When a loved one dies, Christians grieve but "not as others do who have no hope." Funerals are for the living: in the church as opportunities to recall our hope in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, and with nonbelievers to encounter the God of unexpected hope. Our day of study will focus on why the Christian funeral and interment serves as a means for pastoral care in both church and world.

Our first Webinar!

No Piles of Electrons: An Introduction to Managing Electronic Records (E-Records)

Instructor: Russell Gasero, RCA Archivist
Dates: Two evenings, Wednesdays, November 2 & 9, 7-9 PM, or one Saturday, October 29, 9 AM to 12 noon
Tuition: \$15

The management of e-records from an administrative, legal, and financial perspective will be the focus with an overview of the world of e-records: file formats, preservation issues, and management issues. We will examine the complexity of e-mail as well as discuss issues around organization and preservation of electronic data so that it will be available when needed. Internet access is required and a headset would be helpful.

HEALTH MINISTRY LUNCH
AND LEARN SEMINARS
CONTINUE TO BE A BIG PART
OF OUR HEALTH MINISTRY.

KEEP YOUR EYES AND EARS OPEN.
THERE IS MORE TO COME.☺

THE HEALTH MINISTRY WISHES
ALL A VERY
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Psalm 95:1-7(NIV)

¹ Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

² Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.

³ For the LORD is the great God,
the great King above all gods.

⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.

⁵ The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.

⁶ Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;

⁷ for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.

Health Ministry Hours

Office hours Tuesday 9AM – 3PM and Thursday
11AM – 1PM. Visitation as needed.

If you would like a visit, please call the Church
office.

Contact Information: Coordinator – Beverly Kipp
Secretary/Program Coordinator – Jackie Fenaroli
Call church office – 758-1184; e-mail church office –
office@stjohnsreformed.org

or Beverly home – bkipp@frontiernet.net; Jackie
home – jfenaroli63@gmail.com

Watch the Kerk and Sunday bulletin for program
related or last minute changes in schedule.

SIMPLIFY YOUR LIFE

Everyone's invited to a review of "100 Ways
to Simplify Your Life", a book by Joyce
Meyer.

It will be at the Nov. 3, 1 p.m. Scudder
Circle meeting. We won't touch on all 100,
but can pick and choose from the short
chapters.

Business, including preparations for the
Nov. 19 Christmas Bazaar plus
refreshments will be on the agenda.

Beth Mead

**ESPECIALLY FOR REFORMED
CHURCH WOMEN:**

Claudette Reid, Coordinator of Women's
Ministries for the RCA, will be the speaker
at the **Fall Conference of the Reformed
Church Women of the Hudson Valley**.
Her topic will be "Going Forward in the
Strength of God." The conference is for all
women in the Reformed Churches in
Dutchess County, and is sure to be an
enjoyable, informative morning. Join us on
November 5th, as we travel to New
Hackensack Reformed Church, and spend
a morning with our sisters from neighboring
churches. We will have a breakfast at 9:30
am, and the program will begin at 10:15 am.
A \$6 donation is suggested for the
breakfast. There will be an offering to
benefit the Sister Share Project for
impoverished women in India. If you would
like a ride, please call Desiree Albizu or Evie
Seils.

TREASURER'S REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT

General Fund

Jan. to Sept.
 Year to Date Receipts \$149,038
 Year to Date Expenses \$159,447
 Year to Date Balance **(\$10,408)**

Donations to the **Mission-of-the-Month For Sept. – Hudson River Housing totaled \$430.**

Prattsville Hurricane Relief - \$3,984.80 and RCWS Hurricane Relief - \$325.

Thank you for your generous contributions.

Thank you to the Arts and Crafts Group who generously donated \$3,000 towards fuel costs and \$1,000 to the Deacons' Fund.

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. Case of hot cups for coffee hour \$84
2. Roll of stamps \$44
3. ~~Monthly internet access \$35~~
4. Battery for AED \$150
5. ~~Case of paper towels \$30~~
6. ~~Water treatment rental for 3 months \$23~~
7. Monthly garbage pick up \$83
8. 1 share to repair Parsonage Hallway Ceiling (10 shares needed) \$100 each

Adopted (5) \$500

9. Box of offering envelopes \$3.76
10. Denominational Assessment \$89.03 per person – yearly bill: \$14,956.21 (a total of **\$3,059.18** has been received thru 09/30)
11. Office supplies for Sept. \$90
12. Pew envelopes \$28
13. Daily Freeman ad \$24
14. Kitchen Supplies \$106.00

Election Day Bake Sale

Calling all bakers: Tuesday, November 8 is Election Day and an opportunity to add to our

Church coffers by baking something for our annual **Election Day Bake Sale**. Many voters look for our table when they arrive to vote, so let's not disappoint them. In addition to the usual pies, cakes and soups, anything that can be packaged in small quantities such as cookies, brownies and muffins sell very well. Please contact co-chairs Evie Seils at 758-6968 or Janis Lawson at 758-8512 if you need something picked up or for more information.



MISSION OF THE MONTH

The Mission of the Month of November is Middleburgh, a town across the river devastated by Hurricane Irene. Terry Laibach, Wendy Walrath and Laurie DeCiutiis plan to join a work party there to help in clean up. Hop Michael has been there to help. Speak with any of these people if you would like to join a work party or like some information. Please pray for the people in this town and others that were affected by the hurricane. Donations from the November mission of the month will go to help the town of Middleburgh. Thank you.

Karen Roberts
 Mission and Outreach Committee

Sympathy to:



the family and friends of **Richard Laibach** who died October 1;
the family and friends of **John Saul** who died October 6;
the friends and family of **Winifred Donerly**,
Karen Robert's mom,

who died October 17;
the friends and family of **Barbara Hondorp**,
Pastor Dave and Marvelle's sister in law.



"To all my St. John's family,
I thank you with all my heart
for all the comforting hugs,
words and cards.

It's wonderful to have all
those shoulders on which to
lean!

Love,
Liz Laibach"



Judy Doyle and Don and Joy Peterson
for putting together the Oct. Kerk;
a great big thank you to all the people who
worked so hard the parsonage porch, you
all did a great job; thank you also to **Glenn
Countryman** and everyone who helped him
with the problems associated with the
flooded basement;

Desiree Albizu for donating reusable bags
for the people who use the Food Pantry;
and **John Roberts** for coming back in
Friday afternoons to fold and stuff bulletins.

November 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 November Flower Chair Judy Doyle, 758-6938.

Greeters & Ushers: If you cannot serve on the Sunday assigned, please phone, Captain Charlie Harrison, 518-828-0727.

November 6

Greeters: Arnold and Alice Colburn
Ushers: Mary and Jim Belliveau
Shepherd: Marie Votava
Nursery:

November 13

Greeters: Jennifer and Jason McCord
Ushers: Terry Laibach and Kayla Bell
Shepherd: Eileen Zeliph
Nursery: Denise Gilhooly-Partrick

November 20

Greeters: Dennis and Linda Frankle
Ushers: Brian and Lisa Reid
Shepherd: Nancy Castillo
Nursery:

November 23 Thanksgiving Eve

Greeters:
Ushers:
Nursery:

November 27

Greeters:
Ushers: Michael and Carolyn Carr
Shepherd: Nancy Finkle
Nursery:

CONGRATULATIONS!

To **David Rodriquez and Aleighsha Elston** who were married by Pastor Dave at St. John's on October 15. David is the son of Luis Rodriquez.

To Elizabeth (Kipp) and Jeremy Kenny on the birth of their daughter, Lauren Evangeline, on Oct. 24. Lauren joins big sister, Natalie.

The Shepherds Page

November 2011

The Shepherds MINISTRY

At St. John's



In Protestant churches Pastoral Care is considered the ministry of care provided by pastors to members of their church. Pastoral Care may include home visits, counseling, encouragement, emotional support, and listening. In smaller congregations it is usually the sole responsibility of the Minister. In churches where there is a larger congregation the Minister may require assistance with some of the pastoral care tasks by a minister specializing in Pastoral Care or by equipped and commissioned lay people,

At St. John's Rev. Roger Leonard, the Minister in 1996, recognized that it would be

beneficial if a Lay Group could be formed to work along side him in providing Pastoral Care for a growing congregation.

It was acknowledged that the Lay People would need to be trained to do this and it should be an orderly and organized . Training materials and a organizational system developed by Lay Pastors Ministry, Inc. was selected for St. John's Shepherds Ministry. Their training material is based on the book "Can the Pastor Do It Alone" and includes video tapes containing 13 segments to equip lay people.

In 1996 eight people volunteered to be the initial Shepherds. At that time, they tended to those who most likely would need a shepherd. The long range goal for the ministry is to have a shepherd for each Church family. Today, St. John's has 18 Shepherds caring for 85

families. The Shepherds contact these families about every 4 to 6 weeks. It may happen wherever God's people live, on the phone, at work, after worship, the coffee hour, the grocery store, or the mall according to the need of each family. Usually there isn't a crisis, Shepherds just offer encouragement and support during the daily routines of life and simply become a friend to whom they are responsible.

At some point in our lives, everyone needs at least some pastoral care. Our Shepherds are providing pastoral care by arranging transportation, doing grocery shopping for those who can't get out, making home visits and sending cards to shut ins, calling on members in hospitals and nursing homes, and inviting those interested to Bible study, Church activities and programs

Shepherds Serving St. John's

- Desiree Albizu - Jo Ann Fisher - Nancy Finkle - Denise Partrick - Amie Parker - Stanton Tremper - Joy Peterson - 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

Croatia Update
Teaching, students fill final months in Croatia

By Nancy Titus

The welcome, cooler air of autumn has ushered in our seminary's academic year and quickly brought us to our capacities as we teach classes and plan for our return to the United States.

November will be a busy month by any standard. Eric is teaching his classes in the modular format so that they can be completed before we leave. I also am teaching as many sessions as possible of my English classes in addition to directing our homeschool. On top of that, we will be packing up, selling, or giving away all of our belongings so that we will be ready to leave Croatia on Dec. 28, the date of our airline tickets.

We all need your prayers during this emotional time, but we especially ask for you to pray for physical strength for Eric as he finishes his teaching duties at such a rigorous pace. Teaching in the modular format means two weeks of lecturing for six hours on Mondays, and three hours each on Tuesdays through Fridays. Then he has two master's level seminar weekends, which require Friday and Saturday sessions. Once those classes are finished, Eric will have a short break and then will travel to Timisoara, Romania, for another master's level course at an extension site there.

He is excited about this opportunity to share his gifts with students, and I know students are looking forward to the classes as well. He will teach Eschatology and Contemporary Issues in Theology to the undergraduates and Systematic Theology Seminars for the master's students.

For my part, I am finding my seminary classes particularly engaging. The students are fun to be around and seem to enjoy the opportunity to improve their writing. I am teaching Composition I and III. This is the first time we have needed the third-level comp class (the second-level course is taught in the spring), and we have new books provided by the RCA to support student writers and give solid assistance even after we are gone. All of which are personally gratifying. I plan to teach as many classes as I can before handing the courses over

to a colleague to finish out the semester, which ends in February 2012.

Our children also are engaged in their homeschool classes, with courses both at home and on-line. Samuel is now a junior in high school, pursuing his diploma through a classical school called Veritas Press Scholars Academy. Both Valerie, in the eighth grade, and Penny, in the sixth, take on-line courses through Veritas as well, but the bulk of their education is home-based. This year, we have fixed up an office at the seminary to be our special school classroom. It is two doors down from my office, which makes it easier on me as I move back and forth from the children's school to seminary duties. It also gives them a chance to get out of the house more, which itself is a welcome change.

As you can imagine, we also are trying to make sure we do some of the things we have always wanted to do while in Croatia. Our schedules are filling up fast, but we are making room to spend quality time with friends and colleagues, whom we have met along the way. By the time most of you read this, we will have just returned from a homeschool co-op event that allowed the older children to go to Monte Negro for a spiritual retreat and Penny to do some learning activities with others her age. The location of this event also will have allowed the family to visit the beautiful and famous Croatian coast, something we have always wanted to do but have not been able to do before now.

As we enter the last phase of our service in Croatia, we are so grateful to you, our supporters, for making it possible. We are honored to serve as your missionaries here in Croatia, and know that wherever God leads us, you will always be in our hearts.

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, 17, Valerie, 13, and Penny, 11.
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ADDRESS CHANGES

Mulvaney, Marcia

Sweet Brook Care Centers Inc
1561 Cold Spring Rd.
Williamstown, MA 01267
Phone: (413) 458-8127

Carr, Michael and Carolyn

17 Molland Rd.
Rhinebeck, NY 12572



Deadline for the **December Kerk** is **November 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.

Plumbing, Heating and Repairs

Todd Abrahams Plumbing

235 Fraleigh Lane
Red Hook, NY 12571

Business & Fax 758-3867 Cell 389-2661

Mary Hennessy, LMSW

Licensed Master Social Worker

Specializing in Children and Families

8 Garden Street

Rhinebeck, NY 12572

Tel (917) 971-6892

By appointment only