

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

October 2011

VOL. 45, NO. 9

From the Interim Minister's Desk

October 31, 2011 is Reformation Day; a day significant for the protestant tradition.

The Bible in the hands of the people,
All of us are priests before God,
Clergy and people share equally in the work of the church,
The sufficiency of the sacrifice of Christ for our salvation...

These are some of the great Reformation truths we cherish. We are reformed according to the Word of God.

In perhaps a far less significant way, Oct 31, 2011 marks the end of the first year that I am with you. It is a time for evaluation. The real question is NOT, how am I doing, but rather, how are we doing as the congregation of St. John's Reformed Church?

Have we found a new excitement and anticipation for worship?
Has our commitment to Jesus Christ been strengthened?
Has our concern and love for one another grown over the past year?
Have we devoted ourselves to the service of others in Christian ministry?
Have we become better stewards of the church, its ministry or mission?
Are we preparing ourselves to receive and provide for a new pastor leading our church?

These are the real questions of evaluation of our first interim year together.

So how did we do together this first year? I would like to hear from you, so write me a letter, give me a call. Let's hear what you think of this past year's growth and development.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Dave

**FROM DESIREE'S DESK
BEST INTENTIONS**

“Let every generation tell its children of your mighty acts... and your wonderful miracles. (Psalm 1245: 4, 5b, New Living Translation)

When I was growing up, I learned how to sew using a sewing machine in 4-H and in home economics classes. By high school, I made a lot of my own clothing, especially dresses and jackets. Later when my daughters came along, I had every intention to sew clothes for them. Although I made a couple costumes for my middle daughter who is a dancer and instructor, the only things I ever sewed for my daughters growing up were one pretty red and white calico dress and a pink and brown plaid lined coat with a brown fur collar. That was it for 30 years!

It can be much the same with spiritual promises we make to God, ourselves and our children. When they are young we may plan to raise them in the church, to share Bible stories with them and pray with them throughout the day. Then come the days when supper comes out of a wrapper or bag at the softball or soccer field. Games take place on Sundays and poof! – you haven't been to church in weeks, and you can't remember the last time you prayed with your children, let alone read them a Bible story.

I don't write this to sit in judgment as I am sure the Lord will have words with me one day, too. I write this to help you realize how easily God can take a backseat in your family.

As parents, and maybe grandparents, we need to remain purposeful about praying (even if it's in the car before everyone digs into their fast food), reading the Bible with children, and going to church as a family. There are devotions written for families with children of a variety of ages. We are also fortunate to have this task made easier by

the current Sunday School curriculum *Dwell*. We have God's Big Story cards which go along with the stories your child is learning. They help us get into the story and provide activities that your family can do together. Please see me if you have not received your box of cards yet. They go with the curriculum for kindergarten through grade 8.

We are also truly blessed to have such devoted teachers who are eager to share God's stories every Sunday. However they cannot do this if children do not attend. Please help us fulfill our baptismal vows to your children. Please bring them to Sunday School as often as you are able. Their friends are welcome, too.

Desiree Albizu,
Associate in Ministry for Christian Education

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

“Welcome!” to the families who are joining us for this program year of Sunday School. All children age three years to eighth grade are welcome to join us any Sunday during the school year during the 9:15 service. We use Reformed curricula, *Walk With Me* in the pre-school class and *Dwell* in all the other grades.



If you did not receive a welcome letter, registration form AND Sunday School calendar for your child or children, please see Desiree Albizu, the Associate in Ministry for Christian Education, on a Sunday morning or stop by during the week to pick one up.

Please return your child's registration form to Desiree as soon as possible. This gives us important information about your child, and a "head count" so we can order the winter curriculum.

The fall **Sunday School Bake Sale is Sunday, October 23.** We ask the Sunday School families to donate baked goods for a sale during coffee hour. Proceeds go to benefit a mission project. We encourage the children to get involved in the baking if possible.

The **annual used toy sale is coming up November 19 at the Christmas Bazaar.** As you clean closets this fall, please set aside those outgrown toys and children's books for our sale. Check the November *KERK* for drop off dates. We need help to sort and set up toys on Friday, November 18, or to take a short shift in the toy rooms during the bazaar. See Desiree if you can help for an hour. Money earned goes to purchase the Christmas gifts.

ONLINE NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS: NUTURE

The Reformed Church in America wants to make an online bi-monthly newsletter available to parents that offers helpful articles and allows parents, caregivers, and ministry leaders to post comments and contribute their own ideas. Check out www.NutureKidsFaith.org. You will be able to search for articles by column title, topic, or date at any time, and be able to forward links to others who may be interested.

EMMAUS ROAD YOUTH MINISTRIES

Students grades nine through twelve are invited to join us for any of our activities. At this point we do not have a separate middle school youth group. If you would like to assist with one or would like to learn more about volunteering, please contact Desiree Albizu at albizu@valstar.net or (518) 537-4221.

Saturday, October 15 we will be participating in Group Cares' Big Day of Sharing in Danbury, CT. Then Sunday,

October 16 we will be participating in the CROP Walk that will begin and end at the Church of the Messiah in Rhinebeck.

Everyone is encouraged to be there by 12:30 p.m. to register. All students are encouraged to register for the walk and begin to gather pledges.

Thank you for all your Flower Power spring-flowering bulbs and plant orders. Please get all Flower Power orders in by Friday, October 7 so that we can get them back to you in time to plant this fall.

2012 calendars with Bible scriptures and beautiful photos will soon be on sale once again in the fellowship hall for \$6 each. This fundraiser benefits youth ministry.

Thank you to Terry Laibach who provided us with new photos on the Emmaus Road Youth Ministries bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Stop by and take a look at some of the students activities at this summer's Workcamp in Elizabethtown, PA.

There were no weeks that would work for our young people at the Shadow of His Wings school in Guatemala next summer, so we are seeking God's will for another mission trip or Workcamp for them.

CHILD CARE HELPERS NEEDED

Now that we are beginning the new program year, please give a thought to signing up for one Sunday in the nursery. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the fellowship hall. The one hour you provide a young mother may be her only one without her child(ren) all week. We need to provide that for our parents who need to feed by God's word at this important yet stressful time in their lives. Thank you.



WOMEN WITH FAITH

Women with Faith will meet Friday, October 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Desiree Albizu at 575 County Route 19. All women are encouraged to attend. You need not be a member. If you can, please bring a snack to share. If not, just come!

BOOK LOVERS' CLUB



Readers will meet Monday, October 17 at 11 a.m. in Room 3 to discuss The Hour I First Believed by Wally Lamb. Anyone who has read it or listened to the book on tape is welcome to join in the discussion. We are also interested in suggestions for future selections.

November's selection is Fannie Flagg's I Still Dream About You. Meeting date TBA.

SCLS COURSE OFFERINGS

Parables on the Road (General Interest)

Don't have much time? Here's the course for you! Pick & Choose! Attend one or attend them all! We will dig deeply into eight parables at eight different locations with eight different instructors.

- Begin to expand your Biblical knowledge.
- Expect to uncover new truths to guide in living the Christian life!
- Increase your knowledge of important Biblical themes.
- Visit other churches in our classes and meet new friends.

The price is right! Tuition is \$5.00 per class. No charge for a parable class in your home church, but you need to register. This series is being underwritten by the Emily Paulson Scholarship Fund.

- Classes only run 90 minutes, 7:30-9 PM.

In the Classis of Mid-Hudson:

Instructor: The Rev. Terry O'Brien
Date and Location: October 3 at The Reformed Church, 173 Main Street, Saugerties 12477

Parable: Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders; Matthew 7:24-27, Luke 6:46-49

Instructor: The Rev. Dr. Bob Gram
Date and Location: October 12 at Hurley Reformed Church, 17 Main Street, Hurley 12443
Parable: Parable of the Weeds; Matthew 13: 24-30; 36-43

Instructor: The Rev. Kendra VanHouten
Date and Location: October 24 at Fair Street Reformed Church, 209 Fair St., Kingston 12401
Parable: Parable of the Great Dinner: Luke 14:15-24

Instructor: The Rev. Keith Tamlyn
Date and Location: October 26 at New Hackensack Reformed Church, 1580 Route 376, Wappingers Falls 12590
Parable: Parable of the Good Samaritan: A theology of interfaith cooperation, in particular, Muslim/Christian relations; Luke 10: 25-37

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. Attend this course from your own home! Internet access is required and a phone headset would be helpful, but you may use any phone.

Note: Deadlines for each course will be one week prior to the course beginning. This will enable the instructor to properly prepare and notify all students of course requirements, books and materials needed and other special information. Delayed registration may result in the course being canceled if there are not sufficient registrations to offer it.

Scholarships are available upon requests. Please contact Desiree Albizu, SCLS Registrar at (518) 537-4221 or albizu@valstar.net.

If you have borrowed Gifts in a Jar: Muffins and Breads but forgot to sign and leave the card behind, please return it to the church at your earliest convenience. Thank you!

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?

Are you interested in knowing more about St. John's Reformed Church? A membership information gathering will be held on October 16 after the 9:15 a.m. service in room 4 of the education wing. Come and See!

For those desiring to become members, opportunity will be given.



FRIDAY MORNING WOMEN'S STUDY

There is still time to sign up for the Friday morning women's study based on the book Praying in the Messiness of Life. The course begins Friday, October 7 at 9:30-11 a.m. and will run for eight weeks. Why not join in this study and be guided into a deeper relationship with the loving God who meets you right where you are—even in the messiness of life? The cost of book is \$15. Sign up on the sheet in the fellowship hall for the course or for a copy of the book. For more information, contact Desiree Albizu at (518) 537-4221 or albizu@valstar.net.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

**MONDAY EVENINGS BEGINNING
OCTOBER 3 AT 7:15 PM
at AcadiaHR**

Our righteousness from God through the eyes of the Apostle Paul will help us understand how we are justified through faith and will include helpful perspectives on guilt, security and growing our faith in Christ.

**HOME STUDY,
TUESDAY EVENINGS
BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1
AT 7:30 PM**

A six- week DVD series entitled "Doing the Right Thing: a Crisis of Ethics" by Chuck Colson is a particularly insightful study of a growing problem worldwide and specifically in our country as we choose leaders to bring renewed values of integrity, accountability and responsibility before a Holy God back into the minds and hearts of America's people.

Hosts are Jim and Mary Belliveau,
132 Starbarrack Road, 845-758-8187

NOTICE

If you are going to donate items to be used by the Church after you have an event here, please make them paper goods not Styrofoam.

Thank you.

PRAYER FOCUS

"...if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:19

Beginning Sunday, October 2, there will be opportunity to pray with others in room #3 at 8:45 am prior to the 9:15 worship service. Each Sunday there will be a particular focus suggested but participants are free to pray as they are led or to remain quiet before the Lord as together those gathered seek his presence.

VICTORY GARDEN TABLE

The Deacons initiated the Victory Garden Table to raise money for the Deacon's Fund. This fund supports the food pantry in times of need and buys \$250 of food 'coupons' each month to give to the people who need them. The Fund also buys limited gas 'coupons' when needed. The Deacon's search out those in need in the community and helps to meet their needs financially. This year the Fund has provided oil fills, propane fills, a mortgage payment, deposit for an apartment rental, and some smaller items all to those in need in our community. The Victory Garden Table is supplied with local and home grown produce and flowers generously grown, harvested and brought in by fellow church members. Please be as generous as you can with your donation for this produce. It goes to help the least of these in our midst. Thank you and God bless you.

The Deacons

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.



**NORTHERN DUTCHESS CROPWALK
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2011
12:30 PM REGISTRATION
CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH IN
RHINEBECK**



This year The Church of the Messiah is host for the Church World Service Northern Dutchess Cropwalk. For nearly 30 years churches in Rhinebeck and Red Hook have been organizing the Cropwalk to help efforts to alleviate hunger throughout the world. Your efforts will help fund programs for emergency food relief, well drilling, and farming education throughout the world. In the past few years we have grown to over one hundred walkers and raised over \$ 13,000 each year. Twenty five percent of the proceeds will be given to Dutchess County Community Action Agency food pantry in Red Hook and to the Red Hook Area Council of Churches to be given to Rhinebeck and Red Hook food pantries.

Your participation can be through collecting donations and walking, contributing to a walker in our Church, helping out on walk day, or simply praying for the efforts of the people in the walk and the people in need all around the world. Or if the spirit moves you on that bright sunny day to take a walk, meet us at the Church of the Messiah, make a donation and enjoy the fellowship and exercise as you walk through the beautiful streets of Rhinebeck. Pick up your donation envelope after Church on any Sunday or speak with a member of the Mission and Outreach Committee if you would like to help in any other way.

St. John's usually "fields" over thirty walkers. Please join us and help the over one billion people who do not have enough of this most basic element of life.

-Cary Robinson
Mission and Outreach Committee



General Fund

Jan. to Aug.	
Year to Date Receipts	\$131,273
Year to Date Expenses	\$142,556
Year to Date Balance	(\$11,284)

Donations to the **Mission-of-the-Month For Aug. – School supplies totaled \$240.** 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. Case of hot cups for coffee hour \$84
2. ~~Cost of mailing Evangelism postcard~~
adopted
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 **\$2,781** has been received thru 08/31)

SCUDDER FALL LUNCHEON

The Fall Pot Luck Luncheon, Sept. 14th, was much enjoyed by all who attended. We had delicious food, good company, and a "special guest speaker", (Pastor Dave Hondorp) He brought us a thoughtful message about Mary and Martha. We need to be somewhat like both of them, but not too much like either one.

As we previously announced, our special offering was for World Vision and their ongoing projects to get water to small villages that have no immediate access. \$215 was collected for this project. \$85 was added from the Scudder treasury, so that we could purchase 3 shares in a deep well in some village that needs it. Thanks to all for their generous support!!

Please join us at our next meeting on October 6. And let's all come out for the Parsonage Workday on October 15th, from 9 am to 12 noon.

SCUDDER WELCOMES YOU

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

CAREGIVERS

Northern Dutchess Caregivers Coalition, Inc. is a totally volunteer, church affiliated organization that offers transportation

service at no cost to the client. They need not be affiliated with a specific church to receive services. Due to the demand of our services, we primarily provide transportation to medical appointments. Some shopping services are provided, if our schedule allows.

The following is a list of the current board members:

Linda Kilpatrick, President
Nancy Finkle, Vice-President
Nancy Mellott, Secretary
Betty Bader, Treasurer
Marion Baldauf
Art Callaghan
Faith Compo
Nina Lynch
Eve McClenahan
Maureen Monks
Rev. Robert Vanderlaan

Church of the Messiah Volunteers:

Marlene Alexander
LeeAnn Bishop
Clarence Clark
Alexa Dull
Joanne Engle
Bob Gratzel
Linda Kilpatrick

In 2010, 182 assignments were completed by 13 Messiah volunteers.

Good Shepherd Volunteers: 16 completing 126 assignments.

Independent Drivers: 3 completing 6 assignments.

Regina Coeli or AARP: 20 completing 278 assignments.

Rhinebeck Methodist: 2 completing 0 assignments.

Rhinebeck Reformed: 11 completing 23 assignments.

St. Christopher: 18 completing 167 assignments.
St. John the Evangelist: 5 completing 48 assignments.
St. John's Reformed: 3 completing 46 assignments.
St. Paul's Wurtemberg: 5 completing 23 assignments.
Third Lutheran Church: 2 competing 19 assignments.
United Methodist of Red Hook: 3 completing 67 assignments.

Total Caregiver assignments: 985 completed in 2010

There are currently a total of 89 drivers volunteering for NDCC, many of whom will soon consider retirement. **There is a great need to recruit new volunteers. Each volunteer sets their own schedule. There is no mandatory amount of time that needs to be given.** Volunteer at your own rate of availability **I implore you to consider volunteering if you are at all interested.** If you don't wish to, perhaps you know of someone who would. Please contact me, Linda Kilpatrick, 845-876-2535. This is a very important service that is offered to the Northern Dutchess area, with requests always increasing. We don't want this service to disappear!

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Kilpatrick

Sympathy to:

the family and friends of **Don Hill** who died September 9;
the family and friends of **Eunice Tiberio** who died Sept. 13;
the family and friends of **George Myers** who died Sept. 16.



Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee Recovery Information:

FEMA Contact Information:

Disaster Assistance

Telephone: 1 (800) 621-FEMA (3362)
TDD: 1 (800) 462-7585
Fax: 1 (800) 827-8112

Technical Assistance (Online Registration):

Telephone: 1 (800) 745-0243
Fax: 1 (800) 827-8112

Mail:

Federal Emergency Management Agency
P.O. Box 10055
Hyattsville, MD 20782-8055

New York Storm Relief Rebate Program

Applications for Storm Relief rebates will be available on Monday, September 19, 2011. Rebates will be processed on a first come, first served basis until program funding has been exhausted. Funds are limited. To qualify,

Residents affected by Hurricane Irene: approved appliances and equipment must be purchased on or after August 29, 2011.

Residents affected by Tropical Storm Lee: approved appliances and equipment must be purchased on or after September 9, 2011. www.NYSApplianceRebates.com or call 1-877-NY-SMART (877-697-6278)

Rental Assistance

New York State storm survivors who lost their home because of damages caused by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee may be eligible to receive rental assistance, the New York State Office of Emergency Management (NYSOEM) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced. Residents should first apply by calling the FEMA Helpline at 1-800-621-3362, TTY 1-800-462-7585.

Multilingual assistance is available by phone. Lines are open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. ET, seven days a week until further notice. Applicants can also register online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or with a smartphone at m.fema.gov. The deadline to apply is October 31, 2011.

October 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 October Flower Chair Kate Peterson, 758-8685.
Greeters & Ushers: If you cannot serve on the Sunday assigned, please phone, Captain Jack Doyle, 758-1725.

October 2

Greeters: Paul and Stacey Dorval
Ushers: Mary and Jim Belliveau
Shepherd: Marie Votava
Nursery:

October 9

Greeters: Cynthia Baer and Beth Sutton
Ushers: Terry Laibach and Kayla Bell
Shepherd: Eileen Zeliph
Nursery: Denise Gilhooly-Partrick

October 16

Greeters: Paul and Trisha Finch
Ushers: Brian and Lisa Reid
Shepherd: Nancy Castillo
Nursery:

October 23

Greeters: Paul and Kathleen Peterson
Ushers: Michael and Carolyn Carr
Shepherd: Nancy Finkle
Nursery:

October 30

Greeters: Dick and Marion wood
Ushers: Frank and Susan Vitolo
Nursery:

"Den, Judy and Family, Church members,

That was so nice of all of you. Jim is doing great.

Thank you,
Mary and Jim Boulger"



"Dear Jackie, Parishioners and Minister Dave,

Thank you so much for the beautiful card you graciously sent me which made my day! God willing, I look forward to seeing you soon as I miss you all.

My love to all!

Steve Mitchell"



To Don and Joy Peterson and Judy

Doyle for putting together the September Kerk; **Barbara Coe** for labeling the October Kerk; **The Polecats** for providing the music for Kick Off Sunday; and **Cherie and Loren Hoffman** for sharing their vocal talents with us on the 18th; **Irene Harrison and Linda Frankle** for folding bulletins.

Croatia Update

Sweet fellowship marks Orahovica church visit

By Nancy Titus

Yesterday, we spent a wonderful family day in Orahovica, a small town about an hour away from our home. Eric preached at the Pentecostal church there, and we enjoyed the rest of the day having fellowship with the pastor and his wife while also feeding ourselves on the beauty of God's creation.

One of the greatest privileges of the day was praying for the people of the church as they came forward. We were honored to do so, and humbled, as one after another asked for the Lord to clear out anything in their lives that kept Him from being the center.

Time spent with Pastor Slobodan and his wife, Lidija, was as invigorating as the hike up to the base of the "Rose City," which is the ruins of a 14th century castle. Once you make the climb, you can stand on a look-out at the bottom of the castle and look down over the city of Orahovica and across to the mountains in Pecs, Hungary, about 50 miles away. The view is worth the effort of the climb. Up a little farther is the castle itself, and traipsing around its old walls fills the mind with possibilities as thoughts go back to those who lived there centuries ago and what happenings the crumbling walls stood witness to.

Slobodan was raised in Orahovica, a picturesque city of about 4,500 named for the walnuts that grow profusely there. He grew up racing up and down the mountain, swinging on the vines, and enjoying the outdoor life through every season. Much of the antics of our trek up the mountain was about how accustomed to it, and incredibly fit Slobodan, at the age of 50 is. Lidija told us how even this past summer, young guys challenged Slobodan to soccer games with great boasting before the game and very little to say afterwards!

All along the way from the church to the lake to the castle and back, Slobodan spoke to every single person we met, encouraging them and joking with them in his natural out-going way. The joy of the Lord flows out from him to anyone within his line of sight and being in his presence – even with our limited conversational skills since he doesn't speak English – was a

pleasure itself!

Orahovica's beautiful setting makes it a drawing place. All third graders from our part of Croatia attend a "nature week" there, which is part of the regular science curriculum of the schools. Both of our girls participated in this event with their classes when they were attending Croatian public school.

The Pentecostal church also has used the natural beauty of Orahovica to foster the spread of the gospel through summer camps it runs. Many of today's church leaders point to the significance of their attendance at these camps decades ago when they were young people in their conversion and/or spiritual development.

Renovation of the camp facilities has been one of the major mission projects of the denomination during our tenure here in Croatia. The project was impressive because money was raised mostly from within the church in Croatia. Because it was largely self-funded, it took a long time for the money to come in and the work to be completed. Slobodan himself did much of the work after his secular job. During the four summers the renovations were underway, the summer camps continued on our seminary property. Our daughter, Valerie, was among the group that returned to the Orahovica property in the summer of 2010 even though the kitchen was not completed until this year.

Please pray for Slobodan and Lidija, for their ministry to the people of Orahovica, for the people of their church and for the camp ministry. Among the challenges they face is the huge problem of unemployment, which is leading many young people to leave the town. The lack of funds also is a huge burden as the church tries to reach out to those with little hope. Pray that God will supply everything they need so that the gospel can flourish for the glory of Jesus.

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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HEALTH MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances. Thessalonians 5:17
OCTOBER 2011

LUNCH AND LEARN SEMINARS ARE BACK IN SWING!

JOIN US FOR TWO EVENTS IN OCTOBER!!!

OUR FIRST:

“CPR/AED Training”

Once again we are blessed to have The Heart Safe Club of Rhinebeck return to St. John’s Reformed Church on Thursday, October 13th from 6 – 9 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

This is the American Heart Association Heartsaver CPR/AED course. Participants will receive a 2-year certification upon successful completion of the course.

Space is limited. Cost is \$15 per person.

If you are not trained in these lifesaving skills of CPR and use of an AED, we encourage you to be.

Sign up sheets are located in the fellowship hall.

OUR SECOND:

“Common Foot Deformities and Advances in Treatment”

Thursday, October 20th

Lunch – 11:45 a.m.

Seminar – 12:30 p.m.

Presenter:

Dr. John L. Zboinski, D.P.M., F.A.C.F.A.S
Podiatry, Surgery and Medicine of the Foot and Ankle, and Sports Medicine

Dr. Zboinski will hold a power point presentation on the following topics:
Bunions Hammertoes Flat Feet Bone Spurs
and the latest treatments available

Sign up sheets are located in the fellowship hall

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.

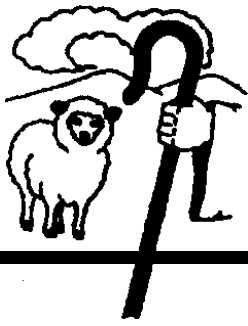
Contact Information: Coordinator – Beverly Kipp

Secretary/Program Coordinator – Jackie Fenaroli

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



The Shepherds Page

October 2011

GRIEF AND HOPE

By Else Rodland
Lay Pastor Ministry, Area Director

I am sure you have all heard of the bombing in Oslo, Norway and the massacre on Utoya (A small island outside of Oslo) on July 22. It was the worst act of terror to hit Norway since World War II.

I am writing this from Norway. I was here on the day of the tragedy. My husband and I have a small apartment in the town where we both grew up and we try to get back at least once a year to visit family and friends. When I am here I use a Daily Guidepost book from 1993 for my daily devotion. On this particular day Pam Kidd wrote the devotional and this is what I read:

“Mass murderers, rapists, embezzlers, drug dealers. The world’s darkness marches across the daily paper and chills my morning coffee.”

Then, in the next paragraph, I read, “On the evening news I see a man planting apple trees wherever he goes, another

opening his hotel to parents of hospitalized children. A lady welcomes “hopeless” drug addicts into her home; another cares for babies of addicted mothers. A sparkle of hope, a glimmer of good. *Light*. It is the glue that holds this crazy world together.”

The Scripture for the day was, “*The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord ... Proverbs 20:27.*”

That is what I read the morning of July 22. That afternoon the bombing and massacre happened. A sea of candles and flowers kept growing in front of Oslo Domkirke (Cathedral) through the night and the days that followed. A Memorial Service was held in the Cathedral in Oslo and in Churches around the country on the 24th. The theme of the service was GRIEF AND HOPE. This theme plus the placing of candles and flowers kept spreading as parades with roses were held in every city around the country.

The thought came to me, having read the scripture in the morning, that, we do not just light candles, we are candles. The Lord has chosen us to light up this dark world with His love and the hope we have in Christ.

In Romans 12:21, we read, “*Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*”

It doesn’t take great deeds of heroism to make a difference. Small acts of kindness can change a person’s life. We can send that card, make that visit or phone call that we have been dreading or putting off. I see how important it is to make contact with people who are hurting, lonely or in need of help. We can hug, we can listen, we can come alongside, we can pray, and we can bring hope to those who are grieving. Even doing the wrong thing, as long as we reach out in love, is better than doing nothing at all.

A young girl, a survivor from Utoya, who was interviewed by CNN after the tragedy, made this statement, “If one man can show so much hate, think how much love we all can show.”

*Reprint from Lay Pastor Ministry
Network News - Summer 2011*

What is the Shepherds Ministry

The Shepherds Ministry provides an important means where members and friends of our church family care for each other. Call Priscilla Tremper for more information 758-5657.

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

ADDRESS CHANGES

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C/O Linda Dempsey
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Germantown, NY 12526

Zeliph, Michele

2159 14th St. Apt. 1
Troy, NY 12180



Deadline for the **November Kerk** is **October 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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