

THE KERK

SEPTEMBER 2010

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From the Interim Minister's Desk

One of the primary reasons offered for getting ideas straight is that beliefs influence the way we act. If you believe, for example, that it is unwise and unsafe to exceed posted speed limits, then it would be foolish if not dangerous for you to violate speed limits. Ideas and beliefs influence action.

Within the Christian tradition it is expressed that "*ortho-doxis* gives rise to *ortho-praxis*," i.e. right belief gives rise to right practice or action. Such in fact is one of the cornerstones of our Reformed tradition. Right belief leads to right practice.

The Puritans are renowned for the manner in which they structured their society based upon their religious principles. (The Amish do something very similar.) The Puritans, though, also became infamous for being heavy-handed and domineering in mandating adherence to those religious principles. Today we tend to look down upon the Puritans for being "puritanical" while the Amish are viewed as anachronistic. As a result many Christians, including those within the Reformed tradition, have been reluctant to establish standards for *right* practice. Unfortunately that has given rise to the practice, if not the belief, that "anything goes." Hence whatever you do is alright. Some of the confusion and ills of our contemporary society no doubt arise from this.

One aspect of the recent World Cup (soccer) games which has tended to be overlooked is that they were hosted in South Africa. I can remember listening to the BBC when I was studying in The Netherlands in the late 70s and hearing reports of the athletic teams of various countries, including the British Commonwealth, refusing to compete with a team from South Africa—and certainly never *in* South Africa! South Africa was very much isolated. How things have changed! And remarkably this year's World Cup, which was hosted by South Africa, did not evidence, to my knowledge, tensions based upon racism. It prompts the question as to how this happened. How could a society change from its practices of apartheid to a showcase for the world? And how was this accomplished apart from a revolution and/or random acts of violence?

Part of the answer lies in a document which was composed in 1982 by a group of Christians gathering in Belhar, South Africa. The document they created has come to be known as the Belhar Confession, and it was quickly adopted by the Dutch Reformed Mission Church and then the new Uniting Reformed Church of South Africa. The Belhar Confession confronted the sin of racism and made possible reconciliation among Reformed churches in South Africa.

The pertinence of the Belhar Confession is not limited to South Africa, however. The Confession addresses three key issues of concern to all Christians and churches—the unity of the Church and unity among all people, reconciliation within the church and society, and God's justice. At the annual General Synod of our Reformed Church in America in June the Belhar Confession was formally adopted as a fourth standard of the Church. In July the Presbyterian Church (USA) also voted for adoption of Belhar as one of its standards, and the decision whether to move forward with that rests now with the various presbyteries of that denomination.

Beginning on Thursday, September 9th, I will be hosting a series of discussion and reflection sessions on the Belhar Confession. We'll take a look at its three motifs or issues, seeking to understand what they might have to say to us at St. John's as we contemplate and plan for the future. The sessions are intended to be informative as well as stimulating. The goal will be to enhance unity, reconciliation, and justice in the midst of ourselves and our families, at St. John's, and the community. If you're interested and/or curious, please speak with me or call me at 845/758-1184 or 215/962-1195 or sign up on the sheet in fellowship hall. Tentatively we will meet on Thursday evenings after choir.

In Christ, **Pastor Keith**

**FROM DESIREE'S DESK
WORKCAMP BEGAN WITH A HORRIBLE FLOOD
AND QUESTIONS TO ANSWER ABOUT 2011.**

Back on July 4, 1976 while the rest of the country was celebrating the Bicentennial, the people in Big Thompson Canyon, near Estes Park, CO, had just experienced a 12 inch rainfall that caused more than \$41,000,000 in damages and took the lives of 145 people. From this horrible flood came the desire to help people who had lost everything but their lives rebuild. Group Magazine Publisher Thom Schultz asked for volunteers and got 300 people who made up the first "Workcamp".

Working on their 35th year, Group Workcamps Foundation has released dates for the summer of 2011, and our Workcampers are trying to decide where they should serve. Factors that go into the decision are:

- How far can we reasonably travel to get to the location by noon on Sunday for registration?
- How far can we travel and parents will still allow their students to go?
- How much travel can we afford? Extra miles mean more gasoline to buy for the rental vans, an expense from the start.
- If we go to a location that requires an overnight stay on the way there, where will we stay, and does that mean we incur additional expenses?
- How much time do the students have for fundraising?
- Are the locations urban? Suburban? In rural areas? Do the locations place the participants in any danger?
- Do we reserve space at a Workcamp or a Week of Hope?
- How many spaces do we reserve and pay for the non-refundable deposit?

And the list goes on. Deposits for next summer's Workcamp are due to Group by Sept. 31st, and a number of popular locations are already filled. Please keep this ministry in your prayers as we make decisions that will impact St. John's students' and adults' lives and those in the communities where they will serve.

Desiree Albizu,
Associate in Ministry in Christian Education

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School begins again Sunday, September 12 at 9:15 a.m. The children will go to their classrooms at that time and will end their morning with a time of worship in the assembly hall. Children ages three years through eighth grades are invited to join in this program. Guests are always welcome.

We use Faith Alive Christian Resources' Walk With Me curriculum for the Sunday School program. It is Bible-based, Reformed, and written with the multiple intelligences of children in mind. There is no reading expected of children in the Pre-school, Kindergarten or 1st grade class.



Parents are welcome to accompany their children to the classrooms to get them settled in. If your child needs you to remain longer, we do not have a problem with you doing so. You know your child best.

Beginning August 29 we will hand out registration packets. Please fill out a registration form for your child even if you have filled one out in the past, and turn it in to Desiree Albizu, Associate in Ministry in Christian Education. We want to make sure we have the proper up-dated information for each child. Thank you.

We thank all those teachers and assistants who have agreed to lead our children this program year. They bring God's word to the children in a way that is fun, faithful, and age-appropriate.

There will be a meeting with the parents and older elementary (4th-8th) students on Sunday, September 19 at 10:30 am in Room 4 of the education wing. The following Sunday there will be a meeting for the younger students (Pre K-third grade) and their parents in the Assembly Hall at 10:30 p.m. At these meetings you will be able to express your feelings and thoughts about what has happened at St. John's in hopes of moving towards healing and reconciliation. If you have questions, please speak to or contact Associate Desiree Albizu, (518) 537-4221 or albizu@valstar.net.

CHILDREN AT THE LORD'S TABLE

Communion at St. John's is open to all who profess that Jesus Christ is their Lord and Savior. This includes children as well.

September 23 at 7 p.m. there will be a meeting for parents and their children 9 years old or 4th grade and up who would like to participate in the Lord's Table. Children who are ready to make a profession of faith will meet with the elders in the room 4 of the education wing on Sunday, September 26 at 8:45 a.m. so that they may participate in communion on Sunday, October 3, World Communion Sunday, for the very first time. For more information, contact Desiree Albizu.

EMMAUS ROAD YOUTH NEWS

At the time this issue went to print, the youth leaders had yet to meet to discuss how they envision Emmaus Road Youth Ministries for the 2010-11 program year. We hope to begin youth group in late September or early October. Be watching for announcements in the bulletin.

If you have been bringing in returnable bottles and cans, we thank you. We regret that at this time we are no longer collecting them. If you would like to continue to donate your returnable bottle money to the youth group, just place it in an envelope in Associate Desiree Albizu's mailbox in the education wing. Thank you. Money from the bottles went into the youth group checking account for mission trip expenses.

Have you checked out the greeting cards in the fellowship hall? The cards are from the same company that provides us with calendars to sell, and feature the same beautiful photography. Scripture passages on the front are from the King James Version meant to inspire and comfort recipients. Cards are blank inside so you can write your own message or use them for note or letter writing. Proceeds go to support the summer mission trips. The cards cost \$8 for a packet of 12 cards. That's 67¢ a card which is quite a savings these days. Checks can be made payable to Emmaus Road Youth Ministries or St. John's and left in the envelope in the stand on the table in the fellowship hall. Coming soon-2011 calendars.

HERO HEADQUARTERS VBS A SUCCESS

St. John's was the host to the Red Hook Ministerium's "Hero Headquarters" Vacation Bible School the week of August 16-20. Over sixty elementary age children attended with a staff of 14 older students and 12 adults, most of whom came from St. John's. Those from St. John's included Eileen & Tamara Wambach, Mary Ann & Daniel Berns, Robin, Kira, & Sophie Bruno, Wendy Walrath, Chris Knight, Paula Vitolo, Olivia Bartles, Michelle Zeliph, Connor & Laura Hennessey, and Erika Rodriguez. The children learned they don't have to be rich or famous to be a hero for God. Bible stories showed them how heroes do the unexpected, take action, step out in faith, save the day, and stand for truth. These were the daily themes in stories from the Old and New Testaments about some of the Bible's unnamed heroes. Offering totaling \$210 was given to help purchase school supplies for children who may otherwise have to do without them in our community.



SCUDDER CIRCLE FALL LUNCHEON

Please join us on Thursday, September 9th, at noon, when we kick off our program year with our Annual Pot Luck Luncheon. Pastor Keith Schmitt has agreed to be our speaker. You can bring a dish to share; dessert and beverages will be provided. Although Scudder usually meets on the first Thursday of the month, we have postponed the Luncheon until the second Thursday so that it would not happen before Labor Day. All are welcome; bring a friend! Sign up in fellowship hall. If you have any questions, call Marie Votava or Evie Seils.

SUMMER READ DISCUSSION



Readers will discuss the book Waking Up to This Day: Seeing the Beauty Right Before Us by Paula D'Arcy on Friday, September 10 at 9:30 a.m. in room 3 of the education wing and/or Monday, September 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the Associates' office. Come even if you have not finished reading the book.

Monday Night book Lovers' Club October 4 selection is Little Bee: A Novel by Chris Cleave.

WOMEN WITH FAITH SEPTEMBER

Women with Faith will meet on Friday, September 17 at 7:30 p.m. at St. John's. Please bring a snack to share if you can. We will be discussing meeting ideas for the program year.

REFORMED CHURCH WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

All are welcome to join us when we gather at the Hopewell Reformed Church for breakfast and a worship service on Saturday, September 25th. The featured speaker that day will be Carol Luidens. Carol was raised in the Mid-East, the daughter of missionary parents. She has recently returned from a three-month stay in Palestine and Israel, where she was a volunteer on a peace mission. She will have pictures and interesting stories to tell us.

We can carpool from the Church. Come, and bring a friend! Registration will begin at 9:15 a.m. A donation of \$6 is requested for the breakfast. An offering will be taken at the service. We should be back in Red Hook about noon. If you would like to be a part of this uplifting morning, please call Nancy Hetzler (758-5716) by Sunday, Sept. 19.

RUMMAGE SALE

Thursday, September 30th through Saturday October 2nd. See separate flier in The Kerk.

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Hudson River Housing

We have chosen to help a local charity in Poughkeepsie again this year: Hudson River Housing. For 27 years they have provided housing for the homeless. They develop, rehabilitate and operate emergency, transitional and permanent housing for low income and homeless families and individuals in our county.

For the last 10 years they have operated River Haven Runaway and Homeless Youth Program, providing safe shelter and services for thousands of Dutchess County's at-risk youth. They provide a safe alternative for runaways and assist them in reuniting with their families or establishing other suitable plans for their future.

River Haven has grown into a 24 hour crisis center and 12 bed shelter that not only provides a safe alternative for vulnerable youth, but also strives to divert young people from court involvement and out-of-home placement. They now have a Street Based Outreach Team going all over the county, reaching out to at-risk youth and have increased services for older youth who were in need of longer term services in order to make a successful transition to independent living. River Haven launched its Independent Living Support Program which now provides case management and other support services for 185 older homeless and at-risk youth annually.

Darryl Vasser was one of River Haven's first residents; he is now a counselor there. Looking back he recalls: "I was homeless. I had no place to go. I saw the card with the number on a pay phone and called. I needed a place to sleep and something to eat. They helped me get back on speaking terms with my mom... A part time Counselor at River, started a construction company, he hired me....I ended up getting a great job with a major Manhattan construction company....years later I moved back up to this area....I began working as a volunteer (at River Haven)....Finally, I got a job at River Haven as a counselor."

"River Haven staff is compassionate and welcoming to young people during times of personal crisis and are able to assist families in the complicated process of reconciling with their child following the stressful time. River Haven provides that vital 'cooling off' period that allows many youth and families to work through their problems and resolve them."

L. Monkman, Children's Services Coordinator,
Dutchess County Department of Mental Hygiene

Please pray about giving support to this incredible organization which helps the least of these; Hudson River Housing.

Laurie DeCitiis
Mission & Outreach Committee



SWEATERS!

Once again, it is time to think about those residents at the Baptist Home who are in need of sweaters. They don't all have family who can provide clothing, and the clothes they do have get worn out. We can help by collecting cardigan sweaters or sweatshirts for them, as these older folks get chilly easily. All sizes are needed, for men and for women. The sweaters should be in good condition, and need to be machine washable - therefore, no wool, rayon, or sewn-on decorations.

During the month of September, there will be a collection bin in the hallway of the education wing. Thank you for any sweaters you can bring.

Borrowed?

I lent a DVD to someone on the subject of Alzheimer's disease. It was an HBO series spearheaded by Maria Shriver called "Project

Alzheimer's". If you borrowed it, would you return it to me? Thank you.

Karen Roberts

BRAIN GAMES

If I were to ask you on which side of the sink you'd find the cold water, I'll bet you'd have to think a few seconds before you gave me an answer...or maybe longer. Try your luck with the following similar teasers...things we've seen a million times...but we're just not quite sure...

1. Sleepy, Happy, Sneezing, Grumpy, Dopey, Doc, and the seventh dwarf is?

2. Do books have their even-numbered pages on the left or right? _____

3. Name the five colors on a Campbell soup label. _____

4. There are two one-eyed Jacks in a typical deck of cards. Which suit faces right?

5. How many hot dog buns are in a standard package? _____

Have Fun!!! ☺

**See you on Thursday, September 16th when
Brain Games resumes.**

in the Fellowship Hall at 10:15 a.m.

Jackie Fenaroli and Barbara Coe, Leaders

TREASURER'S POSITION

Bob Totman would like to retire from his position as Church Treasurer (again!). If you are interested in this position, please submit your resume to the Church Office. If you have any questions, please contact Bob at 758-3467.

Croatia Update

New school year offers new degree of service By
Nancy Titus

Even before the ink dries on Eric's doctorate in theology degree, he has been named head of the doctoral program at the Evangelical Theological Seminary, where we work. He fills a vacancy left after the departure of an American missionary in May followed by the sudden death in June of the resident professor named to replace him.

The timing of this appointment indicates just how important Eric's degree progress has been to the seminary, where last year three professors were working on doctorates and another just left Croatia for a three-year residency in the States to complete his.

Eric expects to finalize his degree from Charles University in Prague later this month. He will defend his dissertation, completed in June, before an audience of "opponents," who will question him on its content. We appreciate your prayers as he prepares for this important and nerve-wracking event.

Eric has been working intensively on the degree since we arrived in Croatia in 2006, doing a six-year part-time program in just four years, saving thousands of dollars.

The degree required Eric to travel to Prague two or three times a year and pass comprehensive exams in four major areas of theology: Old Testament/Hebrew, New Testament/Greek, German, and church history. For the past year, he has been researching and writing his dissertation, a 330-page work on the influence of the context of pre-Nazi Germany on Karl Barth's rejection of the *analogia entis*, or analogy of being.

"Simply stated, the analogy of being is an attempt to equate culture, narrative, or instance of being on the human side with that of God, creating a blurring of the distinction between God and humanity," he said.

"I see that much of the theological thinking of Barth's time is having a resurgence in our contemporary approaches to theology."

ETF's doctoral program, still under development, is important to the future of the

school as it focuses more and more on offering advanced degrees.

"While there are many undergraduate and Bible school programs in the region, there are very few that can offer quality graduate and post graduate studies in Protestant theology."

This year, Eric will work primarily to get accreditation and to construct a doctorate of ministry component for the program.

September also brings a new school year for our children and with it a new way of doing school. Many of you have joined us in prayer to find a school option more appropriate for our son, Samuel. We believe we have found an answer to those prayers in a U.S. high school diploma program that offers a classical education from a Reformed perspective.

Samuel, who is in tenth grade, will attend virtual on-line classes in which he can listen to the teacher, view visuals, ask and answer questions and interact with other students in the same class. Classes are twice a week for 90 minutes each and convene at a particular time of day. He will log on to the classroom and participate fully along with other students logging on from across the US and possibly other countries.

He will take three such classes, and Valerie, who is in seventh grade, will take one. They, along with fifth-grade Penny, are also enrolled in independent self-paced on-line classes from another source that offer feedback from teachers but can be done at their convenience.

We are thrilled to have found a combination of schooling options, including home courses which they all will have, that meets the particular needs of each of our children in a cost-effective manner. I am excited for the breadth of opportunity these provide and ask your continued prayer as we enter this new school year both at home and at the seminary – for the glory of God.

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, 15, Valerie, 12, and Penny, 10.
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CONGRATULATIONS!

Stan and Priscilla Tremper on their 60th wedding anniversary.



Red Roses and Thank You to:

Jane Bier, Don and Joy Peterson for putting together the July/August Kerk;

Paul Peterson for all the work on all the Kerks, (some he's done by himself), setting up the wireless, ordering printing supplies and most especially for being "on call" be it e-mail or telephone (sorry I forgot the smarties!);

Tom Seils for all the electrical work; lights, light bulbs, smoke detectors, etc. etc. etc.

Ralph Douglas for continuing to work on Fridays folding and stuffing and fixing the broken leg on the chalkboard;

John for the ice cream sandwich from Holy Cow;

Ralph Douglas and Irene Coyle for labeling the Sept. Kerk; **Olivia Bartles and Paula Vitolo** for folding bulletins; **Gary Finkle** for fixing light bulbs.



"To the St. John's Congregation,
When God guides – He
provides. During our recent

tragedy, your love and support, your thoughts and prayers, your time, your strength, your presence, your generosity and your friendship helped us more than you can know.

We couldn't have done it without you.

Thank you,
Julie, Geoff, Taylor and Kalie"

"Dear Mission and Outreach Committee,

Jud and I would like to thank in alphabetical order: Laurie DeCiutiis, Cathy and Hoppy Michael, Judy Pedatella, Roy Provencher, John roberts, Cary Robinson, Pastor Keith Schmitt, Alan Slingerland, Jim Walrath and John White for coming to our home, June 26, armed and prepared to work on our property. You all worked so hard and did a fine job.

We enjoyed the camaraderie and deeply appreciate your kindness and generosity.

With Love and Prayers,
Anita Sprague

"My sincere thanks for all you cheering and comforting cards, your phone calls, visits and mostly your thoughts and prayers in my recovery after emergency gallbladder surgery and stones removed. Never underestimate the power of prayer and acts of friendship as they have a huge affect on the healing powers. God Bless you all! Again, thanks!!! "

JoAnn Fisher

"Dear Jackie and Barb,

Thank you so much for your loving care of the Brain Game participants. We look forward each week to your games, challenges and good humor. The "Group" is very special and I believe inspired by you both.

You organize, plan and keep us on our toes. The laughter is the greatest benefit.

Thank you for your generous leadership. You both reflect God's love in Upper Red Hook.
Nancy Hetzler

Sympathy to:

Elizabeth and Will Young due to the death of their grandmother,
Meg Gartelmann, on August 10.



REFLECTIONS FROM WORKCAMP

Jennifer Piacente:

My residents said it was the best week of their lives. ... I didn't want to leave.

Cara Search:

I would recommend [Workcamp] to anybody.

Tamara Wambach talked about her resident being a young wife whose husband is stationed in Iraq. As the week progressed, the wife shared her wedding photos with the Workcampers. Tamara said, "I really admired her," showing how close these students can get to their residents in five days.

Jason Piacente said that Workcamp "is a ton of fun" and told how he likes to share his famous jokes at bedtime and gets the entire room laughing while they are trying to go to sleep. He has had some misadventures like a broken nose playing basketball last year or getting a jackhammer stuck this July, but he ended by saying, "The residents appreciated everything we've done."

Susan Balogh noted how the discussion in the evenings devotions with our group triggered much talk about what's happening at St. John's and evolved into the students returning to lead the worship service today."

The students want to "set the church on fire," (for the Lord, not literally). She also appreciated a couple "angels" that showed up on her team. One was an unemployed construction worker who taught this unlikely work crew some basic skills that by week's end were "quite amazing." Early in the week her resident seemed very depressed but by week's end she was "out in the yard [admiring their work on her house] and grinning ear to ear." She even accepted the invitation to join the team at Friday evening's closing worship service. She arrived "dressed to the nines, and was singing and grinning with us." All in all "[Workcamp] renewed her faith in the younger generation." She ended by saying, "As long as you are committed, there are people there [at Workcamp] to help you."

Michelle Zeliph spoke of her rough freshman year at RPI, a college community that for the most part

did not show belief in God. This shook her faith, and left her "feeling empty". Even a few weeks at Camp Fowler "didn't help." Commenting on past Workcamps, she said, "I always felt moved, but never changed, but this year I did...I was saved. I heard God's voice again... I was washed over with God's voice of calm." Her closing words were "It's not about us; it's about community and serving each other."

Other students spoke and spoke well, but I missed taking notes on the first couple of students, and then completely forgot when Chris Knight got up to speak. You will have to ask others present about his words.

They made the congregation clap loud and long. Thank you each and every one who went and spoke at this very moving worship service. Well done good and faithful servants!

Desiree Albizu

HURTING AND HEALING

The old adage advises: "Don't rock the boat." Try to remain calm, even amidst the storms of life. It's easier said than done. Sometimes life can batter us with wave upon wave of trials and tribulations. Over the years many people have come to the church as a place of solace from all of that sort of thing. It's a place of peace and calm.

It is distressing, then, when disturbances arise even within the church—and unfortunately and tragically that will occur from time to time. St. John's is no exception. There has been a period of trial and tribulation at St. John's which has occasioned feelings of hurt and dis-ease.

Before moving ahead as a congregation for many there is a need to heal. Your Consistory recently appointed a Committee for Healing and a proposal to help the Church heal and move forward has been endorsed. It will involve listening, visitation, informational meetings, and a healing service—all within the goal of a call for forgiveness and reconciliation.

Please consider prayerfully sharing your own concerns when you are called to join in a group and/or open up to someone within the

congregation. It's part of an endeavor to manifest wholeness and holiness.

HEALING COMMITTEE

Sunday, Sept. 12, Informational meeting between the services to explain what is planned for healing and reconciliation. Those with further questions may go into room 4 in the education wing to have their questions answered. (Please assign us a room.)

Throughout September and October members of the Healing Committee will meet with already established groups to ask individuals in those groups about their needs or to explain what we have heard from other groups.

On Sunday, October 24 a healing service to be led by ministers within Classis; either late afternoon or early evening.

Throughout Advent people seeking reconciliation before Christmas and the new year.

THE DEACONS and the VICTORY GARDEN



The "Book of Church Order" of the Reformed Church in America, in a section which broadly defines the duties of Deacons, contains the following sentence; "the board of deacons shall serve those in distress and need."

Several years ago our Church established a food pantry to help serve "those in ...need". Members of the congregation were asked to contribute items to this food pantry, and each week in the announcement page of our Sunday bulletin lists the "Food Pantry Needs". Donations of food items to the pantry have been slow this summer and the Deacons have had to purchase many

items to keep the pantry operating. Our food pantry is helping to fill a need in our community. It is regularly used by a number of families who are struggling to put food on their table.

Three years ago, The Deacons of St. John's started a series of summer "Victory Garden Sales" to help raise funds to support the food pantry. Your current Deacons are continuing this activity. This year our first sale was held on June 13. Our June sales were primarily young plants, both vegetables and flowers, with a few baked items also donated and sold. The three Sunday sales in June resulted in \$116.35 being added to the Deacons' Fund. In July the sales continued with a mixture of plants, cut flowers, fruits and vegetables and a few baked items. July added \$185.65 to the Deacons' Fund. During each Sunday in August we have had an assortment of fruits, vegetables, cut flowers and baked items that resulted in an additional \$331.51 for the Deacon's Fund. We plan to continue these sales for the next several weeks.

Your Deacons want to thank the many members of our congregation who have brought in all of the many items we have been able to sell. Also, we are grateful to all of you who stop by our table between services and make a purchase. The combination of members sharing what they have raised or baked and other members purchasing those products is helping our Church fill a need within our community. To all of you who are helping, your Deacons say THANK YOU.

Ralph Douglas

SEARCH COMMITTEE

People interested in serving on the Pastoral Search Committee, or who would like more information about it, should sign their names on the sheet on the table in the Fellowship Hall. There will be an organizational meeting in early October with our supervising minister from the Mid-Hudson Classis, the Rev. Dave Brechter, where responsibilities as a member of the committee will be explained. Initially being on the committee may require meeting twice a month. As the search nears its close, the committee may be meeting once or twice a week.



THE SCHOOL FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING AND SERVING
A Ministry of the Mid-Hudson and Orange
Classes
FALL 2010 COURSE OFFERINGS

Course registration is required in advance. Registration deadlines are one week prior to course. Please register in time to insure the class will run. Scholarships are available from the School by contacting the Registrar.

COURSES:

The Gospel According to John (General Interest)

Instructor: The Rev. Jay Vogelaar
Date: Thursdays, Sept. 30, October 7, 14, & 21, 7-9 pm
Location: Walkkill Reformed Church, 45 Bridge Street, Wallkill 12589
Tuition: \$45, plus books and materials

John 20: 31 says that the signs in the gospel were written "so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that in believing you may have life in his name." (RSV) The Gospel of John is dressed in nuance and elegance, and our goal is a deeper appreciation for what the author saw and valued in Jesus. This class will explore the presentation of the Word made flesh, Jesus' "I AM" statements, the "signs" and the "glory" of Christ, and the victory of the cross and resurrection, among other things.

Standards of Unity of the Reformed Church in America (Preaching Elder, General Interest)

Instructor: The Rev. Gary DeWitt
Dates: Mondays, October 4, 11, 18, & 25, November 1 & 8, 7 -10 pm
Location: Walkkill Reformed Church, 45 Bridge Street, Wallkill 12589
Tuition: \$100, plus books and materials

Through directed readings and collegial discussion, each participant will become familiar with the purpose of each Standard, and will have the opportunity to wrestle with the theology contained in each of the four Standards- the Heidelberg Catechism, the Belgic Confession, the Canons of the Synod of Dordt, and the Belhar Confession. A short theological reflection paper is required of candidates for Preaching Elder and Associates in CE.

Survey of the Old Testament (Preaching Elder, Associate in Christian Education & General Interest)

Instructor: The Rev. Luis Perez
Date: Mondays, October 4, 11, 18, & 25, November 1 & 8, 7 -10 pm
Location: The Reformed Church, 6368 Mill Street, Rhinebeck 12572
Tuition: \$100, plus books and materials

"After his resurrection, Jesus walked to Emmaus with two unnamed disciples. Along the way, 'beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself' (Luke 24:27) This course is a survey of the Old Testament, including inspiration, interpretation, background information, tools of study, a brief look at each book, and application for today with some attention to the use of it in preaching. Papers are required of candidates for Preaching Elder and Associates in CE.

My Child Has ADD/ADHD, Now What Do I Do? (General interest)

Instructor: The Rev. Dr. Robert Gram, LCSW
Dates: Wednesday, October 13, 7-9 pm
Location: Hurley Reformed Church, 11 Main Street, Hurley 12443
Tuition: \$25, plus materials. Both ADD/ADHD courses for \$40

Often when a parent is confronted with the reality of their child's ADD/ADHD, they do not know where to turn for help. Participants will learn the characteristics of ADD/ADHD and how to help their children improve social interactions and succeed in school. Medications and other coping strategies will be explored.

Recognizing Adult ADD/ADHD (General interest)

Instructor: The Rev. Dr. Robert Gram, LCSW
Dates: Wednesday, October 20, 7-9 pm

Location: Hurley Reformed Church, 11 Main Street, Hurley 12443
Tuition: \$25, plus materials. Both ADD/ADHD courses for \$40

Many successful adults struggle with organization, time management, and relationships due to unrecognized adult ADD/ADHD. This course will provide guidance in recognizing adult ADD/ADHD and will explore compensating strategies for a happier life.

Feasting, Fasting and Celebrating Thanks Giving (General Interest)

Instructor: Beverly Kipp, Preaching Elder, Health Ministry Coordinator at St. John's Reformed Church and writer
Date: Monday, November 15, 7:30-9 pm
Location: Walkkill Reformed Church, 45 Bridge Street, Walkkill 12589
Tuition: \$20, plus books and materials

This relaxed but informative course prepares us to enter the Holiday season intentionally. Through discussion, Bible reading and writing, we will explore the spiritual discipline of fasting, an underutilized spiritual practice that is often misunderstood. With a little practical and scriptural guidance, fasting can be easy to practice, even in the presence of medical limitations. If our heart's desire is to "get it right this year", this course will set the stage for a wondrous and joy filled season ready to celebrate all our blessings.

*******SPECIAL FALL EVENT*******

The Joy of Being Reformed (General interest)

Instructor: The Rev. Dr. Renee House, Dean and Professor of Theology at New Brunswick Theological Seminary
Dates: Saturday, November 6, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Location: Walkkill Reformed Church, 45 Bridge Street, Walkkill 12589
Tuition: \$5 for lunch collected at the door.

This event is being underwritten by the Emily Paulson Scholarship Fund. Advanced registration by email or phone for catering purposes is needed. Please contact the Registrar at 518-537-4221 or at albizu@valstar.net.

Together we will engage in a close reading and discussion of our ecumenical and Reformed confessions in order to get our minds and hearts around the distinctive shape of the Reformed faith.

Ultimately, Reformed faith is faith that intends to confirm in us the goodness and joy of the Lord, to transform every aspect of our lives, and to evoke our thanksgiving in the shape of world-changing service. The growth of this faith is a lively work of the Spirit in us, in the church, and in the world. Our exploration will be critical, creative, and experiential. Using a variety of methods for teaching and learning, we will open our life stories to the Reformed faith story we received.

Renee House grew up in a Mid-western RCA congregation in which education, mission and a lively Reformed evangelical faith were central. She has been in ordained ministry since 1987 when she joined the faculty of the New Brunswick Theological Seminary. At the seminary she served as Librarian, and is currently the Dean of NBTS. Dr. House teaches in the area of practical theology with a special focus in Christian education, faith formation and missional perspectives on the church. At General Synod 2010, Renee was again granted the Office of General Synod Professor of Theology. Dr. House has also served on the ministry staff of the Methodist Reformed Church with her husband Richard Ruch. She also preaches and teaches in many other Reformed settings. She is mother to two stepsons, the grandmother of three amazing grandchildren, and enjoys writing poetry, collaging, gardening and cooking (among other things!).

September 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 September Flower Chairs, Linda Neilson, 756-2422 or Barbara Rhynders, 758-6632.

Greeters & Ushers: If you cannot serve on the Sunday assigned, please phone, Captain Harry Craver, 758-3581.

September 5

Greeters: Eileen Zeliph and Nancy Castillo
Ushers: Mary and Jim Belliveau
Shepherd: Nancy Finkle
Nursery:

September 12

Greeters: Michael and Tanya Wyant
Ushers: Terry Laibach and Kayla Bell
Nursery: Denise Gilhooly-Partrick

September 19

Greeters: Wayne and Holly Swart
Ushers: Brian and Lisa Reid
Shepherd: Marie Votava
Nursery: Jennifer Monarchi

September 26

Greeters:
Ushers: Michael and Carolyn Carr
Nursery:

Come One, Come ALL.

**Join Us for a Lunch and Learn Seminar
on**

Loss and Grieving

Thursday, September 23, 2010
Lunch – 11:45 a.m.; Seminar – 1 p.m.

with Beverly Kipp, Health Ministry
Coordinator
and
Desiree Albizu, Associate for Christian
Education

More details to follow on this Seminar in
future church bulletins.

**Sign up sheets will be located in the
fellowship hall.**

A REMINDER TO ALL

Brain Games will start up again on
Thursday, September 16th
10:15 to 11:15 a.m.

We look forward to another great year!!
Jackie and Barb hope you kept those brains
working over the summer!!

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 – FenaroliJ17@yahoo.com

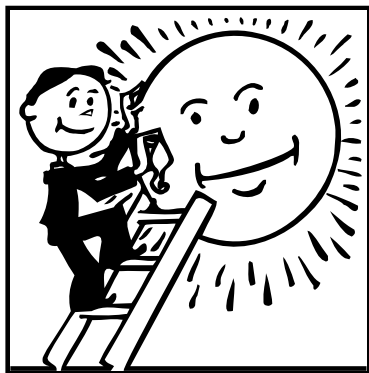
Watch the Kerk and Sunday bulletin for program
related or last minute changes in schedule.



The Shepherds Page

September 2010

Brighten Your Corner



We cannot all be famous or listed in “who’s Who”, but every person, great or small, has important work to do.

For seldom do we realize the importance of small deeds, or to what degree of greatness unnoticed kindness leads.

For it’s not the big celebrity in a world of fame and praise, but it’s doing unpretentiously in an undistinguished way.

The work that God assigned to us, unimportant as it seems, that makes our task outstanding and brings reality to dreams. So do not sit and idly wish for

wider, new dimensions where you can put into practice, your many good intentions.

But at the spot God placed you begin at once to do, little things to brighten up the lives surrounding you.

If every body brightened up the spot where they’re standing, by being more considerate, and a little less demanding.

The dark old world would very soon eclipse the evening star, if everybody brightened up the corner where they are.

Author unknown

The Shepherds Creed

P - PRAYER
A - AVAILABLE
C - CONTACT
E- EXAMPLE

Prayer

Mark 5:13 “Is any of you in trouble? He should pray. Is any one happy? He should sing songs of praise.”

Jesus knew the power of prayer.



He often slipped away from his disciples after a day of teaching and doing miracles

to be alone and pray. Prayer was the source of his strength and power. He stayed connected to that source in order to help others.

God speaks to us through prayer. It is a natural response to our pain and suffering. God knows our hopes and desires. A deeper relationship develops between the prayer and the prayer. You are more attuned to other’s needs.

We often pray for the quick fix, but God intervenes to produce less concrete, yet more powerful realities. Set aside time every day for prayer. Whether it is when waiting in line at the super market, getting the children from school, or taking a walk.

Shepherds Committee

Shepherds Serving St. John’s May2010

Barbara Coe - Desiree Albizu - JoAnn 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



Deadline for the **October** Kerk is **September 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.

Answers to Brain Games:

1. Bashful
2. Left
3. Red, White, Black, Gold, Silver
4. The Jack of Spades faces right
5. 8

ADDRESS CHANGES

Hayes, Cheryl
835-8352
63 Jefferson Rd.
Red Hook, NY 12571

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Beverly A. Kipp

Lay Minister Speaker Writer
Focus Phrase Moderator

bkipp@frontiernet.net
845 758 8545