

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

September 2011

VOL. 45, NO. 8

From the Interim Minister's Desk

**KICK OFF SUNDAY
ICE CREAM UNDER THE TENT
SEPTEMBER 11, 2011 AT 9:15 A.M.**



Mark this day; summer vacations are over and the new year in Sunday School and Church will begin.

In our service, we will commemorate the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 destruction of the World Trade Towers.

Steve Bartles and friends are going to play at the worship service and after the service under the tent.

Special events:

- Register your children for Sunday School. We have great new materials for the children to teach them about God's love and Jesus.
- Music and ice cream will be served under the tent.
- the pastor and other staff persons will attempt kicking a field goal over the goal posts!
- It will be a lot of fun. See you here!** The time is **9:15 a.m.** for Church and Sunday School. The 11 a.m. service will begin on **September 18.**

On Sunday, September 18 the Hoffman's will bring their wonderful voices to our service, and the Choir will also begin their fall season with us.

I am beginning a series of sermons regarding the growth of the early church; "Breaking down and opening up". You won't want to miss these teachings from the Bible.

So welcome back. It's time to get back in the swing of things at St. John's.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Dave



FROM DESIREE'S DESK TRANSITIONS

My oldest daughter is turning thirty in a few days, and this made me think of when she was first a baby and then a toddler. We would go outside every day and she would explore the neighborhood. Our landladies took care of elderly in their big farmhouse. They also had five other apartments on their property, one of which was ours.

One day one of the neighbors, a young single guy, commented to me that he didn't understand why I would tell a toddler that we would be going inside in five minutes. He shook his head, saying something about Jaclyn not being old enough to understand what five minutes were. (I would also give her a two-minute and then a one-minute warning.) Initially she may not have understood what I meant, but through repetition she came to learn quite quickly what I was saying. It helped her to make the transition to whatever it was we were going to do next, and I would say that along with the time limit. "In two minutes we are going inside to have a snack and then take a nap." It brought order to her day and made her feel safe and in the long run loved. Later as she went to pre-school, I noticed that some children could easily make transitions from playground to inside. Others melted with every transition. They would always cry and couldn't settle down to the next task. In time though, they, too, began to understand what came next and learned not to make such a fuss that they missed out on something fun or exciting. How are you with transitions? How are your children with them; or maybe your grandchildren?

We have come through numerous transitions here at St. John's. As the work of the Search Committee comes to fruition, we will make another transition to yet another minister called and installed in our Church. At the moment, we have a potential for 4-5 first interviews with ministerial candidates. It's exciting to be at this stage in the search, but a little unnerving, too. Who will we end

up calling as our minister? Will it be one of these candidates, or will we have to read a dozen or more profiles to find the one that God is calling to be our minister? So many questions and not a lot of answers, yet. In the meantime we are going to be kicking off another program year with all its possibilities on Sunday, September 11. In Sunday School the teachers are excited as we transition to a brand new curriculum, Dwell.

Maybe the transition you and your family will be making is to come back to St. John's after being away a lot this summer- after fun vacations, family reunions, or travel to places you have never been before. Maybe you are considering returning to Church after a much longer absence. Great!!! We will be happy to see you and let you know all that has been going on and all that is to come. Maybe you will have learned some of it at the Pork Supper the evening before (Sept.10), and curiosity will get the better of you. Maybe with fall comes a longing for routine, and you haven't yet met this Pastor Dave that people speak so highly of when they talk to you of St. John's.

I am giving you the advance notice now so you won't miss out in worship and fellowship. Give your children that advance notice, too. Get them back into the spiritually healthy routine of coming to Church and Sunday School. Make it such a habit that they expect to be here on Sunday mornings, so they learn not to fuss, but anticipate the fun and excitement of learning about our Savior, Jesus Christ and what it means to be his follower and disciple, to be a child of God surrounded by other believers who care for and love them. Let's make this transition together!

Desiree Albizu
Associate in Ministry in Christian Education

SUMMER READ DISCUSSION

Readers will discuss the book Heaven is For Real: A Little Boy's Astounding Story of his Trip to Heaven and Back by Todd Burpo & Lynn Vincent on Monday, September 19 at 11 a.m. in room 3 of the education wing. It will also be discussed at the WWF (Women with Faith or Wonderful Women of Faith, your choice) September meeting.

The Book Lovers' Club October selection is The Hour I First Believed by Wally Lamb. We will meet to discuss this book on Monday, October 17 at 11 a.m.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Sunday School during the 9:15 worship service will begin again Sunday, September 11. Children ages three years through eighth grades are invited to join in this program. Guests are always welcome. We begin with the children starting in worship with the adults. They will be dismissed to their classrooms during the service after the children's message.

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.

We are introducing the new curriculum *Dwell* from Faith Alive Christian Resources for the Sunday School program. It is a K-8 grade curriculum placing emphasis on God's on-going story. Children hear God's stories, live into them, (imagine what characters are thinking and feeling), and live out of them (consider where they are in the story). DWELL encourages children and leaders to wonder about God's story, to worship God together, and to pray for each other. Every story has its own story symbol creating a pictorial storyline. Each of these symbols is also found in the *God's Big Story* cards that families can use at home.

Beginning August 28 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. A special thank you to those who helped with the children's program over the summer. You allowed everyone involved in children's ministries to get a chance to worship in July and August.

If you have questions, please speak to or contact Associate Desiree Albizu, (518) 537-4221 or albizu@valstar.net.

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 2011-12 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, and we thank the person who has faithfully been bringing them in to redeem them for cash for our youth ministries. Money for bottles and cans goes into the youth group checking account for future 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- beautiful calendars for 2012.

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 22 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 Communion. 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 25 at 8:45 a.m. so that they may participate in their first Communion on Sunday, October 2, World Communion Sunday. For more information, contact Desiree Albizu.

WOMEN'S STUDY: PRAYING IN THE MESSINESS OF LIFE

Beginning on Friday, October 7, 9:30-11 a.m. there will be an eight-week study based on the book Praying in the Messiness of Life by Linda Douty. Many Christians feel they don't give enough attention to their communication with God. This book broadens the definition of prayer and offers dozens of ideas on how to move from prayer as results to prayer as relationship. Our connection to God can be strengthened in ways that are creative and life-giving. 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.

WOMEN WITH FAITH IN SEPTEMBER

Women with Faith will meet on Friday, September 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Terry Laibach, 72 Madison Ave., Kingston. Please bring a snack to share if you can. We will be discussing the book Heaven Is For Real and ideas for the program year.

VBS HERO HEADQUARTERS A SUCCESS

St. John's was the host to the Red Hook Ministerium's "Inside Out and Upside Down on Main Street: Where Jesus Makes a Difference Every Day" Vacation Bible School the week of August 15-19. Forty-eight elementary age children attended with a staff of 12 older students and 9 adults, most of whom came from St. John's. Thank you to those from St. John's: Tamara Wambach, Robin, Kira, and Sophie Bruno, Wendy Walrath, Chris Knight, Paula Vitolo, Liam Peterson, Nancy Castillo, Beverly Kipp and John & Karen Roberts. The children heard parables that Jesus told about gratitude, compassion, forgiveness, grace, and faithfulness. Offering went to help buy shoes and socks for school children who are less fortunate in our community. Thanks to the generosity of the VBS families and staff 28 pair of shoes and 50 pair of socks were collected for children in need in our community.



SCHOOL FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING & SERVING FALL COURSES

New Testament (General Interest, Preaching Elder, Associate in Christian Education)

Instructor: The Rev. Jay Vogelaar
Dates: Tuesdays, September 27, October 4, 11, 18, 25, & November 8, 7-10 PM
Location: Hurley Reformed Church, 17 Main Street, Hurley, NY 12443
Tuition: \$100

On the road to Emmaus with two disciples, Jesus "opened their minds to understand the scripture" (Luke 24:45). Behind the New Testament lies divine inspiration birthing human imagination, sacred reassurance for yearning prayers of hope, God's guidance leading real-life experience. This class will keep our focus on the God who fulfills His promises in Christ Jesus as we turn our minds to the work of scholars who help us better understand the text.

A Sacred Trust: Boundary Issues for Clergy and Spiritual Leaders (General Interest, Church Leaders)

Instructor: The Rev. Toni Macon
Date: Saturday, October 1, 9:30 AM -1 PM
Location: St. John's Reformed Church, 126 Old Post Road North, Red Hook 12571
Tuition: \$25 per church

This half-day workshop for ordained and non-ordained church leaders is an interactive workshop using discussion and DVDs to work through the issues of boundaries, power and vulnerability, dating, friendships, dual relationships, gifts, the pulpit, transference, hugging and touch, intimacy, personal needs and self-care, and red flags. This is a great introductory workshop for persons interested in creating safe environments for leaders as well as parishioners.

Christmas Pageants Without Stress (General Interest)

Instructor: Desiree Albizu, RCA Associate in Ministry in Christian Education
Dates, times and locations:
- Hurley Reformed Church, 17 Main St., Hurley 12443 on Wed., Oct. 19, 7:30 - 9 PM
- Walkill Reformed Church, 45 Bridge St., Walkill, 12589, Sat., Oct. 29, 10-11:30 AM
Tuition: \$10 or \$20 per church

Come and learn how to teach the children and adults about Jesus' birth and regain

countless hours each December! Children's ministry leaders will discover how to do away with all rehearsals during the busy Advent season. This streamlined role-playing of the Nativity is a program based on scripture passages from Luke and Matthew.

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: Walkill Reformed Church, 45 Bridge Street, Walkill, 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.

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

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.
School for Christian Living & Serving
Registration Form

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

Course(s) _____

Total tuition \$ _____

JOIN THE STREET TEAM IN DANBURY!

Group cares is offering our students another opportunity this fall to serve in "The Big Day of Serving" with the goal to transforming America's neighborhoods one city at a time. On Saturday October 15, an anticipated 1000 students (grades 6-12) from around the Northeast will be descending upon Danbury, CT to serve its people in need. This one-day mission trip will allow students new to mission trips to get an idea of how things operate at a Workcamp, and be able to experience sharing the love of Jesus by working on painting, home repairs, landscaping and more. For those who have gone before, it's another chance to serve and to be part of an experience in even greater numbers.

To date thousands of teens have served in 13 cities. Group Cares' dream is for one million teens to serve in cities all over America, and we are going to be part of this! We will be leaving the church parking lot on October 15 at 6 a.m. to arrive by 7:30 for registration. The fee is \$29 per person, if we get our deposit in before Sept. 12. The registration fee includes pre-event project selection and coordination, a kickoff rally on the morning of the event, all supplies and project materials, lunch, devotional materials for mid-day break and a neighborhood Block Party Celebration to finish the day!

We will depart for home at 4:30 p.m., being back to church around 6, knowing we made a difference in yet another community.

If you or your student would like to be part of this exciting, life-changing day, please contact Desiree Albizu, at albizu@valstar.net or (518) 537-4221, or leave your deposit in her mailbox in the education wing. Checks can be made payable to "Emmaus Road Youth Ministries".

There is no limit to the number we can take with us yet. We have reserved 15 spaces, and we may be able to reserve more with enough notice. So ask your son or daughter if s/he would like to invite a friend and introduce him or her to mission trips.

There will be an informational meeting on Sunday, September 18 at 10:30 a.m. in room 4.

Encourage your student to be part of the Big Day of Serving and a part of one million teens stepping out in faith one Saturday of this fall.



**MISSION OF THE MONTH
SEPTEMBER
HUDSON RIVER HOUSING**

This year again, we will be supporting Hudson River Housing in Poughkeepsie, NY.

“Through a continuum of services for the homeless to the homeowner, HRH is dedicated to building strong, sustainable communities by developing and preserving quality affordable housing and helping families and individuals obtain and maintain housing through education, advocacy and support services.”

This year HRH is launching Phase II of the Poughkeepsie Homeownership Assistance Program (PHAP). There will be a total of 8 units of affordable housing. All homes will be sold to low-income first-time homebuyers. Also, a rental unit on North Clinton Street will be for lease to low-income families.

HRH is joining forces with college students to help design a community center for Middle Main and for the redevelopment of Rose Street in Poughkeepsie.

For 27 years HRH has 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.

Supporting Hudson River Housing, who supports the poor in our communities, gives us a way to answer the call of Our Lord and Savior to help the least of these. What a wonderful way to show our thankfulness for the abundance of blessings showered upon us by Him.

Peace and Blessings
Laurie,

Mission and Outreach Committee

**SCUDDER CIRCLE POTLUCK
LUNCHEON**

Please join us for the annual Scudder Circle Potluck Luncheon on Thurs. Sept. 15 at noon, in the fellowship hall. (Please note this is a change from our usual first-Thursday-of-the-month meetings). Bring a covered main dish. Dessert and beverages will be provided. There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall, so we'll know how many are planning to attend. Our interesting and inspiring guest speaker will be Interim Pastor Dave Hondorp. Everyone is welcome to join us for food, fun and fellowship.

**SCUDDER CIRCLE WILL COLLECT
DONATIONS FOR WORLD VISION**

The offering at our September luncheon will go to World Vision to provide clean water to a village (probably in Africa). Here are some interesting facts gleaned from an article by author Charles Fishman. In the U.S., 5.7 billion gallons of clean water are flushed down toilets every day. Americans spend \$21 billion on bottled water every year. Contrast this to women and young girls in third world countries who have to walk two or more hours twice a day to get water that is really not safe to drink. Children in these communities often die from diseases caused by the water they drink. A deep well can provide a village of 300 with clean drinking water. Plus women and young girls would be freed to do other things, such as go to school or plant and care for gardens.

We can help. World Vision is doing this work now. 87% of what we donate will go toward a project to provide water in a village that has none. Please consider donating. We also ask for your prayers for the people who need water as well as for those providing much needed wells in these areas.

We hope you will come to the luncheon. If you cannot be there but want to make a contribution for our water project, please make your check payable to Scudder Circle. You can either put it in the Scudder Circle mailbox in the Education wing, or hand it to Treasurer Evie Seils.

Croatia Update -August
MK camp bonds kids far from native culture
By Samuel Titus

Camp in Severin na Kupi is the place to be if you are an MK – missionary kid. The mountainous grounds, within sight of the Slovenian border on Croatia’s northern side, are quiet, scenic, and cool compared to the rest of Croatia. And God meets us there.

Valerie, Penny and I went to camp last month. I had been twice before. Just like normal American kids at camp, we walked around and compared countries. Conversation is riddled with phrases such as “So what dialect of Hungarian do you speak?” and “Oh yes, once Slovenia got rid of the tolar and switched to the euro things started to pick up nicely. But now with Greece in decline and this recession and all, tourism is drying up and we’ve had to build a chicken coop to keep up with everything.”

Such is the common vernacular of MKs who venture from as far as Ukraine to the tiny spot named Severin na Kupi. Small though it is, this village is the hub of a great operation designed to encourage and strengthen great kids.

Camp at Severin lasted five full days in which we scrambled to do all we wanted to do. This time, in addition to the program, I had two special privileges. I was asked to write an entry on the camp blog. You can read it at: <http://severin.dpb.hr/blog>, and you can see pictures of me rock-climbing. I also was one of five kids interviewed on Croatian national TV – speaking in my second language! Since then, members of our church have greeted me by saying they saw me on TV, an unexpected pleasure.

Camp days began with Bible study, led by each room’s assigned councilor. For this my group usually went up to the nearby castle in a place where we were able to see the mountains of Slovenia and the Kupa River which separates two mountain ranges. Once we even went into a chapel on the castle grounds and talked there. Our leader was a graceful speaker who had a gift for asking the right questions to jump-start thought. After these morning devotions, we would quickly get ready for sports.

Severin na Kupi is a prime location. The river, the hills, and the open space provide venues for rock climbing, mountain biking, and, my favorite: canoeing. More down-to-earth sports included volleyball and archery. Every evening, we settled down and congregated in the main

room. This part was the life of the camp. When asked, “What was your favorite part of the week,” the answer more often than not was, “Worship, hands down!” It was not without reason. Something in the gathering of so many English-speaking missionaries, united in cause and in experience, so scattered throughout the continent yet so compact in that room, singing song after song with passion, burned a lasting nostalgia into the hearts of any willing to be humbled. That is what most people bring back with them. For me it was that failed attempt to sing “Amazing Grace” around the campfire that I cherish most. Just four people off to the side: one on violin, one on the banjo, one of the councilors and me singing, and the rest of the camp storytelling and remembering what God had put in their hearts. I recall laughing when trying to get the rest of the campers to sing. The four of us simply continued on without them for another five minutes with the light of the fire rising and falling to the melody.

I have wonderful memories from this year’s camp. In nearly everything we did I saw how small were my aspirations and how much grander was God’s plan for myself. In the light of His love, all else dwindled. Camp was a time to marvel at the gift of love, and what a magnificent value it holds. With so many godly people around me, it was easy to aspire to be better. That is why I plan to go back to Severin a fourth time next year, where I have been invited to become a member of the staff and to participate in this camp on a higher level.

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



Sympathy to:

The friends and family of **Lois Fisher**, Dennis and Linda Frankle's sister in law, who died July 4; the family and friends of **Karon Larsen**, Sharon Tuggle's sister, who died August 17.

TREASURER'S REPORT

General Fund

Jan. to July
Year to Date Receipts \$120,279
Year to Date Expenses \$129,420
Year to Date Balance (\$ 9,141)

Donations to the **Mission-of-the-Month For July – People's Place** totaled **\$402**. 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 the July/August Kerk \$32
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 07/31)

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, Captains Denis and Judy Doyle, 758-6938.

September 4

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

September 11

Greeters: Glen and Nicole Jensen
Ushers: Terry Laibach and Kayla Bell
Nursery: Denise Gilhooly-Partrick

September 18

Greeters: Wayne and Holly Swart
Ushers: Brian and Lisa Reid
Shepherd:
Nursery:

September 25

Greeters: Cheryl Hayes and Kate Czajka
Ushers: Michael and Carolyn Carr
Nursery:



Glenn Countryman for cutting down all the foliage that gets in the way of seeing the sign; **Beverly Kipp** for labeling the Roast Pork BBQ postcards; and **Ben Albizu, Glenn Countyman and James Walrath** for putting up and taking down the tent for Vacation Bible School.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE UPDATE
August 2011

1. Parsonage Project:

The northwest and southwest foundation repairs have been completed from inside the basement. Replacement of 2 or 3 of the basement windows is being considered.

The porch substructure was completed in July and the decking placed 8/6/11. It can be top-coat painted anytime.

The kitchen counters are completed and the new stove and sink have been installed.

2. Sanctuary Ceiling Fans:

The two ceiling fans have been installed in the sanctuary.

3. Sanctuary East Exit Metal Stair Repair:

Glenn Countryman completed the repair to the east sanctuary exit stairs. Thanks Glenn.

4. Steve Cegelka mowed the field between the parking lot and Rt. 9 on June 11th at a cost of \$150. He donated the entire service as he has done in the past. Steve doesn't need to be asked; he just comes and does the job a couple times a year when it needs to be done. Thank you for this service Steve.

Hop Michael



Paul Woelm and Heidi DiRenzo who were married on July 30th. Paul is the son of Ulrich and Beverly Woelm.

A Spiritual Retreat

Encouraging the nurture of a listening heart
September 27-29, 2011 or October 11-13,
2011

Cost: \$50.00 per person includes meals, lodging, and program. This retreat is being sponsored by the Office of Ministry, Reformed Church in America. This retreat invites entry into a deeper place of holy listening for God. Together we will explore ways to nurture our desire for prayer using a variety of contemplative prayer practices woven into a gracious rhythm of silence and sound, stillness and movement. An opportunity for individual Spiritual Direction will be provided.

* Rest will be honored

* Renewal is encouraged

* Fellowship is fostered.

Retreat guides: Ellen Ratmeyer, ordained Elder, and Spiritual Director Ella Campbell, ordained Elder, and Spiritual Director Arlene Wilhelm, Minister of Word and Sacrament and Spiritual Director. The retreat will be held in the Chi Rho House at Fowler Camp & Retreat Center, Speculator, New York. Arrival at 4 p.m. (dinner at 5 p.m.) on Tuesday, and ending with lunch on Thursday.

Make checks payable to Reformed Church in America and mail to Ellen Ratmeyer 30 Church Road, Selkirk, NY 12158. For more information contact Ellen Ratmeyer, eratmeyer@rca.org, 212-870-2957

Message from a former youth group member:

Hello, everyone!

I am a member of St. John's, although my face might not be very familiar these days. I am a student, studying, living, and working in Boston and will soon move to Chicago in order to pursue an advanced humanities degree at the University of Chicago. In my time as a student, I have not gotten to stay as involved with the Church as I would have

liked. I would like to take this time, though, to reach out to the younger members of St. John's and encourage them to engage with the Church community. The Church provides so many great opportunities! One of my favorite memories is attending Camp Fowler in Speculator, New York. The Church has a great affiliation with the camp. Your time there will be amazing -- hiking, canoeing, nightly games, insightful worship services, camp songs, and great friends. Some of my fondest memories are from Fowler; I went to camp for six whole years! (Yes, even as a high school student!) I also remember many adventures with the Youth Group -- from white water rafting to silly roller skating nights! With all that's going on, make sure that you don't miss out on the fun! I look forward to seeing my friends at the Church soon.

Thanks,
Nicole Foti.

ADDRESS CHANGES

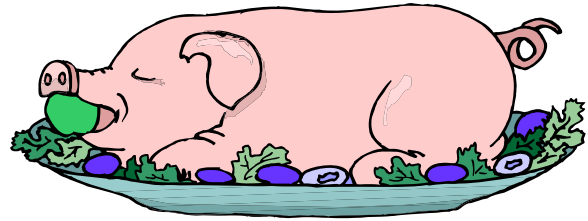
Julian Graham
9 Ashdown Rd.
Balston Lake, NY 12019
518-399-2780

Roy Provencher
8 Birchwood Drive S.
Saugerties, NY 12477-2101

SWEATERS FOR THE BAPTIST HOME RESIDENTS

It is time to sort through your sweaters again. If you have machine washable cardigans that are wearable but you don't want any more, consider bringing them in to Church for the residents of the Baptist Home who don't have family to bring them new clothes. Wool, rayon, and sequined sweaters aren't suitable for the nursing home because all the clothes are washed in hot water; give those sweaters, and any pullovers, to the Rummage Sale. There will be a bin in the education wing hallway during the month of September. Every

sweater you donate will make someone warm and happy!



~~ROAST PORK BBQ~~

~~Saturday, September 10~~

~~Menu includes roast pork, baked beans, potato salad, corn on the cob, salad, bread, beverages and ice cream.~~

~~All is served family style from 4:30 to 7 p.m., with take-outs available.~~

~~Cost for adults is \$15 with children from ages 6 to 12 years old \$8 and children under 5 years old eat for free.~~



Remembering 9/11



Terror no more

“O Lord, you will hear the desire of the meek; you will strengthen their heart, you will incline your ear to do justice for the orphan and the oppressed, so that those from earth may strike terror no more” (Psalm 10:17-18, NRSV).

Ten years have passed since that tragic September morning in 2001, when terrorists took thousands of innocent lives and shattered America's sense of security. As we reflect on this anniversary, Psalm 10 reminds us that God is on the side of the victim, the weak and the helpless. He won't ignore the cries of people in need, and he ensures that justice is ultimately done.

Croatia Update-September

Titus family to end mission, return to U.S.

By Rev. Eric Titus

After more than five years in Croatia, Nancy and I are ending our missionary service and returning to the United States. We target the end of the year for our return and do not know yet what we will do. You may have heard this news already, but we wanted all our supporters to understand what went into this decision.

Among our back and forth conversations about Croatia over the past months, we said things like, "How is it possible for us to stay longer?" to "Maybe it's time for us to go home; maybe we have accomplished what we came to do." Eventually we decided the latter.

The foremost question on everyone's mind will of course be the reason that we decided to leave. While that question is easy to ask, it is not easy to answer. There is, in the end, no one reason that finally ruled, or final straw that broke the camel's back. Rather, a number of factors came together, some of course weighing more heavily than others, but none being the lynchpin of the decision. Still, while not getting into great detail, we do feel we want to share with you some of the elements going into our decision.

To begin with, there have been changes with our partners here in Croatia. A new bishop was elected in the Reformed Christian Church in Croatia, which brought to the fore the question of communication since the new bishop and I shared no language in which we could communicate. In addition, much of the work that I did with the former bishop was transferred to an indigenous person who is capable of the ecumenical tasks that I was often called on to perform. That an indigenous person was appointed is exactly what should happen, and we rejoice in this.

There have also been changes within the seminary. We are one of (if not the last) remaining missionaries on the faculty. More and more, the seminary is being funded, both intellectually and economically, by regional personnel and financing. More often than not students are paying tuition rather than being sponsored by western scholarship

money. This is a good thing as well. These are very different realities from our arrival five years ago and show the ways the seminary is adjusting to its changing environment. While the seminary would like to see us stay for years to come, we have to ask if our missionary task is done. We believe that it is.

There are also issues within our family that we had to consider. As many of you know, the education of our children has been an ongoing struggle. We did our best to make the public schools in Croatia work for us, but in the end had to remove each of our children for different issues. Homeschooling has provided a stopgap solution for the last few years, but we are simply at the point where this will no longer work for all our children. Longer-term solutions were simply out of the question given budgetary constraints. We also have the consideration of our extended families, especially with aging parents.

We have been proud to represent the RCA as missionaries. We have received unimaginable support from you, our partner churches and individuals. There is no possible way for us to thank you enough, or to tell you how deeply your spiritual and financial support was and is appreciated. Your remembrance of us as we were so far away from you was simply overwhelming, moving us often past the point of tears. Those of you at the grassroots level of the RCA are simply marvelous. No less so was our supervisor Duncan Hanson who met us at every crisis, supported us through every need, and did all that he could to make sure that we realized our full potential. Truly, the RCA is a remarkable mission agency with which to work!

We have gained and been enriched by our time here and will always be grateful to you for making this possible. We also thank you in advance for standing with us through all the details to come as we transition home.

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

ST. JOHN'S REFORMED CHURCH

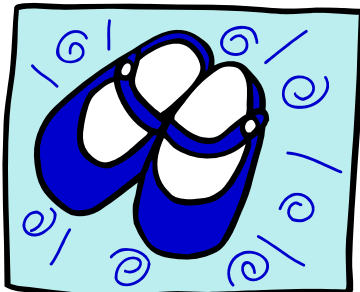
126 Old Post Rd., Upper Red Hook
758-1184



Thursday, September 22 6 – 8 p.m.
Friday, September 23 1 – 3 p.m.
Saturday, September 24 9 a.m. – noon

Saturday, \$5 a Bag

Clothing, shoes, boots, coats,
household items, books, drapes, linens
and lots of miscellaneous!



HEALTH MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

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

Save the Date for our September **LUNCH AND LEARN** and **Flu CLINIC**

Thursday, September 29,

11:45 Lunch 12:30 Learn about Flu Vaccine and sign up to get yours here!!

We will need consent and insurance information ahead of time.

Blood Drive

Traditionally, we have two blood drives a year. Our goal is 35 to 40 units.

We have been collecting 20—25 pints. Do you want to continue having the opportunity to donate here at St. John's twice a year?

Please consider this and how you can help make future Blood Drives more successful.

CPR/AED Training.

We will be scheduling a CPR/AED training / refresher course here this fall.

Many of the guide lines have changed for breath to compression ratio.

Do you need to be certified? Has your card expired? Take a look.

Class size will be limited and there will be a fee. Sign up sheets will be out soon.

Health Ministry Team

We are looking to reestablish the Health Ministry Team.

Do you have gifts and talents to share with the congregation about a health or wellness related topic dear to your heart? Are you an "expert" in your field of work and are you anxious to share your knowledge with others?

WE NEED YOU!! Watch the bulletin for a meeting date and time.

Health Ministry Survey (on other side)

Please take a moment to complete the HM Survey so that we may better serve your needs .

You may return it to the office or by email to bkipp@frontiernet.net. Thank You.

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.

(See other side for survey)

Health Ministry Survey September 2011

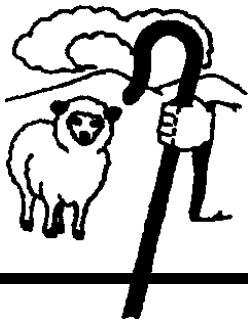
With a desire to better serve the congregation, we would like your opinion about what "Lunch and Learn" topics and which programs you are most interested in having for 2011- 2012. Please either fill out and return to the church office or fill out on line and email to bkippp@frontiernet.net.

IDEAS FOR LUNCH AND LEARN SEMINARS Please check if you would attend.

- 1. **Navigating the Medicare Website** – hands-on computer training will give a basic overview of the Medicare website so that you will be able to find information about Prescription Drug Plans and Medicare Advantage Plans. Participants will also be introduced to several related websites where they can learn more about Medicare.
- 2. **Social Security Seminar** – A seminar on understanding and maximizing Social Security benefits. Attendees will be taught key facts about Social Security and how to navigate the decisions surrounding the program.
- 3. **Chiropractor** – Have a local chiropractor from our area come and speak .
- 4. **Orthopedic concerns** –have one of the doctors come and speak on knee and hip problems and preventing surgery as we age?
- 5. **Dr. John L. Zboinski** (Dr. Z), DPM, PC – come and speak on **foot care**.
- 6. **Protect Yourself from Telemarketing Fraud** – A Consumer Frauds Representative with the NYS Attorney General's Office, will provide valuable information on how consumers can effectively protect their personal information.
- 7. **How to utilize Fresh, Local Produce** – how to prepare and enjoy healthy meals utilizing the best local ingredients for your health.
- 8. **An Update on Stroke** – when it comes to a stroke, time is of the essence. Learn about stroke risk factors, symptoms and available treatments that could save a life.
- 9. **Prostate Cancer Awareness and Update** – learn about the signs and symptoms of Prostate Cancer, as well as cutting edge treatments.
- 10. **Nutrition and Breast Cancer Risk Modification** – An oncologist comes and speaks on the significant controversy that prevails around the role of diet and supplements in breast cancer development.
- 11. **Valvular Heart Disease: A Surgeon's View** learn about options for valvular heart disease and the importance of prevention, detection of symptoms and management of this disease.

- Blood Drive** I support our blood drives
- I can and will give blood** if I am available at the time of the Blood Drive
- CPR/AED** I need/want to sign up for training
- FLU CLINIC** I anticipate signing up for the flu clinic
- Health Ministry Team** I would like to participate on the HM Team
- Suggestions** _____

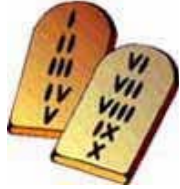
Name and Phone Number (optional) _____



The Shepherds Page

September 2011

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS



OF GETTING ALONG WITH PEOPLE

1. Keep skid chains on your tongue. Always say less than you think. Cultivate a low, persuasive voice. How you say it often counts more than what you say.
2. Make promises sparingly and keep them faithfully.
3. Never let any opportunity pass to say a kind and encouraging word to or about somebody. good praise good work.
4. Be interested in others: their pursuits, their work, their homes and their families. Let everyone you meet, however humble, feel that you regard him or her as a person of importance.
5. Be cheerful, Don't burden those around you by dwelling on your aches and pains and disappointments. Remember, everyone has troubles of their own.
6. Keep an open mind. Discuss but don't argue. A mark of greatness is to be able to disagree without becoming disagreeable.
7. Let your virtues speak for themselves, before we talk about the vice of others. Discourage gossip.
8. Take into consideration the feelings of others; Wit and humor at the expense of others are never worth the pain induced.

9. Pay no attention to ill-mannered remarks about you. Remember, they cast doubt about the character of the speaker, not about yours. Simply live so that no one will believe him or her.

10. Don't be anxious about receiving the credit due to you. Do your best and be patient. Your reward will surely come.

Shepherds Picnic



Garrison & Nancy Finkle, on June 26th, hosted a potluck picnic for the Shepherds on the deck of their guest cottage. It was a great setting for the get together and the Finkle's hospitality is greatly appreciated. It was attended by the Shepherds, their spouses and friends. Special guests were Pastor Dave and Marvelle. In addition to wonderful food, it was an opportunity for the Shepherds to share common interests and views. All in all it was a very enjoyable event and they are looking forward to the next one.

Farewell to 2 Shepherds

It is with regret that the Shepherds Ministry is losing two Shepherds who are moving out of the area: Barbara Coe, who has been a Shepherd since this ministry was started, is moving to Tennessee and Diana Loughran who is moving to North Carolina, We will miss these outstanding Shepherds

Shepherds Serving St. John's

Desiree Albizu - JoAnn 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



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

FOR SALE:
JONES' FUN ORGAN \$300,
TREADMILL \$50,
EXERCISE BIKE \$15,
ABS EXERCISE LOUNGER \$25,
WEIGHT EXERCISER \$15.
PHONE: 518-398-7850.

HOME FOR SALE:
2 BEDROOM, 1 ½ BATHS ON
½+ACRE IN PINE PLAINS.
\$175,000.
PHONE 518-398-7850.

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

8 Garden Street
Rhinebeck, NY 12572
Tel (917) 971-6892

Specializing in Children
and Families
By appointment only

