

Hopewell Happenings

HOPEWELL REFORMED CHURCH

March 2009



CONSISTORY REORGANIZATION

At the last meeting of Consistory officers were elected and assigned ministry areas.

Vice President: Kevin Warren

Clerk: Tina Smith

Classis Delegates: John Young, Kevin Warren and Stephanie Patton (Alternate)



CHILDREN LAY HANDS ON NEW CONSISTORY MEMBERS

Ministry Areas	Elders	Deacons
Worship-	Stephanie Patton	Tina Smith
Operations-	Matt Williams	Henry Mikhail
Spiritual Growth-	Shireen Gilbert	Mike Boyd
Outreach-	Nelson Nieves	Mike Reynolds
Pastoral Care-	Kevin Warren	Gary Cassaro



STEPHANIE PATTON, SHIREEN GILBERT, MIKE REYNOLDS, MIKE BOYD, MATT WILLIAMS, GARY CASSARO, PASTOR HOLBROOK

LETTERS AND NOTES



Dear Readers,

As I look through the articles submitted for this issue it occurs to me that many of the articles are dealing with new beginnings – quite apropos as spring approaches. We have a new consistory, new Stephen Ministers new members and a new “buddy” system for our Sunday school, to name a few! Our newsletter team also has a new format that we would like to introduce to you.

Beginning this summer, we will become a quarterly issue. Issues will be published in June, September, December, and March. We will also have two smaller special issues that will come out before Christmas and before Easter, reflecting on those holy days. If you would like to submit something to the newsletter, please send it to hrcnewsletter@hrcrca.org as soon as possible. If you are reporting an event, please send the article and pictures as soon as the event is over. We thank all of you who have so faithfully sent in articles every month.

This new schedule will help our team immensely. Our goal is always to provide a publication that reflects how God’s work is being accomplished through the congregation of the Hopewell Reformed Church. We strive to do this with excellence, resulting in a newsletter that is read and shared. Thank you for your continued support.

The Newsletter Team



Dear HRC Friends:

My heartfelt thanks to all who sent cards, flowers, baked goods and especially the “HUGS” on the recent death of my brother. The love of this Church and its people is so evident.

GOD’s BLESSING,

Sara Irvin





ANNUAL PLANT & BAKE SALE

ATTENTION:

The Women's Ministries of HRC will feature their
8th Annual Plant and Bake Sale at the Church on

Saturday, May 16, 2009 from 9 AM until Noon.

If you have house plants to take cuttings from to have baby plants for
the sale, NOW is the time



Daylight Saving Time begins
Sunday, March 08, 2009

CHRISTIAN KIDS' CORNER

Submitted by Sheryle Silvern

Transitions

We have been looking at ways to help children transition from one ministry area to another and from class to class. The easier each transition is for them, the less likely we are to lose them along the way. Starting with our toddlers, we are seeking to make transitions less traumatic.

This spring the children that will be moving from the nursery to the Pre-K class in the fall will visit the class several times. We are designing a "big buddy" program that will pair older children with younger ones in kindergarten through the fifth grade. This program will give older children the opportunity to serve and younger children the thrill of having a "big buddy".

We already have several things in place to help the 4th and 5th graders transition into the youth ministry. Our 4th and 5th grade game nights are a taste of what youth group is like. Our February game night was led by youth leaders who were great with the children. Several of our 4th & 5th grade Sunday School teachers also serve in Youth Ministry. Once a month, the 4th & 5th Grade class meets in the Youth House. All this gives the children an opportunity to get familiar with Youth Ministry leaders and surroundings. We hope to keep the children engaged and comfortable so we do not lose any child as they transition from class to class and eventually move into the Youth Ministry.



Sandwich Sunday



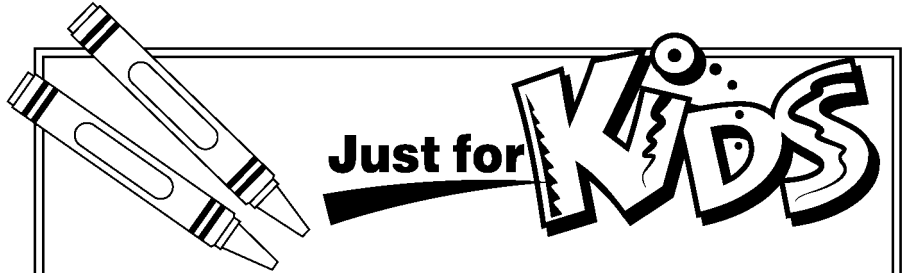
Children at the Table

Children who have expressed faith in Jesus Christ and would like to share in communion are invited to attend "Children at the Table". There will be a class on Thursday, March 26th at 4:30 in the Community Room to discuss the sacrament. On April 2nd, the children will meet with Pastor Holbrook and an elder in the sanctuary at 4:30 to learn more. The children will receive communion for the first time during the Maundy Thursday Service on April 9th. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Sheryle Silvern at 227-1965. There is a sign-up sheet at the Information Station.



Vacation Bible School 2009 August 10th - 14th

Save the week of August 10th-14th for fun, fellowship and learning at SonRock Kids Camp VBS! Registration for children entering kindergarten through the 6th grade starts on May 3rd. We are beginning to get ready for VBS already and could use your help. If you are interested in helping to plan, prepare props, decorations or crafts, please call Sheryle Silvern at 227-1965. Thanks!



A FAMILY OF PRAYER

The book of Acts tells about a man named Cornelius. He was a Roman centurion from Caesarea who worshiped God. Through his encounter with Cornelius, Peter learned that God accepts everyone who fears him and does what is right.

Use the code below to see the example set by Cornelius and his family. Solve the math problems by using the grid. Then use the key to find the letter that matches each answer. Write the letter on the blank.

GRID	
A	B
2	4
C	D
6	5

KEY: a=7 e=8 i=10 o=9 u=11 y=6

"H e _ _ nd _ _ ll h _ s f _ _ m _ _ l _ _
A+C A+D A+D B+C A+D B+C A+B

w _ _ r _ _ d _ _ v _ _ t _ _ nd
A+C A+C A+C B+D C+D A+D

G _ _ d - f _ _ _ r _ _ ng; h _ _ g _ _ v _ _
B+D A+C A+D B+C A+C A+D A+C

g _ _ n _ _ r _ _ _ sl _ _ t _ _ th _ _ s _ _ _ n
A+C A+C B+D C+D A+B B+D B+D A+C B+C

n _ _ _ d _ _ nd pr _ _ _ _ d t _ _ G _ _ d
A+C A+C A+D A+D A+B A+C B+D B+D

r _ _ g _ _ l _ _ rl _ _ ." _ _ cts 10:2, NIV
A+C C+D A+D A+B A+D

Answers: "He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly." Acts 10:2, NIV



PRAYER BOX

Family prayer time is a good habit. Make it fun with this activity for all family members. They can use this special box whenever they have a prayer request.

What you need:

- Shoebox
- Wrapping paper
- Scissors
- Tape
- Stickers, markers, etc. (optional)
- Index cards
- Pencils or pens

What you do:

1. Wrap the shoebox like a present. Be sure to wrap the lid separately so it can be removed.
2. Let the whole family help decorate the box. You can write Bible verses about prayer, draw pictures, glue on pictures or add stickers. Be creative!
3. Put the box in a prominent location of your house. Keep a pile of index cards and pencils or pens near the box.
4. Whenever a family member has a prayer request, he or she can write or draw it on a card and put it inside the box.
5. Family members can share the cards in a prayer circle, or people can take turns praying for all the requests. Throughout the week, family members can check the box for new prayer needs.

SPECIAL EVENTS

DEATH BY CHOCOLATE MYSTERY NIGHT

Submitted by Leslie MacConnell; pictures by Tom Jacobs



Friday the 13th of February took Hopewell Reformed Church to new heights when the HRC Events Team hosted a mystery night, "Death by Chocolate". Although none of the local hospitals or morgues were visited by any guests making claims of a "myofartical impaction" (a new one for the medical books), our fellowship hall was bursting at its beams with 139 attendees indulging themselves in great company and a 3 course dessert.



Just-In-Time Productions provided the humoresque entertainment in a fractured "who done it" style, awarding three prizes.

*Most accurate guess - Linda Maus
Most creative guess - Michele Ryan
Most likely to have been sleeping through the show - Emile DeVea*



This Valentine's celebration proved to be a truly successful collaborative effort by the HRC Events Team, Just-In-Time Productions, and most importantly, you, our adventuresome audience, without whom this would not have been possible.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

WOMEN'S GUILD

Submitted by Lucia Eckhardt



We are all looking forward to Spring and the chance to get together for fellowship. Just to help with your planning here is what we have planned for this spring.

Our first meeting of 2009 will be **April 7th at 11:30**. We will start with announcements and Spiritual Life. Bring your own lunch and our hostesses will provide beverages and desserts. Following lunch we will be hearing from Justis about his country of Ghana. Justis is the foreign exchange student who is the Holbrook's son for the year.

- **On April 25th**, we are invited to Flatbush Reformed Church in Ulster County for a joint meeting of Reformed Church women from Dutchess, Ulster and Orange counties.
- Our **May 5th** meeting will be the annual Mother's Day brunch provided by several ChristCare groups. Our speaker will be Major Eunice Champlin, NY Divisional Social Ministries Secretary of the Salvation Army.
- **May 16th** is our annual Plant and Bake Sale. We look forward to everyone's help to make it a success. Last year we were able to donate \$1300 to CMP. Wouldn't it be great to surpass that this year?
- **June 2nd** will be our annual picnic at the home of Marvelle Hondorp. Don't miss a great event!



WORSHIP

GLUTEN FREE BREAD FOR COMMUNION

Submitted by Mike Boyd

It has come to the attention of Church Leadership that a growing number of people in our congregation must follow a gluten free diet. In response to that need, we will begin offering a gluten free alternative as of March 1, 2009. Each bread tray will contain 4 - 5 pieces of gluten free bread, which will be noticeably darker in color than the usual bread. It will also be encased in a piece of plastic wrap to keep it as separate as possible. Please help spread the word. We welcome any feedback that will help us provide this service. You may contact Dave Barlow at 223-3223 with any suggestions, questions or concerns.



HOUSEHOLD:

NEPTUNE PLUMBING: Stephen Maus--Repairs-Renovations-New Construction -- Licensed and Insured, 20+ Years Experience. Tele #845-226-7050, E-mail: NeptunePandH@aol.com.

SMALL ENGINE REPAIR: Need your snow blower, chain saw, lawn mower or other small engines repaired - call John Dailey at 226-6266

COMPUTERS:

YOUR COMPUTER SLOW? Does it not work at all? Upgrades, Repairs, and Custom Tailored Machines. Ron's Computer Service, Ron Abramowitz 845-546-6445 Rpabramowitz@prodigy.net or www.ronscomputerservice.com

COUNSELING:

AT THE CROSSROADS, INC. – Christian counseling– Louise D. Nielsen, M.A. 1-877-478-7828

CRAFTS:

CREATIVE MEMORY SCRAPBOOKING: I teach young to old to Scrapbook - call Barbara Dailey at 226-6266.

FOR SALE:

USED CAR: 2002 Toyota RAV4 red. Has 46,300 miles. Excellent condition. Asking price is \$9,500. For information, call Lorraine Valk @ 221-2177.

HISTORICAL PLATES: Picturing HRC. These new, recently-discovered plates were originally offered in 1974 for a fundraiser at our church. They are dinner plate size with a gold banded edge and a black line drawing depicting the front view of the sanctuary as seen from Beekman Road. There are 11 plates available, first come, first served at \$25.00 ea. A great gift! Call or see David Bushey (221-6123)

TIRES

(2) P205/75-14 BF Goodrich--Advantage Plus Tires on GM Rims, (1) P205/75-14 Uniroyal Tiger Paw X-TM Tire Only (never on vehicle) All for less than two rims would cost. \$50.00 for the whole lot or if you want to haggle, we'll start at \$75.00 and you'll still get the lot for \$50.00 Call Jim Irvin @ 221-9075

HOME IMPROVEMENT:

COLORWORKS, INC.—Painting, Faux Finishing, Wallpapering, Staining, Hardwood Flooring (Installation & Refinishing), All types of General Contracting & Remodeling. Call Kevin Mulligan 845-702-8532.

MEDICAL:

NURSING CARE - Barbara Oniffrey, Registered Nurse, Medicaid Provider. Call 226-6495.

MEDIQUIP LOAN CLOSET—medical equipment available to borrow; located at the Poughkeepsie Reformed Church on Hooker Ave. - only open Wednesdays from 9:30 – noon. Phone: 452-0968

NOTARY PUBLIC:

Notary Services Call Duncan Chisholm at 845-518-0518.

RENTALS:

VACATION HOME: Charming Cape Cod vacation home for rent. Ocean view. Located in Eastham, MA. Reasonable rate. Call Heather @ 592-1992

VACATION RENTAL PROPERTY-Lake George: Spacious log home at Huletts Landing on Lake George available for weekly vacation rental. Three bedrooms, two full baths, full kitchen, living room w/ stone fireplace, dining area, family room w/ ping pong table, wrap around deck. Canoe and kayak on premises. Lake access, one block from lake, incredible views. Golf, beach, basketball, tennis, ice cream shop all within one mile. Excellent NY and VT skiing within an hour. Rural setting, quiet getaway. Pictures available. Call Chris and Pam Hansen. (845-226-1046) for more details.

THRIFT SHOPS/FOOD CLOSETS:

THE BARN THRIFT SHOP – accepting donations. Proceeds support almost 40 different ministries in the Mid-Hudson Valley. Call for information and hours 845-635-9630

THRIFT SHOP– at St. Paul's Episcopal Church 845-635-2854

FOOD CLOSET - HRC has food available for anyone in need. If you or someone you know could use our help please call Patty Coppola at 227-8277 or LeeAnn O'Connor 223-6750.

WORSHIP & ARTS

Submitted by Sherri Hondorp

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP AND ARTS

2009 Lent Series “ I AM”

Please join us throughout the Lenten season into Holy Week for the opportunity to grow closer in relationship to God as we learn about him through his Son, Jesus Christ. Each Sunday we will seek God through the book of John, where Jesus stated over and over again...” I Am”. Do you know who he is? Join us Sunday mornings for the message and Wednesday evenings as we look deeper into Jesus’ claims and what they mean for our lives.

Our Wednesday evenings will combine fellowship with soup supper, topic discussion in small groups, and ending the evening with unique worship in the sanctuary. Join us as we journey towards a relationship with God, and his Son, Jesus.

Creative and Meaningful Opportunity to Participate in the Good Friday Service

Do you have a cross in your home? Ever thought of making your own? You are invited to start thinking about constructing a cross. What would you make it with --wood, metal, wire, branches, beads, mosaic,



something recycled –think outside the box. This is an opportunity for all ages. Perhaps a family project, with the end result becoming a family heirloom. Encourage your children to make their own cross.

We would like any and all of you to bring your cross to the Good Friday service on April 10. During the service there will be a moment to bring forth your cross; the collection will become a centerpiece of our Good Friday service.

We would like the crosses to remain for Easter Sunday, as they will be used for these services as well. You are welcome to take them home after Easter.

Please keep the height of your cross no taller than 20 inches, but much shorter is ok too---variety is the spice of life ! Contact Sherri Hondorp if you have any questions, and please let Sherri know if you will be contributing by April 5, Palm Sunday.



Lent

March 1	Sunday
March 4	Wednesday
March 8	Sunday
March 11	Wednesday
March 15	Sunday
March 18	Wednesday
March 22	Sunday
March 25	Wednesday
March 29	Sunday
April 1	Wednesday

“Before Abraham, I AM”

Being in the Middle [Alpha...Nu...Omega]

“I Am the Light of The World”

Being in the Light

“I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life”

Being on the Journey

“I Am the Good Shepherd”

Being Shepherded

“I Am the Vine”

Being Connected

Holy Week

April 5	Palm Sunday
April 9	Maundy Thursday
April 10	Good Friday
April 12	Easter

“I Am the Gate”

“I Am the Bread of Life”

“I Am the Resurrection and the Life”

Birthdays - March

Wes Wilhelmsen	3/01	William Murphy	3/17
Katie Williams	3/01	Terry Seregely	3/17
Valerie Lavacca	3/02	Ethan Warren	3/17
Jeremy Schmid	3/03	Jeri Alley	/20
Kelly Maune	3/06	Susan Schmid	3/20
Allison Smith	3/06	Shireen Gilbert	3/21
Dana Wells	3/06	Shawn Mulligan	3/21
Toni Pratt	3/07	Mark Stalter	3/21
Elizabeth Giardino	3/08	Susie Fehrmann	3/22
Tom Jacobs	3/08	Florence Paolilli	3/22
Veronica Jaeger	3/08	Aidan Ward	3/22
Julia Weeks	3/08	Matt Warner	03/22
Chris Snider	3/09	Irene Arocho	3/23
Paul Pearson	3/10	David Frego	3/23
Michelle Lambeth	3/11	Kay Booth	3/25
Pauline Raine	3/11	Bernell Argyle	3/26
Anne Roberts	3/11	Patrick Boyd	3/26
Jeffrey Hanna	3/12	James Collins	3/26
Lynn Reschke	3/12	Patrick Lloyd	3/26
Tyler Ruvo	3/12	Laurel Lovelett	3/26
Carol Taylor	3/13	Elaine Lavacca	3/27
Karen Villanova	3/13	Billy McHugh	3/27
Cami Conston	3/14	Diana Pecoraro	3/27
Daniel Mansfield	3/14	Chris Mowbray	3/28
Billy Clark	3/15	Betty Wagner	3/28
Mitchell Luhrs	3/15	Randy Hoffman	3/29
Virginia Ardaix	3/16	Joachim Luhrs	3/29
Evan Doherty	3/16	Judy Jaeger	3/30
Richard Chapman	3/17	Caitly Ryan	3/30
Mark Giardino	03/17	Jordan Duwe	3/31
Shannon Jackson	03/17	Riley Hanna	3/31
Maggie Mowbray	03/17	Andrew Letizia	3/31
		Inge Pabst	03/31

Next Issue APRIL

All articles must be received in the church office or by e-mail no later than **MARCH 10, 2009, NO EXCEPTIONS.** When submitting an article, please be sure to provide the name and phone number of the person submitting the information in case there are any questions. Either drop the article and any other support documentation in the newsletter mailbox, or use e-mail. When using e-mail, please provide all requested information in your mail and ATTACH any other support documentation to:

HRCNewsletter@HRCRCA.org

ELDERs

Shireen Gilbert
Nelson Nieves
Stephanie Patton
Kevin Warren
Matt Williams

DEACONS

Mike Boyd
Gary Cassaro
Henry Mikhail
Mike Reynolds
Tina Smith

OFFICERS

Taylor Holbrook *President*
Kevin Warren *Vice-President*
Shelley Keane *Treasurer*
Tina Smith *Clerk*

Phone Numbers

Office (845) 221.9542
Fax (845) 227.1908

Youth House

Rev. Mark Mast-
(845) 226.3514
Rev. Randy Prentiss -
(845) 226.3514

Bright Beginnings

(845) 227.8671

Staff & Teams

PASTORAL CARE
Lead Pastor
Pastoral Care Coordinator
Extended Care Team
Health & Wellness Team
Stephen Ministry Team
Prayer Team

OPERATIONS

Director of Operations
Sexton
Church Administrator
Bookkeeper
Financial Secretary
Audio Team
Buildings Team
Expansion Team
Fellowship Team
Finance Team
Grounds Crew
Historian
Newsletter Team
Investments Team
Personnel Team
Technology Team
Van
Video Team

WORSHIP & ARTS

Sherrl Hondorp
Worship & Arts Coordinator
Organist/Choir Director
Music Team
The Gathering Team
Usher Team

OUTREACH

Director of Outreach
CMP
Food Closet
Friends of South Africa Team
Loving Stitches
Missions Team

SPIRITUAL GROWTH & YOUTH MINISTRIES

Randy Prentiss
Lourdes Kleid
Sheryle Silvern
Carl Nuesse
Mike Boyd
Jan Bushey
Lucia Eckhardt
Director of Spiritual Growth
Minister of Youth Worship & Missions
Children's Ministry Coordinator
Youth House Caretaker
ChristCare
Librarian
Women's Guild

BRIGHT BEGINNINGS PRESCHOOL

Faye Lotze
Sue Nieves
Nancy Geysen
Director
Lead Teacher
Assistant Teacher

March 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 08:45 AM-The Gathering 09:50 AM-Cherubs Rehearsal 09:59 AM-HRCJourney 10:30 AM-Foundations 12:00 PM-Dance Team 02:00 PM-Private Event 03:59 PM-Common Ground 07:00 PM-Troop 48 Committee Mtg	2 10:00 AM-Loving Stitches 10:00 AM-AI-Anon Serenity Group 07:00 PM-Stephen Ministry - PS 07:00 PM-Deacons 07:00 PM-Bells of Praise 07:15 PM-A.A.	3 06:45 PM-uTurn Rehearsal 07:00 PM-Communications Team 07:00 PM-B.S. Jamoree Troop 07:30 PM-AA - Carry the Message 07:30 PM-CMP	4 09:00 AM-VBS Team 09:30 AM-BB Chapel 10:00 AM-Director's Meeting 10:00 AM-Yoga 01:00 PM-BB Chapel 04:30 PM-Brownie Troop 10026 06:00 PM-Lenten Suppers 07:00 PM-Worship 07:00 PM-Boy Scout Troop 48 08:00 PM-Yoga	5 10:00 AM-Grounds Crew 11:00 AM-Pastor's Prayer Group 07:00 PM-Power Hour Prayer Team 07:00 PM-Chancel Choir 07:00 PM-Support Group 07:15 PM-A.A. 08:00 PM-AI-Anon-Hpwell Friendship	6 09:30 AM-DCPoMS 03:45 PM-G.S. Troop 10553 07:00 PM-G.S. Troop 10022 07:00 PM-Vida Nueva Team 07:30 PM-AA - Carry the Message	7 08:00 AM-G.S. Troop 10022
8 08:45 AM-The Gathering 09:50 AM-Cherubs Rehearsal 09:59 AM-HRCJourney 10:30 AM-Foundations 03:59 PM-Common Ground	9 10:00 AM-AI-Anon Serenity Group 07:00 PM-Bells of Praise 07:15 PM-A.A.	10 09:30 AM-CBS Leadership 11:30 AM-SEA Group 03:45 PM-G.S. Troop 357 06:45 PM-uTurn Rehearsal 07:00 PM-SEA Group 07:00 PM-HOPE 07:00 PM-Missions Sub- Teams 07:30 PM-AA - Carry the Message	11 09:30 AM-BB Chapel 10:00 AM-Director's Meeting 10:00 AM-Yoga 01:00 PM-BB Chapel 06:00 PM-Lenten Suppers 07:00 PM-Worship 07:00 PM-Boy Scout Troop 48 08:00 PM-Yoga	12 10:00 AM-Grounds Crew 07:00 PM-Power Hour Prayer Team 07:00 PM-Chancel Choir 07:00 PM-Support Group 07:00 PM-YF Prayer Meeting 07:15 PM-A.A. 08:00 PM-AI-Anon-Hpwell Friendship	13 03:00 PM-Women's Retreat 03:45 PM-Daisy Troop 07:00 PM-Vida Nueva Team 07:30 PM-AA - Carry the Message 08:00 PM-Rock-A-Thon	14 03:00 PM-Women's Retreat 08:00 PM-Rock-A-Thon 08:00 AM-Vida Nueva
15 08:45 AM-The Gathering 09:50 AM-Cherubs Rehearsal 09:59 AM-HRCJourney 10:30 AM-Foundations 12:00 PM-Dance Team 03:59 PM-Common Ground 06:00 PM-Youth Group 08:00 PM-Central College Group	16 08:00 PM-Central College Group 10:00 AM-AI-Anon Serenity Group 11:00 AM-Independence Belles 07:00 PM-Stephen Ministry - PS 07:00 PM-Bells of Praise 07:15 PM-A.A. 07:30 PM-Finance Team	17 09:30 AM-DCPoMs 01:00 PM-Alzheimer's Support Group 03:00 PM-Classis Mtg at HRC 06:45 PM-uTurn Rehearsal 07:30 PM-AA - Carry the Message 07:30 PM-CMP Site Leaders 07:30 PM-Consistory	18 09:00 AM-VBS Team 09:30 AM-BB Chapel 10:00 AM-Director's Meeting 10:00 AM-Yoga 01:00 PM-BB Chapel 04:30 PM-Brownie Troop 10026 06:00 PM-Lenten Suppers 07:00 PM-Worship 07:00 PM-Boy Scout Troop 48 07:00 PM-DC PoMS	19 10:00 AM-Grounds Crew 07:00 PM-Power Hour Prayer Team 07:00 PM-Chancel Choir 07:00 PM-Support Group 07:00 PM-YF Prayer Meeting 07:15 PM-A.A. 08:00 PM-AI-Anon-Hpwell Friendship	20 03:45 PM-G.S. Troop 10553 07:00 PM-G.S. Troop 10022 07:00 PM-Vida Nueva Team 07:30 PM-AA - Carry the Message	21 08:00 AM-Vida Nueva 09:00 AM-Scrapbooking 02:00 PM-Private Event 05:00 PM-JLife Fundraiser
22 08:45 AM-The Gathering 09:50 AM-Cherubs Rehearsal 09:59 AM-HRCJourney 10:30 AM-Foundations 12:00 PM-Dance Team 03:59 PM-Common Ground 06:00 PM-BIG Worship	23 10:00 AM-AI-Anon Serenity Group 07:00 PM-Bells of Praise 07:15 PM-A.A.	24 03:45 PM-G.S. Troop 357 06:45 PM-uTurn Rehearsal 07:00 PM-HOPE 07:00 PM-Missions Team 07:30 PM-AA - Carry the Message	25 09:30 AM-BB Chapel 09:59 AM-Yoga 01:00 PM-BB Chapel 05:30 PM-Br Beg Board Meeting 06:00 PM-Lenten Suppers 07:00 PM-Worship 07:00 PM-Boy Scout Troop 48 08:00 PM-Yoga	26 10:00 AM-Grounds Crew 04:30 PM-Children at the Table 07:00 PM-Power Hour Prayer Team 07:00 PM-Chancel Choir 07:00 PM-Support Group 07:00 PM-YF Prayer Meeting 07:15 PM-A.A. 08:00 PM-AI-Anon-Hpwell Friendship	27 03:45 PM-Daisy Troop 07:00 PM-Vida Nueva Team 07:30 PM-AA - Carry the Message	28 08:00 AM-Vida Nueva
29 08:45 AM-The Gathering 09:50 AM-Cherubs Rehearsal 09:59 AM-HRCJourney 10:30 AM-Foundations 03:59 PM-Common Ground 06:00 PM-Youth Group	30 10:00 AM-AI-Anon Serenity Group 07:00 PM-Bells of Praise 07:15 PM-A.A.	31 06:45 PM-uTurn Rehearsal 07:30 PM-AA - Carry the Message				

STEPHEN MINISTRY

INTRODUCING NEW STEPHEN MINISTERS

Submitted by Elke Marsh

God has called into ministry four new Stephen Ministers: Carol Bean, Carl and Karen Nuessle, and Sasha Steenson. They were commissioned at Hopewell Reformed Church on February 1st. Let us introduce our newest Stephen Ministers in their own words:



Carol Bean

I am a retired grandmother, happily married to Doug Bean for 43 years. We have one son, Jared, living just 5 minutes from home with his wonderful wife, Martha, and 3 terrific grandsons: Luke, Matthew and Jacob. How blessed we are to have family living near by.

In January of 2006 Doug and I attended our first worship service at HRC —Taylor preached, the choir sang and the kindness and welcoming spirit of the congregation made an incredible impact on us. We will forever be grateful to God for his leading. Doug and I became members of the HRC in April of 2006 and the joy and enthusiasm we experienced the first time we attended service here continues.



It is truly out of an awesome sense of gratitude to God and His mercies shown to me that Stephen Ministries caught my attention. The Lord had already planted seeds of interest in my heart well before I was asked to pray about, and consider participating in the Stephen Ministry Program. When I agreed to sign up for the program it was not, however, without some fear and anxiety... It must be said that after the first training session many of those concerns were put to rest with the knowledge that "Stephen Ministers give the care but only God can give the cure."

The Stephen Ministry Training has been excellent and well worth every minute spent in study. The instructors were always very well prepared and taught with great insight, sensitivity and kindness of heart. It has truly been a privilege to be part of this preparation and it is my prayer that the truths and principles learned in training will be used to serve others more effectively and to bring honor and glory to God.

Karen Nuessle

I am Karen Nuessle. I have worked for Green Chimneys School, a residential treatment center for emotionally disturbed children, as their Director of Nursing for 29 years. My husband Carl and I became members of HRC in 2006. God has blessed me by giving me the gift of care for others.

My life was truly blessed by God the day He brought me into HRC. The Holy Spirit was evident as seen in everyone's eyes. I knew my spiritual needs would be met at HRC and I also would become a participant in God's world of love. Because God has enriched my life in so many ways, I wanted to serve Him with my gratitude. I became a Stephen Minister who will reflect God's work of faith, courage, love, and compassion for my Care Receivers.



My relationship with Jesus has grown and continues to grow through my involvement at HRC and in my life.

Carl Nuessle

My name is Carl Nuessle. I am a retired Police Officer and also retired from the U.S. Air Force.

I attended many churches in the past, always looking for that special one that I would feel comfortable in. About three years ago a family member mentioned Hopewell Reformed Church to my wife Karen and I and felt that we might just like this one. So we gave it a try and went to church. Well, they say that the Lord moves in mysterious ways because, when we walked through the front doors of this church, for the first time I immediately felt the total presence of God in my life.

I always liked helping people in need so I decided to become a Stephen Minister and, in so doing, I am able to give back to God and his church all the wonderful things He has given me in my life.



Sasha Steenson

I am Alexandra (Sasha) Steenson. I was born in Minsk, Belarus, under the totalitarian Soviet Union rule. In 1978 my father gathered up our small family and began a tumultuous emigration to the US, first living in Austria, then Italy, then finally America. Being agnostic, as a result of the Soviet political system devoid of religion, not speaking a word of English and being a teenager, a difficult age for a girl in the US, I studied hard in my American classes. Upon graduation I worked for the New York Foundation for Senior Citizens, a not-for-profit organization providing quality housing and life programs for New York's seniors. There I met my husband Paul; we married, had our daughter Samantha and moved to Hopewell Junction.

Having had no prior experience with religion, Hopewell Reformed Church opened up the world of Jesus Christ for me. I was baptized, received my first Holy Communion, and witnessed the baptism of my daughter Samantha here at Hopewell Reformed Church.



I am looking for an opportunity, a way, to give back something for all the wonderful blessings I have received. Becoming a Stephen Minister is a step in that direction. I think I have compassion for others' situations, and a gift in that others open up to me and let me help to share their burdens.



MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

NEW MEMBERS

Submitted by Arlene Surprenant; pictures by Dave Pratt

ERNIE AND EILEEN FINLEY

Ernie and Eileen were first attracted to HRC by “the sincere friendliness” of everyone they met.

“We felt at home and welcome on our first visit and have been here ever since,” says Eileen. They both look forward to continuing to work with CMP, the greeting team on Sunday mornings, the mission team, and “whatever God asks us to do.”

A priority for this couple is spending time with their large family. Between them they have seven children and 15 grandchildren. They enjoy discovering new places and meeting new people.

Ernie is an estate caretaker and he also raises beef cattle. Eileen is a caregiver for the elderly and hopes to start nursing school in the near future.



CYNTHIA SALBERG

Born and raised in Dutchess County, Cynthia has been married for over eight years to husband Glenn. They have a son, Alexander, who is in kindergarten and “brings us more joy than we can describe.”

Cynthia is a full time wife and mother and works part time as a service assistant. She previously worked 20 years in the auto industry. Two of her hobbies are crafts and reading.

Though Cynthia was brought up Greek Orthodox, she says she never felt a deep connection to church and didn’t go on a regular basis. Some friends introduced her to HRC when she began her search for a church in earnest.

From the beginning, “it just felt like home.”

“There are so many ways to get involved at HRC. I am not sure where to start,” she says.

Cynthia is focusing on areas like working in the church office, Helping Hands, and Women’s Guild.

HRC JOURNEY

A NEW STORY BEGINS

Text and pictures submitted by Linda Zieres

We at HRC journey are on a mission. The launch happened on Sunday, January 11th at Tymor Park where we joyfully hosted our 1st worship celebration



have any modified their services to include individuals with special needs.

On January 11th and again on February 8th Lynn and Wayne Morrison creatively adapted their music to encourage participation by all (and it worked!). Both times, Pastor Mark delivered a dynamic message in a way that captured the attention of everyone and stimulated group response.



to include individuals with special needs. Pastors Steve Dambra and Mark Mast, along with Chris Snyder, visited several local group homes to find that although many programs, such as recreation and employment, are available to the residents the element of “church” was largely absent. Many residents don’t have family involved with their care to even suggest attending church. The area churches may welcome these residents but have not encouraged their attendance, nor



There was also small group time to reinforce the theme of each message and encourage relationship building.

Our mission is to celebrate worship in this way on the 2nd Sunday of each month. We call it Odyssey, an adventurous journey for very special people. Chris Snyder recently said, “Our goal is to create a place for all God’s children to worship together and experience the joy of being in the presence of God.”

LOCAL MISSIONS

FOOD PANTRY

Submitted by Patty Coppola and LeeAnn O'Connor

The HRC Food Closet team worked in conjunction with Vail Farm Elementary School PTA at a recent fund raiser held on 1/29/09. Students were encouraged to bring a non perishable food item as their ticket to a Faculty Basketball Game. Lee Ann O'Connor, Kristen O'Connor and her friend Meghan Hudson, Erik O'Connor, Patty Coppola, Ryan Coppola and Kelsey Coppola collected the food donations at the game. The students donated 273 food items which were delivered to the Fishkill Food Pantry. Slam Dunk!!



PATTY AND LEE ANN CHECK ALL DONATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPIRATION DATES



LEE ANN AND PATTY ACCEPTING FOOD DONATIONS AT A LOCAL PTA FUND RAISER.

The Fishkill Food Pantry is in need of the following items:

- * soups
- * macaroni and cheese
- * boxed mashed potatoes
- * canned potatoes
- * canned beef stew
- * chili
- * boxed rice
- * noodles
- * pasta
- * unsweetened cereals
- * complete meals

Please remember that all food items need to have a date that has not expired. The Food pantry continues to need empty egg cartons and paper bags. Please leave all donations in the food pantry basket located in the front lobby. Thank you for your help.

Any questions or needs please contact Patty Coppola (227-8277) or Lee Ann O'Connor (223-6750)



CHRISTCARE

Submitted by Stephanie Patton

“THIS IS MY FATHER’S WORLD”



Small Changes Can Have Big Results: A Few Practical Ways to Live “Green”

From an issue of Time magazine, January 15, 2009

- Set your hot water heater to 120 degrees
- Checking furnace filters monthly can reduce heating bills 5-15%
- Save 5% on energy bill for every degree below 70 you lower the thermostat
- Proper tire inflation can save up to 3% in your car’s gas mileage. Check pressure after car has been sitting for a while when tires are cold
- Use cloth napkins instead of paper (think of landfills, paper trash building up...)
- Try to compost vegetable stuff from your kitchen – it really is simple. A U. of Arizona study estimates if we all reduced the amount of food waste we discard by half, we could reduce our environmental impact by 25%.
- And keep using those reusable grocery bags, perhaps even in the Galleria? Try to buy products with minimal pre-packaging. “Old computer monitors can hold up to 7 lb. of lead! Cell phones and computers are making electronic waste the fastest-growing part of the U.S. garbage stream. Improperly disposed of, the lead, mercury and other toxic materials inside e-waste can leak from landfills.” (TIME MAGAZINE, JANUARY 15, 2009). Much of our deadly stuff is shipped for recycling to an area in China that now is reported to have the highest level of cancer-causing dioxins in the world. So, what can we do?
- Companies like Apple now design their computers to be more easily recycled
- Dell offers free recycling of its products (arrange shipping online or check with Staples for a recently announced in-store recycling program). Dell actually uses environmental auditors to check up on its recyclers.
- If your old cell phone is still working you can sell it to Greenphone.com, which will market it to poor customers abroad. Or find an organization that recycles old phones locally to those in need.
- Sony is said to be offering a free take-back program for old TV sets.
- Get your new converter box when the TV programming goes digital, and simply keep your present set. The retailers won’t thank you, but think of the enormous environmental challenge of dealing with a huge influx of old television sets.

LET’S PUT OUR COLLECTIVE HEADS TOGETHER TO FIGURE WHAT WE ,AS A GROUP ,CAN DO. OUR NEW PRESIDENT HAS CALLED UPON US TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE EFFECTS OUR ACTIONS HAVE ON THE REST OF THE WORLD. IS THIS A BIBLICAL CONCEPT? HOW ABOUT “LOVE THY NEIGHBOR AS THYSELF?”



DIRECTOR'S PAGE



OPERATIONS

Submitted by Karen Gomba, Director



In January we recognized the work of Tom Jacobs by bestowing upon him our “game ball” tribute. Tom served as our webmaster for close to 12 years and in doing so, had the tough task of keeping up

with all that our church has been doing in those years. Thanks, Tom, for that wonderful example of servant leadership!

After learning from Tom all that he had done, our Communications Team spun off a Website Team to help us figure out our next steps. The plan for the new website is to have HRC staff responsible for updating their particular sections of the site. They may do this themselves, or find a willing volunteer, but it will allow us to get information posted as soon as it becomes available. And we can share the load of making sure the content is fresh and up to date.

The other key component of the design is that it will serve both our current congregation, who will be able to use it to find out what’s going on when, and for those who are looking for a church and want to know who we are and what we have to offer. Our goal is to capture on a screen what a special place HRC is, and to bring it to life we will be using warm and inviting colors and photos, and we’ll make it easy to navigate to find information.

We are currently in the process of writing our content material and should have a working “beta” version in the near future. I would love to have a few folks critique it for us before it goes “live”, so if you’re interested, please contact me (at the church office: 221-9542 or via email: k.gomba@hrcra.org). Thanks!



EXTENDED CARE MINISTRY

MANY THANKS

Submitted by Nance Williford

In the past few issues of “Hopewell Happenings,” we have highlighted several different people who belong to our Extended Care family so that you could get to know them a little better. There is also a wonderful bulletin board in the Community Room that shows pictures of some of the activities that we do with our elderly, sick and homebound. One of these activities is writing notes and sending cards to them—especially during the winter months when it is often more difficult to visit them. Now that it is so close to Valentine’s Day, I wanted to thank three very special groups which have shown Christ’s love to our Extended Care family through their written correspondence.

First, I’d like to thank all of the Sunday school children who created and sent beautiful cards. Under the leadership of Barbara Jennings, the children made thirty or more cards for each holiday: Thanksgiving, Christmas and now Valentine’s Day, too! (When I visited Tina Rentsch yesterday, I saw her “Sunday

school cards” taped on the door near her kitchen table—not only are they beautiful decorations, but they are a constant reminder that she is not alone!)

Secondly, I’d like to thank all of you who have continually written to our Extended Care family members over the years. Each Sunday bulletin contains the name and address of a person (or sometimes a friend of someone) who used to attend HRC but no longer can. Over the years, there has always been a group of caring, compassionate people who keep in touch with them through the mail. Thank you!

And lastly, I want to thank the kind-hearted people who just recently volunteered to write to the members of our Extended Care family. The effort and time that you put into your cards and letters will be truly appreciated. In fact, many times, your correspondence will be the highlight of their day!

AND MY FINAL POINT . . .

What's Next With Worship?

From the Lead Pastor



I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings. (1 Corinthians 9:22-23)

We laughed our heads off at our farewell party for Lorraine. We cried our eyes out as we said good-bye to her on Sunday. What's next? Where are we going with music and worship? Let me address some directions and possibilities that will be in consideration.

The passage from Paul above continues to define our vision for worship at HRC. We have five different worship services, all with significantly different styles. Each needs support and direction in the music ministry, and the idea of multi-site is that we share resources among the sites to make sure that we are inviting more and more people into relationship with Christ and engaging them in mission. This change of leadership in our music ministry invites us to take a look at our overall picture of worship.

Gatherings: Our 8:45 worship has seen a decrease in attendance and confusion in focus. We have multiple worship bands and leaders; as our Gatherings group met we all felt that this led to confusion and a diminishment of energy in worship. We are hoping to bring in an interim worship leader after Easter. He will lead worship and work with our bands to help us clarify direction in style and philosophy. Currently we are talking to Terry Dunham from the River Church (one of the best worship leaders in the Hudson Valley) to work with us in this process.

Foundations: Edwina Pratt has once again stepped forward to lead our choir in this interim period and we have discovered some local organ talent to work with us as well. We are seeking names of those who have been trained in organ and choral conducting to lead in the areas of our church music program.

HRC Journey: Wayne and Lynn Morrison and Toni Congi continue to faithfully and enthusiastically lead music at Journey's worship.

Common Ground: A group of young musicians has developed into a cohesive worship teams that leads music at the new location of the Hampton Inn.

BIG Worship: U-Turn continues to develop its gifts of worship leadership as our youth band at BIG (Be InterGenerational) worship.

We are hoping to have direction for the music ministry set by the fall of 2009 with people in place to live into that vision. A worship vision team has been called together to help discern God's direction for us. At first pass many on the team felt that we would need to look for two people: one who would focus on the areas of traditional worship and one who focus on the more contemporary style. The other consideration is for one person who would direct the entire music ministry at all HRC sites, encompassing the totality of what we are doing with music in worship. Stay tuned during this exciting time of transition.

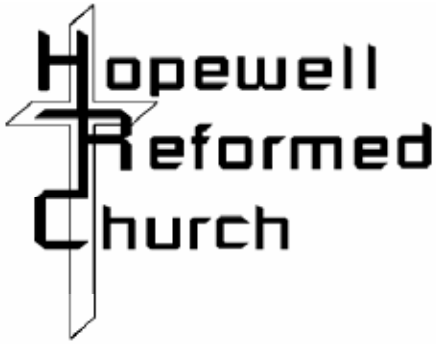
In the weeks following Easter I will be preaching a sermon series on worship, and we will be meeting with focus groups to get feedback on the most effective directions for HRC to move in worship as we seek to reach out to our community.

As we have said goodbye and sent Lorraine off with our blessing, it is time to start planning for the next step and clarifying some things. I am looking forward to an inspirational future.

Yours in Hope,

Taylor W. Holbrook





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Email: HRCChurch@HRCRCA.org
Web: www.HopewellReformedChurch.org

Sunday Worship Services at HRC

8:45am* 10:30am*

The Gathering Foundations
(Contemporary) (Traditional)

Sunday Worship Times & Locations

4:00pm 10:00am

Common Ground HRCjourney
at Arlington Reformed Church at Tymor Park

**Sunday School and Nursery provided at these services*



Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday,
March 08, 2009

To know Christ, and to make Him known.