

# Hopewell Happenings

HOPEWELL REFORMED CHURCH  
WINTER 2009/2010



*Welcome the Light of the World!*

# LETTERS AND NOTES



December, 2009

Dear Readers,

As we put together our Winter issue, we read about many opportunities to share our blessings with those less fortunate – especially our first annual Mary Merillat Mission tree. What a great way to honor Mary’s memory and all she did for missions here at Hopewell Reformed Church!

While there are many unique ways to give to others during this holiday time, we did notice that we also have the opportunity to give all year long. Our Food Pantry is one of those places where the need is throughout the year, not just during the holidays. This is particularly true lately, with many people in our community having lost their jobs.

One ministry at HRC provides comfort, support and love to others throughout the year. Trained Stephen Ministers are available to help in many different situations. If you have considered becoming involved in this ministry, there is a new training session beginning in January. There is also a training session for ChristCare leaders starting up in January. We hope you will consider getting involved in a ministry at HRC – your life will be blessed by helping others.

We wish you all a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

*The Newsletter Team*



*Greetings to all the HRC  
Congregation,*

*Many, many thanks to all who  
participated in the memorial  
service for my mother,  
Charlotte Dodge. My family  
and I really appreciated it all.  
The warm support and moving  
comments of her long time  
friends, the wonderful choir,  
the bountiful table of goodies*

*with its beautiful centerpiece,  
the Wednesday Club display  
and so much more. And the  
kind notes from those who  
could not be there in person.  
You made it a true celebration  
of her life.*

*Sincerely,  
Carol Welch*

*Dear HRC family,*

*Time passes quickly. Memories blur  
and fade. But I will never forget all the  
acts of kindness I received from you  
while I was recuperating from my biking  
accident. Your cards, phone calls, visits  
and meals gave me such feelings of  
peace and joy.*

*Thank you for turning my “boring, stir-  
crazy” days of convalescence into days  
of love and appreciation for all of God’s  
wonderful blessings.*

*Love,  
Nance Williford*

November 21, 2009

Dear Members of HRC,

Thank you so much for your  
prayers and support during my sur-  
gery and recovery afterwards. It is a  
great comfort and an inspiration to  
do well.

God bless you all!  
Sincerely,

Lisa Barach

From the Classis of Mid-Hudson  
Reformed Church in America  
March 21, 2009

Dear Taylor and Hopewell Church family,

On behalf of the Classis of Mid-Hudson, it  
is with a grateful heart that I extend to you a  
huge THANK YOU for the warm welcome you  
extended to us on Tuesday evening. Your gracious  
hospitality, inspiring worship and delicious dinner  
made what sometimes is not a favorite evening for  
many, a pleasant experience.

SPECIAL THANKS to:

- Lorraine Wolf and “Grace” and Taylor for leading the Classis in meaningful worship.
- All the cooks and servers that made our fellowship around the tables fulfilling both for the body and the soul.
- The Church at Hopewell for your vision and vitality that inspires and encourages all the churches of the Classis to The Church of Christ wherever they are planted.

May you continue to be blest to be a blessing to all those you serve.

Serving Him with you,

*Jane B. Konitz*

Recording Clerk for the Classis of Mid-Hudson

# WORSHIP

Submitted by Sherri Hondorp

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES



**4:00** This service is geared toward families with smaller children. We will tell the "Christmas Story", sing familiar carols and hear the angelic sound of the Little Lambs and the Cherub choirs. We will end the service with a "Happy Birthday Jesus" celebration in the fellowship hall, including birthday cake !

**6:30 and 8:30** services will be identical. This will be our traditional service with the reading of scripture telling the story of the birth of Jesus. We will sing carols, and hear the glorious sounds of the Chancel Choir. Pastor Taylor will deliver a message -of hope peace, love and joy.

**11:00** will be a more quiet and reflective service in a modern-traditional style. Familiar carols on contemporary instruments, led by the group CrossRoads from our Gatherings Services. Communion will be served. Pastor Taylor will deliver a message of hope, peace, love and joy !

All services will include our wonderful tradition of the singing of Silent Night with candlelighting. Babysitting will be available for 4:00 and 6:30 services only.

### 4:00 p.m. Odyssey Service at Tymor Park

We will be celebrating the Christmas Story at Odyssey for the first time this Christmas Eve. We will worship together through music (our very own Odyssey Choir!), the telling of the Christmas story like you have never seen before, and a wonderful time of fellowship as we join together in the Good News that Jesus Christ is here!

## COMING UP IN WORSHIP

### December 27th

We will hold both services this day. The services will be Lessons and Carols. Tony Congi will lead the Gatherings with carols on his guitar.

### Jan. 3

Both services today will conclude the advent series "In My Heart I Carry A Star". Taylor will deliver a message reminding us of what following the star of Jesus means for our lives, and encourage us to live in His light.

### Jan. 10

Today we will celebrate Epiphany and hear the story of the Wise Men's journey, and how God calls us to a journey towards Him. We will end the evening with our traditional Epiphany bonfire in the Croniser lot, capped off with hot cocoa and cookies ! We invite you to donate your Christmas trees for the fire.



# Worship

# MISSIONS: INTERNATIONAL

## CHANGE A LIFE - CHOOSE A GIFT FROM THE MARY MERILLAT MISSION TREE

Submitted by Ellen Pearson

This year HRC is offering an opportunity for you to give a gift that will change a life in honor of your family and friends.

Catalogs were made available after Thanksgiving with gift ideas that will allow you to become personally involved in the lives of those we serve around the world. There are many items that you can choose from, including bags of food, blankets, medical supplies, construction materials, student sponsorships and clothing.

Look for the Mission Tree table in the Fellowship Hall after each service until December 20. Next, choose a project that you would like to "purchase".

Fill out the gift card to present to your family and friends so they will see the gift that you have purchased in their name. We will hang a matching ornament on the Mission Tree for each gift purchased.

Your gifts will bring hope and joy to impoverished people that God loves. Through your gifts you can spread the love of Jesus Christ in the areas that HRC supports such as Mexico, Peru, Dominican Republic, Mississippi, India, Africa and right here in Dutchess County.



Please help us decorate the Mission Tree!

For further information, please contact:

Sue Nieves : 592-0764 or [suzyn6@yahoo.com](mailto:suzyn6@yahoo.com)

Michele Ryan: 452-3640 or [mmfritch@aol.com](mailto:mmfritch@aol.com)

Ellen Pearson: 298-8251 or [pearson.ellen@gmail.com](mailto:pearson.ellen@gmail.com)



### Mary Merillat Mission Tree

Mary was a beloved member of HRC who devoted her life and vision to sharing the gospel and helping those in need around the world through missions. She was a key figure on the HRC Mission Team for many years and she helped promote sending teams out into the world to show the love of Christ. Mary served locally with CMP and she also went on mission trips to Honduras, Ecuador, Peru and Mexico.

She was also very involved in Project Angel Tree for many years.

Mary went to be with the Lord this year but her spirit of love and generosity towards others through missions will always be a part of her legacy at HRC.

We are asking you to be a part of Mary's vision and to share your gifts with others.

# A NOTE FROM THE ELDERS

## A WEEK OF PRAYER FOR HRC

Submitted by Shireen Gilbert

In October the elders invited all of HRC to come together for a time of prayer. Sign up charts with one hour time slots were distributed to our worship communities at Beekman Road, HRC Journey and Common Ground. All the slots were filled and in some cases double booked.

For one week, 168 continuous hours, prayers of thanksgiving and petition for HRC were brought before God.

One member of our HRC family was moved to share part of what she wrote in her prayer journal during her hour of prayer:

*Dear Lord God,  
You are all glorious. You reign over all the Earth and sky. You reign, Lord, over us. You began a good work in us and you are faithful to complete it – a good work, Lord Maker. Please make us more like you, Glorious One.*

*You know all the intricacies of our being, Lord God, Omniscient One. You know if we have a root of bitterness that needs to be removed. Please remove it, all Powerful One. You certainly are Omnipotent and can do anything. Thank you for being willing to do good work in us.*

*Thank you, Lord God, for being patient with us, patient as we yield to you, patient as we try to come to terms with issues in our lives, patient as we adjust to one another. Savior, please save us from our bad attitudes, our doubts, and our fears. Hold onto us, Lord Savior, as we venture into unknown places, lest we slip and fall.*

*For things that are hard to put into words, things that are hard to say, Lord God, we ask also for these things. Also cleanse us, fill us, lead and guide us. Do the deeper work as you see fit, Lord, for certainly you are trustworthy.*

*Help us, Lord God Almighty to abide in you, the vine, that we may bring forth your fruit. You are trustworthy, Father, to prune us carefully, so prune us as you will that we may bear more fruit.*

*Help us, Lord, to stick together, one with another in your Love and by your Spirit. Help us to be ready, willing and able, Lord Jesus, to be obedient to you, longing to please you always. Perfect your Love in our hearts, Lord.*

Thank you to all who participated in the week of prayer. We have seen and felt a move of God as a result of our prayers and we hope you have also. Let us continue to “pray without ceasing” for HRC.



## TURKEY SUPPER

Submitted by Paula Engel

This year’s Turkey Supper was a great success. Despite the mishaps (dish washer broke, hot water didn’t work), the great group of volunteers did an amazing job.

We served over 400 people, and sent out about 15 dinners to shut ins. Luckily the dishwasher did start to work and the water heated up. I would like to thank the many people who kept the dinner going...

Outside hosts: Dave Barlow and Rick Goerg, who greeted people and made up table seatings.

Inside host: Hale Engel, who seats the tables.

Tickets: Carol & Doug Bean.

Dining Room: Kim Goerg.

Kitchen: Donna & David Bernstein, who run the kitchen with their great staff.

Take outs: Ann Bell.

They, and all the volunteers working with them, did a wonderful job. To all who roasted turkeys and baked pies, thank you so very much. Our turkey stuffing, set up and clean up crews worked so very hard. To all the 100+ people who volunteered in any way, on behalf of the church: Thanks! Our profit was about \$3100.00.

# HRC JOURNEY

## THE REAL JOURNEY

Submitted by Chris Snider

Five months ago, I had a cochlear implant. The results are wonderful, but there is an even better story I want to share with the special people in my life, my church family.

Last January was a low point for me. My hearing was virtually gone. I was feeling very bitter about the way things had turned out. I was upset I wasn't able to teach, couldn't talk on the phone to my children, family, or friends without using captioning, and the hearing issue was taking over my life. It consumed most of my thoughts and conversations. But I guess the hardest thing was feeling useless. For so long I was convinced that teaching was my God given gift. I loved it and felt I was touching others through it. I had prayed through the crummy time of leaving my job that I be filled with grace and be a witness to others. But in my heart of hearts, I pretty much resigned myself to believe the most important accomplishments of my life were behind me since I could no longer teach.

In December, Pastor Mark challenged us to think of a mission for our church plant, Journey. I felt the nudge to mention a special needs ministry. Truly, I had felt the nudge years before and had halfheartedly attempted to make some head way. But when I was working full time, there was always planning or meetings or housework that got in the way. "Well, I can't use the excuse of being busy anymore", I thought and started to look into the possibility of a special needs ministry. I made a phone call and found out there wasn't any such ministry in our area. The person I talked to said, "Well, there is a minister about 45 minutes away who will do funerals." That one comment drove me to act. Providing a funeral was too late. What about all the time beforehand? Can't a person with disabilities learn about God's love?

When I brought the idea up to Mark he loved it. My big desire was to have an inclusion service meaning we would worship side by side with individuals with disabilities, not put on a service for them. After all, I had been an inclusion teacher in school and had seen first hand the rewards that come when strengths are recognized in each individual regardless of disability. The people in our church decided to give it a try. Pastor Mark, Steve Dambra and I visited a few group homes, made up flyers and brochures to advertise our ministry, and modified our service. We named our ministry Odyssey, a special journey with extraordinary people.

We had our first service in January, 2009 and four individuals with disabilities attended. We kept working and God blessed us. It was amazing to me how things would just happen. For example, we were beginning with just a few Odyssey friends when a new member joined our fellowship who was from a local service agency. She worked directly with people with disabilities and began spreading the word about our ministry. With her help and contacts, Odyssey really began growing and serving and changing lives. Each month we would see an increase in attendance. We were holding our Odyssey service once a month; and now twice a month. Last Sunday - only nine months since our first service, we had 75 individuals with disabilities worship with us. During our Odyssey service, I look at everyone mixed in together singing simple songs of faith, sharing prayer requests, and listening to modified sermons, and it chokes me up because I think this is how it should be.

**When I was at my lowest point and my most disabled, God used me to kick start a ministry which is touching so many people**

Last week, a few of us went to one of the group homes for a visit. One of the guys we have come to love has lung cancer and is receiving Hospice care. He doesn't have a biological family but he is loved by the guys and caregivers in his group home. Before Odyssey, he only had access to a minister when it was time to perform his funeral. But now this man has a church family to support him, pray for him, and encourage him. Our visiting group of five included Wayne and Lynn Morrison. The five of us plus the three other guys living in the group home sat in Jimmy's dimly lit room because Jimmy was too tired to get out of bed. We had communion and sang a few familiar songs from our services. It was one of those precious times when you can feel the holiness. I looked around at this mixed group and knew without a doubt God was pleased.

This is my biggest journey. My hearing results are amazing - yes. But even more amazing to me is that, when I was at my lowest point and my most disabled, God used me to kick start a ministry which is touching so many people. I am so thankful for others who saw the vision and came alongside to help. I no longer look back and say my biggest accomplishment is behind me. That night in Jimmy's room showed me how wrong I was.

# WEEKEND COUPLES RETREAT

## MARRIAGE - GOD'S PLAN

Submitted by Dave & Jan Bushey

Over the weekend of November 6-8, nine couples from HRC attended "Couples' Weekend" at Harvey Cedars Bible Conference, Long Beach Island, New Jersey.

The speaker for the weekend, Dr. Bill Smith, focused his presentations on making marriages the best that God intended them to be. He stressed open, godly communication, appreciation for the spouse God has given, and how to "be on the same page" with feelings, ideas and dreams.

There was also time for quiet walks on the ocean beach, a fun auction of white elephant items and other giveaways, a beautiful banquet evening and lots of fellowship.



If you might be interested in attending next year's Couple's Weekend [November 5-7, 2010], see or call Jan Bushey 221-6123.

# EXTENDED CARE MINISTRY

Submitted by Nance Williford

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

If you are at least 90 years old or have a friend in their 90's, please let us know! As part of our Extended Care Ministry, HRC has a team of volunteers ready to celebrate!

We'll bring you a cake and all the trimmings...all you have to do is ask. To share your news or join the team, please call Shelley Stensrud at 896-8788.

### Who's the birthday girl?

In the picture are Judy Phillips (holding the cake), Edith Travis (a long time friend), and Tina Rentsch, the birthday girl - turning 95 years old.



# CHRISTIAN KIDS' CORNER

Submitted by Sheryle Silvern

## PUMPKIN PARTY

Families enjoyed fall activities and a delicious meal together at our Pumpkin Party! The children were very creative when they decorated their pumpkins and made pumpkin picture frames. They were pros at pumpkin bowling, pumpkin bocce and pumpkin "cootie". Thank you to everyone who helped to make the party a wonderful time of fellowship! Children's Ministries looks forward to providing more opportunities for young families to have fun together at church and to connect with other families



## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The children of Hopewell Reformed Church invite you to worship with them as they share the story of God's love. Please join us for our Christmas pageant, "God Had a Plan", on December 13th at 2:00. You will be blessed by our angels, shepherds and kings! A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

## FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION PROJECT

Thank you for supporting the fall Sunday School mission project for the children in Salasaca, Ecuador! We collected over \$200 that will be used to buy toys for children who have very little. Teachers with "Reaching Toddlers at Home" will bring toys to pre-school age children when they visit their homes to work with them. May God bless you and the families that you are helping. Thank you!





POP UP CAMPER for sale—2001 FLEETWOOD CHEYENNE Immaculate, open, airy. Sleeps 6. In great shape. \$3800. Contact Randy or Lisa at 889-8469

**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.

BUILDING AN ADDITION?—Call Graham J. Boyd with your architectural design, interior design, space planning, graphic design or illustrations and renderings needs. Call: (845)224-5131 or email: GrahamJBoyd@gmail.com

**HOUSEHOLD:**

LYNCH CARPENTRY—Custom Remodeling, Free Estimates - Please call or e-mail Don Lynch. email:Lynchcarpentry123@yahoo.com Office:(845)-896-0487 Cell:(845)242-7794

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

HOUSE CLEANING—experienced house cleaner available. Reliable. Reasonable rates. References available. Please call Heather 592-1992

HOME/OFFICE CLEANING & PERSONAL SERVICE—*Helping Hands At Your Service Professionals*. Kimberly S. Cogswell (Mendez) 828 Berkshire Rd., Wingdale, NY 12594 845-345-2005 or 845-625-5839 HelpingHands.AtYourService@gmail.com

**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.

**CATERING**

CELTIC CHARM CATERING—No affair too small. Serving daily lunch to your business or school. Dinners delivered before 3pm. I offer a gluten free menu along with my regular menu. Kim Busche, your personal caterer for any event. Call 845-227-6107 or email finbarturk@aol.com for complete menus. Also, Kids in the Kitchen cooking classes, adult cooking classes and gluten free awareness cooking classes at Lomala in Hopewell Junction.

**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:**

LIA SOPHIA ADVISOR—Heather L. Maillet 845-592-1992 www.liasophia.com/heathermaillet It is an honor to serve you!

**EDUCATION:**

TUTOR AVAILABLE—Certified teacher available to help your student. Reasonable rates. References available. Please call Heather 592-1992

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT AVAILABLE to help your student with math, tax or accounting needs. I tutor any level from grade school through college. Reasonable rates. References available. Please call June Nuzzo 845-223-8227 or cell 845-596-2599

**FOR SALE:**

THREE (3) BABY LOCK SEWING MACHINES for sale. Paid \$159.00 asking \$139.00 or best offer. Used only a short time. Have the direction book. Barbara Dailey, 845-226-6266/845-430-5935

HISTORICAL PLATES—Picturing HRC. These 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 2 plates available, first come, first served at \$25.00 ea. A great gift! Call or see David Bushey (221-6123)

# CHURCH CLASSIFIEDS continued

## 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.

## TRAVEL

TRAVEL AGENT—Let me help you experience our country and the world. For family reunions and celebrations; honeymoons; overseas visits, tours, and learning adventures; coach tours in the US and abroad; cruises; travel with mission, music and athletic groups; winter ski or warm-weather getaways. I am licensed and insured in New York and Florida, and am an independent agent of Travel Depot, formerly of Brookmeade Plaza, now in The Villages, Florida. For advice on international health concerns and trip insurance, contact Amy Ferrell, amy.ferrell@verizon.net. 845-223-3680 summer and fall, 941-349-6069 winter and spring.



## CHURCH VOLUNTEERS

Submitted by Karen Gomba

### GAME BALL

In September we honored the **Jackson family** with our game ball. During a very tough personal time, they came together to support our church by sprucing up our Community and Consistory Rooms. Not only did they do a great job of painting, Anne also made curtains for both rooms. They look absolutely terrific – thanks, guys!!!

In October the game ball was awarded to **Cyndy Warren** because she typifies the “behind the scenes” volunteer who doesn't often get recognized. Cyndy

is our Financial Secretary, has sung for years for both of our services, and is also a landscaper extraordinaire and hostess with the mostess! She's always willing to lend a hand, and always with a smile. Be sure to thank Cyndy...she helps make this place a special place!

November's honoree was **Sara Irvin**. Sara has been active with our Women's Guild, the Hopewell Chorale, singing at the local nursing homes and most recently served as a Stephen Minister leader. Thanks, Sara, for all that you do in the name of Christ!



# LOCAL MISSIONS

## Love In The Name of Christ

Submitted by Karen Gomba

The Mid-Hudson chapter of Love In The Name of Christ (<http://mid-hudsonloveinc.org/>) continues in their work to take a "clearinghouse" approach to serving people in need. All resources and calls for help are funneled through the local Clearinghouse in Poughkeepsie. Here requests are screened and matched with the most appropriate source for help. This is their update from November:

Praise God with us for two well-attended Mid-Hudson Love INC events in October – the fun-filled SCRABBLE® Tournament and the spirit-filled CHOIR FEST. Both helped raise awareness of the work and mission of Mid-Hudson Love In the Name of Christ. Please continue to pray that more churches will partner with us and more people will feel called to volunteer so that more needs can be met through caring relationships.

We pray for, and with each of our Love INC clients, regularly. This month, we invite you to join us in praying specifically for the following three clients (we have changed their names, but God will certainly know who they are as we speak to Him about their needs!):

- Charles is an older man whose wife, Shirley, has terminal cancer. Some insurance issues have made it difficult for Shirley to get treatment. Charles had been unemployed for 11 months, but he has recently found a job. Their daughter and her three children have moved in to help care for Shirley. We are providing personal care items and are trying to get Boost or Ensure donated for them. Please pray for this precious family, that God would provide them with healing and hope.

- Helen is a young mom struggling financially with four children under the age of 9. Helen's husband had a seizure that has left him unable to work or to care for their children so that she can work. Their two-year-old does not speak and they have someone coming into their home to teach sign language. Helen is expecting another child in December. We have provided personal care items, clothing and needed household items they could not afford. Please pray for this family, that God would provide for their needs and give them much encouragement through His people.
- Susan is a young mom trying to get her life together while recovering from a drug addiction. She has three children, two of whom live with her mom in Florida. She has been to River Church and would like to be more involved there, so we have referred her to them. She has received personal care items and lots of encouragement and prayer. Please pray that Susan will find strength in the Lord to remain drug-free and that God will give her wisdom and guidance as she makes so many changes in her life.

If you'd like to learn more, or would like to volunteer, you can speak to our Pastor of Outreach (Mark Mast), who serves on the Love INC board, or to the HRC liaison (Karen Gomba), or you may contact Love INC directly at [mhloveinc@gmail.com](mailto:mhloveinc@gmail.com) or 471-0102.



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### Mid-Hudson Love INC Update – November 20, 2009

The Mid-Hudson Love INC Board of Directors spent time at the last meeting marveling at God's goodness to Love INC over the past year. So many pieces have fallen in place as we have worked and prayed, enabling us to mobilize the Church to minister to those in need in our community. Over the past two weeks, the Board has also had the privilege of

participating in more direct, hands-on ministry. In pairs, Board members visited individuals and families in need, praying with them, delivering household items, bedding and furniture. Some Board members also did 'site visits' for clients requesting furniture, evaluating the space in the home (measuring stairs, walls and doorways where needed) and the access (elevators, steep stairs, problematic corners, etc.) to the home. Other Board members picked up furniture

## Love In The Name of Christ Continued...

from generous donors. Board members enjoyed this opportunity to spend time doing the hands-on ministry that their behind-the-scenes work has made possible.

We praise God for the youth fellowship of Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church who participated in a "Road Rally" to collect personal care products for Love INC. Traveling in teams to the homes of church members, the youth had a contest to see who could collect the most toilet paper, laundry detergent, paper towels, etc. for the clients of Mid-Hudson Love INC. They also delivered personal care items to two Love INC clients and spent time praying with them. Later, Love INC Executive Director Frances Thompson-Gee led them in a Poverty Quiz, a Poverty Budget Activity, and a discussion about poverty in our area. The activities provided a blessing to Love INC and a time of learning and ministry for the youth group. If you think your church's youth group would like to do a similar activity, please call Love INC (471-0102) and ask for Frances for more information or to schedule an event.

Would you like to "adopt" a child of one of our Love INC client families for Christmas? This would involve praying for the family and providing the child with a practical gift and a "fun" gift from a wish list. Please call Love INC at 471-0102 for more information.

We continue to see great need for furniture, household items and bedding for our clients. We are praying that God would provide a coordinator for this ministry, storage space for donated items, and pick-up and delivery teams. Although our "system" for placing items is not completely in place, we still value your donations. If you have a gently used item of furniture, household items or bedding that you no longer need, please call Love INC at 471-0102 to see if there is a family in our area who would welcome those items into their home.

*"We love because He first loved us." - 1 John 4:19*

## BRIGHT BEGINNINGS

### PRESCHOOL NEWS

Submitted by Faye Lotze

The Bright Beginnings students are enjoying the Fall season! They've decorated pumpkins and made scarecrows and pine cone squirrel feeders. The 4's used patterns to make American flags and learned the Pledge of Allegiance. The 3's have been learning about colors and opposites. Both classes were photographed by Slayton Studio and enjoyed Halloween stories and a trick-or-treat game. The 4's explored different forms of transportation and put on their chef hats to mix and bake muffins for snack.

Chief Investigator Kevin Geysen came to speak to the children about fire safety during Fire Prevention Week. He showed them the fire equipment and the fire truck, and

the children also met volunteer firefighters Katlin and Tom. They were thrilled to see the lights and hear the siren and, back in the classroom, put on plastic fire hats and pretended to be firefighters.

The 4's are learning how to pray at chapel time and both classes say a prayer before snack every day. The 4's had field trips to Meadowbrook Farms for apple picking and to Secor's Farm to pick pumpkins, have a hayride, and to go through the hay maze. The 3's had their own pumpkin patch in the cemetery and had an apple festival.

Both classes are getting ready for Thanksgiving and for classroom feasts. They have learned about



sharing by bringing in Halloween candy for the soldiers, soup for the Food Pantry, and teddy bears for the children in the Dominican Republic. They and their families have also participated in the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child project and the Barnes and Noble Book Fair to purchase Spanish language books for the mission school in the D.R.

The children have adjusted very well to the classroom schedule and are growing emotionally and socially. Most of all, they are having fun and learning through play!

# BIRTHDAYS: DECEMBER, JANUARY

Amy Mulligan	12/01
Laurel Beal	12/02
Vincent Bellino	12/02
Madison Hanna	12/02
Nick Starr	12/02
Patrick Blanchfield	12/03
Karin Chrisville	12/03
David Dehn	12/03
Richard Godfrey	12/03
Tyler Lenz	12/03
Jarrett Lovelett	12/03
Ivette Kautsky	12/04
Kathy Pfeiffer	12/04
Karen Cherry	12/05
Mary Jakubek	12/05
Barbara Jennings	12/05
Matt Thompson	12/05
David O'Malley	12/06
Owen White	12/06
Betsy Gellatly	12/08
Jeremy Weber	12/08
Shaun Nuzzo	12/10
Ben Pearson	12/10
Edith Travis	12/10
Christopher Lofaro	12/11
Eileen Finley	12/12
Sherri Hondorp	12/12
Anne Jackson	12/12
Susan Nieves	12/12
Dorothea Mead	12/13
Mark Johnson	12/14
Lauren Arelt	12/15
Jennifer Mansfield	12/15
David Brofman	12/16
Ad Shogren	12/16
Dianne Archer	12/17
Jack Bath	12/17
Katy Haessler	12/17
Dean Bredthauer	12/18
Jason MacKay	12/18
Delia Hoffman	12/19
Evan Ryan	12/19
Gerry Stark	12/19
Shelley Stensrud	12/19
Kim Goerg	12/20
Matt Williams	12/20
Betty Bailey	12/22

Matthew Bean	12/22
Holly Collins	12/22
Leonora Kok	12/22
Paul Eckhardt	12/23
Stephen Killeen	12/23
Jennifer Colucci	12/26
Marissa Hayes	12/26
Carol Hoenig	12/26
Ingrid Brofman	12/27
Melanie Doherty	12/27
Jeff Gerlach	12/27
Lourdes Kleid	12/27
Dennis St. George	12/27
Bridget Wells	12/27
Sarah Barnett	12/28
Janine Dolan	12/28
Shannon Moyer	12/29
Amy Barton	12/30
Rebecca Congi	12/30
Nancy Juliano	12/30
Kylie Kosakowski	12/30
Scott Mansfield	12/30
Lindsay Bernstein	01/01
Victoria Lenz	01/01
Timothy McIntyre	01/01
Kevin Clark	01/02
Julia Faust	01/02
Beverly Hanna	01/02
Tricia Hanna	01/02
Bill Lavacca	01/02
Miles Pucarelli	01/02
Kim Ferguson	01/03
Jennifer Hitsman	01/03
Kathy Stalter	01/03
Chris Colucci	01/04
Vickie Gallagher	01/04
Dylan Gold	01/04
Donald Hanna	01/04
Robert Faust	01/05
Greg Fehrmann	01/05
Stephanie Reynolds	01/05
Peter Viau	01/05
Ann Weeks	01/05
Andrea Gilbert	01/06
Mark Mast	01/06
Sue Geary	01/07
Katherine Adamo	01/08

Katherine Jackson	01/08
Bailey Knoernschild	01/08
Courtney Clark	01/09
Sarah Frego	01/10
Shelley Keane	01/10
Billy Tomlin	01/10
Anastasia Arelt	01/11
Dylan Goerg	01/11
Durinda Blanchfield	01/12
Beth Brofman	01/12
Michael Flanagan	01/12
Theresa Gerlach	01/12
Kristen Kops	01/12
Michelle McIntyre	01/12
Bryan Stensrud	01/12
Vaughn Surprenant	01/12
Michele Cronin	01/13
Justin Lee	01/13
Brayden McClellan	01/13
Tom Csillag	01/14
Gloria Drofitz	01/14
Sally Nogg	01/14
Ryan Boyd	01/15
Donald Doney	01/15
Nicholas Jakubek	01/15
Rick Knesnik	01/15
Lorraine Viola	01/15
Charlotte Johnson	01/17
Lynn Morrison	01/17
Jonathan Clark	01/18
Michael Hanna	01/18
Scott Saint-Louis	01/18
Toni Viau	01/18
Barbara Richardson	01/19
Kate Schueren	01/19
Dawn Bell	01/20
Sandra Bredthauer	01/20
Christine Bath	01/21
Jennifer Cronin	01/21
Alex Doherty	01/21
James Flanagan	01/21
Nancy Geysen	01/21
Chad Hansen	01/21
Brian Lazzaro	01/21
Judy Dawson	01/22
Jackie Hoffman	01/22
Rob Killeen	01/23

# BIRTHDAYS: JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH

Nathan Mansfield	01/23
Thomas O'Connor	01/23
Maryann Quimby	01/23
John Ryan	01/23
Tyler Slagle	01/23
Keith Pucarelli	01/24
Emily Williams	01/24
Jacob Bean	01/25
Claire Gomba	01/25
Josh McClellan	01/26
Lori Smalley	01/26
Cathy Bridges	01/27
Shola Oloritun	01/27
Jamie Snider	01/27
Laura Ross	01/28
Keeley Faughnan	01/29
Stephanie Patton	01/29
Bev Rieland	01/29
Victoria Pfeiffer	01/30
Jane Dambra	01/31
Jim Forde	01/31
Greg Geary	01/31
Erik O'Connor	01/31
Margie Mather	02/01
Reece Lavacca	02/02
Alli Moyer	02/02
Landon Seipp	02/02
Brian Wrye	02/02
Don Grudee	02/03
Amanda Kleid	02/03
Bruce Pearson	02/03
Amanda Sawyer	02/03
Dawn Zindler	02/03
Lyndsay Arocho	02/04
Julie Burt	02/04
Marion Chrisville	02/04
Lou Ann Martin	02/04
Lorraine Nelson Wolf	02/04
Darius Taylor	02/04
Amy Liang	02/05
Carol Burt	02/06
Mark MacConnell	02/06
Kerry Mowbray	02/06
Mike Boyd	02/07
Michele Comolli	02/07
Lauren Hondorp	02/07
Lauren O'Connor	02/07
Harmony Stephen	02/07
Rachael Quimby	02/08
James Flanagan	02/10

Andrew Gulbrandsen	02/11
Abby Hoffman	02/12
Thomas Groen	02/13
Logan Jackson	02/13
John Viola	02/13
Ryan Coppola	02/14
Lisa Friedemann	02/15
Chris DeVries	02/16
Becky Mercado	02/16
Anna DiFede	02/17
Jordan Hondorp	02/17
Hakeem Oloritun	02/19
Jill Feehan	02/20
Kyle DiFrancia	02/21
Nicole Moore	02/21
Tina Smith	02/21
George Blasch	02/22
Anne Brady	02/23
Matt Johnson	02/23
Adam Kleid	02/24
Jordan LaBorde	02/24
Dana Volk	02/24
Ryan Behan	02/26
Alyssa Gates	02/26
Avery Miller	02/26
Geraldine Berry	02/27
Amy Denison	02/27
Gabrielle Hondorp	02/27
Kelly Ann Mekeel	02/27
Mildred Pearson	02/27
Dave Smalley	02/27
Colleen Chrisville	02/28
Ernie Finley	02/28
Michael Wagner	02/28
Carli Behan	03/01
Sean Toro	03/01
Wes Wilhelmsen	03/01
Katie Williams	03/01
Valerie Lavacca	03/02
Jeremy Schmid	03/03
Allison Smith	03/06
Dana Wells	03/06
Toni Pratt	03/07
Elizabeth Giardino	03/08
Tom Jacobs	03/08
Chris Snider	03/09
Paul Pearson	03/10
Michelle Lambeth	03/11
Pauline Raine	03/11
Anne Roberts	03/11

Jeffrey Hanna	03/12
Lynn Reschke	03/12
Tyler Ruvo	03/12
Carol Taylor	03/13
Karen Villanova	03/13
Cami Conston	03/14
Daniel Mansfield	03/14
Billy Clark	03/15
Mitchell Luhrs	03/15
Virginia Ardaix	03/16
Evan Doherty	03/16
Richard Chapman	03/17
Mark Giardino	03/17
Jonathan Harris	03/17
Shannon Jackson	03/17
Maggie Mowbray	03/17
William Murphy	03/17
Terry Seregely	03/17
Ethan Warren	03/17
Jeri Alley	03/20
Susan Schmid	03/20
Shireen Gilbert	03/21
Shawn Mulligan	03/21
Mark Stalter	03/21
Susie Fehrmann	03/22
Florence Paolilli	03/22
Aidan Ward	03/22
Matt Warner	03/22
Irene Arocho	03/23
David Frego	03/23
Kenleigh Hanna	03/24
Aaron Beals	03/25
Kay Booth	03/25
Patrick Boyd	03/26
James Collins	03/26
Laurel Lovelett	03/26
Hunter Donahey	03/27
Elaine Lavacca	03/27
Billy McHugh	03/27
Diana Pecoraro	03/27
Barbara Cronin	03/28
Chris Mowbray	03/28
Betty Wagner	03/28
Randy Hoffman	03/29
Judy Jaeger	03/30
Caity Ryan	03/30
Jordan Duwe	03/31
Riley Hanna	03/31
Andrew Letizia	03/31
Inge Pabst	03/31

# STAFF & TEAMS

## PASTORAL CARE

Taylor Holbrook	Lead Pastor
Pam Hansen	Pastoral Care Coordinator
Nance Williford	Extended Care Team
Karen Nuessle	Health & Wellness Team
Sara Irvin	Stephen Ministry Team
Carol O'Malley	Prayer Team

## OPERATIONS

Karen Gomba	Director of Operations
John Barach	Sexton
Birgit Chisholm	Church Administrator
Lisa Ruvo	Bookkeeper
Cyndy Warren	Financial Secretary
David Schuster	Audio Team
Anne Jackson	Buildings Team
Linda Smith	Events Team
David Bushey	Expansion Team
Paula Engel	Fellowship Team
Shelley Keane	Finance Team
Gerry Richardson	Grounds Crew
Kevin Warren	Historian
Diane Morey	Newsletter Team
Ben Roosa	Investments Team
Karen Gomba	Personnel Team
Carl Nuessle	Project Manager
Duncan Chisholm	Technology Team
Nelson Nieves	Van
Jeff Gerlach	Video Team

## WORSHIP & ARTS

Sherri Hondorp	Worship & Arts Coordinator
	Organist/Choir Director
	Music Team
Rich Lotze	Usher Team

## OUTREACH

Mark Mast	Director of Outreach
Kevin Warren	CMP
Patty Coppola & LeeAnn O'Connor	Food Closet
Toni Viau	Friends of South Africa Team
Barbie Richardson	Loving Stitches
Bruce Pearson	Missions Team

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH & YOUTH MINISTRIES

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

## BRIGHT BEGINNINGS PRESCHOOL

Faye Lotze	Director
Sue Nieves	Lead Teacher
Nancy Geysen	Assistant Teacher

## 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	<i>President</i>
Kevin Warren	<i>Vice-President</i>
Shelley Keane	<i>Treasurer</i>
Tina Smith	<i>Clerk</i>

## Phone Numbers

Office (845) 221.9542

Fax (845) 227.1908

## Youth House

Rev. Mark Mast-  
(845) 242-0077

Rev. Randy Prentiss -  
(914) 629-8943

## Bright Beginnings

(845) 227.8671

### Next Issue SPRING

All articles must be received in the church office or by e-mail no later than:

**SPRING issue -deadline is February 1**  
**SUMMER issue - deadline is May 1**  
**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**

# ChristCare Groups at HRC

## SUNDAYS

7:30 - 8:45 AM	Bill Lavacca	223-7759	Men
<b><i>Beginnings</i></b>			

## TUESDAYS

6:30 - 8:00 AM	Henry Mikhail	223-5461	Men
<b><i>The Rapture Exposed by Barbara Rossing</i></b>			
9:30 - 11:00 AM	Pam Hansen Lisa Prentiss	226-1046 889-8469	Women
<b><i>Hinds Feet on High Places by Hannah Hearnard</i></b> <b><i>The Book of Colossians</i></b>			
3:30 - 5:00 PM (1st, 3rd & 5th)	Randy Prentiss	914-629- 8943	Men
<b><i>Book of Galatians</i></b>			
7:00 - 9:00 PM	Sarah Phillips	358-9156	Young Adult Women
<b><i>Book of James</i></b>			
7:00 - 8:30 PM (2nd & 4th)	Tony Congi	227-2739	Mixed
7:15 - 8:45 PM (1st & 3rd)	Susan Nieves	592-0764	Women

## THURSDAYS

8:00 - 10:00 AM	David Bushey	221-6123	Mixed
<b><i>Jesus by Charles Swindoll</i></b>			
9:00 - 10:30 AM	Jan Bushey	221-6123	Women
<b><i>Cast of Characters by Max Lucado</i></b>			
9:30 - 11:00 AM	Beth Brofman	221-9647	Women
<b><i>The Prodigal God by Timothy Keeler</i></b>			
1:00 - 2:30 PM	Barbara Cassaro	226-5057	Women
1:00 - 2:30 PM (1st, 2nd & 3rd)	Karen Gomba	226-2867	Women
<b><i>Same Kind of Different As Me by Ron Hall &amp; Denver Moore</i></b>			
6:30 - 8:30 PM	Kevin Phillips	914-882- 7729	Young Adults- Men
<b><i>Harmony of the Gospels and a focus on how Jesus made disciples</i></b>			

## SATURDAYS

7:00 - 8:30 AM	Cindy Davis	227-8301	Women
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## MONDAYS

9:00 - 10:30 AM	Jim Collins	226-5572	Men
<b><i>Gospel of John</i></b>			
7:30 - 9:00 PM	Michelle Ryan	452-3640	Women
7:30 - 9:30 PM	Mike Boyd	227-3019	Mixed
<b><i>Book of James</i></b>			

## WEDNESDAYS

6:30 - 8:00 AM	Bill Levy	227-8301	Men
<b><i>Paul by Charles Swindoll</i></b>			
8:30 - 10:00 AM	Doug Archer	226-3514	Mixed
<b><i>For Job Seekers</i></b>			
9:00 - 10:30 AM	Jeanne Campbell	227-1465	Women
<b><i>The Shack by William P. Young</i></b>			
12:30 - 2:45 PM	Nancy Herrmann	226-7824	Women
<b><i>The Power of a Woman's Words by Sharon Jaynes</i></b>			
7:00 - 8:30 PM	Cheryl Barclay	226-3219	Women

## FRIDAYS

7:00-8:45 AM	Bruce Pearson	298-8251	Men
9:30 - 11:00 AM	Lucia Eckhardt	221-8597	Women
<b><i>Having a Mary Spirit by Joanna Weaver</i></b>			
7:00 - 8:30 PM	Theresa Gerlach	896-0821	Mixed (every other)
<b><i>Survey of Minor Prophets</i></b>			
7:00 - 9:00 PM	Chris Mowbray	849-9419	Couples (every other)
7:00 - 9:00 PM	Rick Rieland	223-4588	Couples (every other)
7:30 - 9:30 PM	Mike Boyd	227-3019	Couples (every other)

Current studies are listed in **bold type**.  
For information on ChristCare groups for teens,  
please contact Randy Prentiss.

# PASTORAL CARE

Submitted by Pam Hansen

## CARING FOR OTHERS

The first persons in space went all alone, one at a time, in capsules just large enough for one person. Never before had a human being been so far from other persons. Did this mean that such a space traveler was one of the loneliest persons who ever lived? No, indeed!

Why? Because others let him know that they cared. There were literally millions following his progress, interested in where he was and what he was doing, mentioning him in prayer, wishing him well.

Though we live our own lives, encased in our private “capsules,” so to speak, we need the supportive, personal care of others. Care is as essential to human life as food and drink. There are no more despairing words than these: “Nobody seems to care.”

We are all called to care for others. Three times the risen Christ asked Simon Peter, “Do you love me?” And each time Peter answered, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.”

*“Tend my sheep,” was the Lord’s response* (John 21:15-17, NRSV).

### Who and how?

To be a disciple, a follower of Jesus, means to care for others. But how? Care is not general goodwill toward humanity. It must be specific. Jesus’ own example shows his attention to individuals: He lifts a child up to eye level. He selects a particular person in a crowd for a word, a touch, or a shared meal.

When I ask, “Who needs to be cared for?” the obvious answer is everyone. But when I ask, “Who needs me to care today?” certain persons come to mind.

If not, I need to start with prayer. Praying may be the beginning of caring. A small but surprising list of persons appears in my thoughts. Some are lonely, aged, weak, or in trouble. Some are successful, important, young, and strong.

As my prayers reach out to them, I think about what each may need. The answers vary: a letter, a phone call, a smile, a bowl of hot soup, money, healing, an introduction to another person.

Of course, I can’t do everything. But that doesn’t mean I should do nothing. I can’t care for everyone. But that doesn’t stop me from caring for someone.

I can’t keep track of everyone I know, but I can respond to those in special need. And don’t assume that more visible people like pastors, team leaders, and those in church leadership do not need care. We often assume that these folks have a ton of people around them, but that is not always the case.



### Excuses, excuses?

What, then, stops me from being the caring person God wants me to be? Excuses take many forms:

**Someone else can do it better.** Yes, there is always someone who can do something better than I. But there is no one who will speak my words or reach out my hand, or say my prayer.

**Trained persons are paid to care.** But that’s the very reason my untrained, unpaid, unexpected efforts may be important. Someone may need the pleasant surprise of discovering that I took some time for him or her when I wasn’t required to do so.

**Their need is too remote for my own experience.** But must I wait until I have had a broken leg, or divorce, or heart attack to minister to those in similar trouble at this moment? No!

**Their need is too close to my own experience.** Perhaps others will think I’m seeking warmed-over sympathy for myself. I shouldn’t parade my past every time someone else suffers a pain that is familiar to me. To reveal or retell my own experiences may be appropriate at times. At other times it may not be. Regardless, the need to care still remains.

**I never know what to say.** There are no magic words, there is no prepared script, to help a caring person sound wise. But wisdom isn’t what most people need. The caring touch or glance or ear of a person who chooses to “be there” in an authentic way is the clue that Christ has sent that person.

**I don’t want to be in the way.** Just as there is a time to be someplace, there is a time to move on. Sometimes an exit itself can be a form of caring. Sometimes my departing shadow will speak most clearly to the one in need. “He came.” “She cared.”

### *We are never left all alone to care for another.*

God cares. God’s concern for the other person’s well-being was there long before we became interested. God’s care is stronger, wiser, and more enduring than ours can ever be. But people often understand and experience God’s care most deeply when it is transmitted through caring human beings.

The loving God cares for us all. This same God calls us and empowers us to care for others.

# STEPHEN MINISTRY

Submitted by Pam Hansen

## People Caring for People

Our congregation has a group of people skilled in caring for those facing challenges in their lives. These people, our Stephen Ministers, have completed over 50 hours of training to develop and nurture their caring skills. Stephen Ministers work with people who experience different kinds of situations in their lives, including grief, transition, job loss, loneliness, illness, or depression.

Who might benefit for the care of a Stephen Minister? Care receivers might be hospitalized, grieving the loss of a loved one, separating or divorcing, homebound, unemployed, adjustments to the birth of a child, miscarriage, or any other difficulty or life changing events.

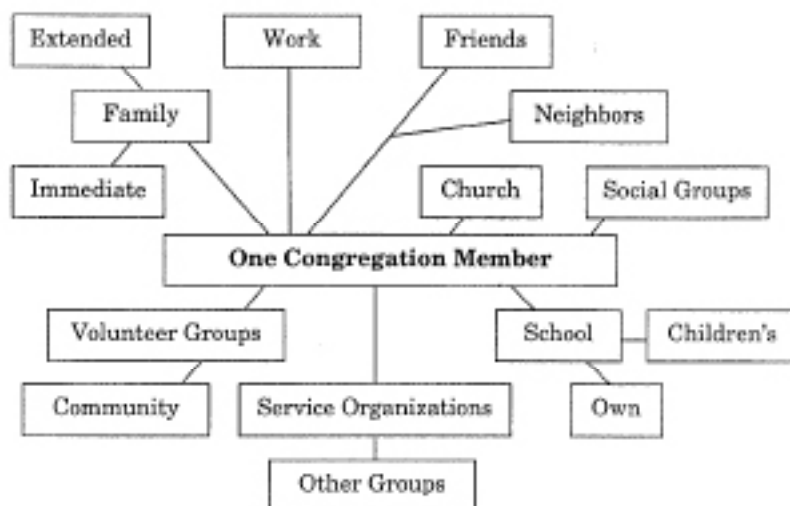
All of us have time when we are lonely, grieving, hurting, or in need of care. In 2 Corinthians Paul teaches that troubles can bring spiritual growth to the sufferer. But when brothers and sisters in Christ suffer, we find comfort not only in our Creator, but in others who have found comfort and care in their own suffering (2 Corinthians 1:4-6). Our Stephen Ministers offer this Christlike care to those in need.

Think about your life and the lives of the people around you. Are you going through a difficult time of crisis or challenge? Do you know someone who struggles with loneliness or grief? Perhaps a Stephen Minister might meet these needs.

If you have questions about Stephen Ministry, we invite you to speak to a Stephen Leader, Stephen Minister, or Pam Hansen, Coordinator of Caring Ministries.

**How many lives does one congregation member touch?**

**Who might you know that could benefit from a Stephen Minister?**



# CUB SCOUT PACK 48 CLEANS UP HRC

Submitted by Lee Ann O'Connor

On November 15, Cub Scout Pack 48 completed a community clean-up at Hopewell Reformed Church.



Over 30 cub scouts arrived with their gloves, rakes and leaf blowers. Everyone was ready for the fun and hard work needed to get the job done.



We had a beautiful day to gather and work together to help clean-up the leaves around the church.

Special thanks are given to Bill Reschke for organizing this event.



## YOUTH MISSIONS

Submitted by Lourdes Kleid

### YOUTH MISSIONS 2010

Students International (STINT)  
Dominican Republic  
**June 28- July 10, 2010**

Mexico Outreach  
Ensenada  
**July 24- August 7, 2010**

FUGE- Philadelphia  
**July 12-17, 2010**

All registrations can be downloaded from  
[www.hrcyouth.org](http://www.hrcyouth.org)

# LOCAL MISSIONS

## FOOD PANTRY

Submitted by Patty Coppola

The Food Pantry is still accepting donations of non-perishable food items, brown bags and egg cartons. Donations may be placed in the stairwell. Please look for the signs in the front lobby leading to the new drop off area.

*Please continue to support the Fishkill Food Pantry with your food donations. There is a continuous need for the following items:*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• complete pancake mix</li><li>• pancake syrup</li><li>• jelly</li><li>• macaroni and cheese</li><li>• crackers</li><li>• boxed cookies</li><li>• individual small bags of chips</li><li>• individual snacks</li><li>• soups</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• tuna</li><li>• dry mixes that can be used with meat</li><li>• Ramen noodle soups</li><li>• peanut butter</li><li>• cans of whole potatoes</li><li>• juice boxes</li><li>• boxed complete meals</li><li>• canned vegetables</li><li>• canned meats</li></ul> |
|--|---|

Please remember to check expiration dates. Food items that don't have current dates can not be used.

If your Christ Care Group, Community Maintenance Program or Stephen Ministers know of a need, please contact Lee Ann O'Conner or Patty Coppola. As always, if anyone in the congregation knows of someone in need of food, please contact the Food Pantry team.



Thank you for your help.

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



## NOVEMBER FOOD DRIVES

Submitted by Lee Ann O'Conner

This month we have collected from various food drives and I am very happy to report how generous everyone has been.

### Cub Scout Pack 48

On November 17, Cub Scout Pack 48 held a Food Drive at their monthly Pack meeting.

As a result of everyone's generosity, we were able to collect and deliver 76 cans of food, 25 box foods, egg cartons and an electric grille to the Fishkill Food Pantry on 11/19/09.

### Bright Beginnings Pre-School

This month Bright Beginnings Pre-School has been collecting food. At the Thanksgiving Service food was also donated. As a result of these two donations, we have collected and delivered an additional 176 cans of food, 93 box foods and 38 bottled foods.

This is an amazing increase from last month. The Fishkill Food Pantry will be sending a thank you note to Hopewell Reformed Church and Cub Scout Pack 48/HRC. They are very appreciative of all our donations.

We can and will make a difference in our community.

# MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

## NEW MEMBERS

Submitted by Arlene Surprenant

### EUNYOUNG PARK & JOHNNY SIM

Welcome to new church member Eunyoung Park.

Many of you have enjoyed Eunyoung's musical talent as she has played piano and organ during Sunday church services.

Originally from Korea, Eunyoung now lives in Hopewell and is married to Johnny Sim. They have a 4 year old son, Younsung.

Eunyoung holds a master of music degree from Westminster Choir College of Princeton, New Jersey. She enjoys swimming and walking and has taught performing arts in Austin, Texas.



Upon moving to Hopewell, she prayed that she would find a house that would be convenient to HRC, as Pastor Taylor Holbrook "touched her heart."



### LANCE & DONNA PORTMAN

When the Portman family joined the HRC church family, Lance was returning to his roots.

Lance, an attorney with McCabe and Mack in Poughkeepsie, was born and raised in Hopewell Junction. Lance practiced law briefly in California but returned to Hopewell in the 1980s. He has an older brother, Brett, who lives overseas.

Donna Portman was born in Queens and raised in Oswego, NY. She moved with her family to Pleasant Valley in the 1970s. Her only sibling, Paul, died in an auto accident in 1987. Prior to becoming a full-time mom, Donna worked as a legal secretary.

Lance and Donna have two children: 11 year old Quincy and 8 year old Paul.

Lance enjoys cooking and is a bit of a history buff. Donna is a devoted caregiver to her mother and children and enjoys reading in her free time.

Lance was brought up in the Episcopal church while Donna was raised Roman Catholic. Both say they were attracted to HRC by "the great big welcome mat that is outside for all."



# PRAISIN' IN THE PARK

## DUTCHESS COUNTY CHURCH FAMILIES SING TOGETHER

Submitted by Lynn Morrison

On October 4th the Tres Dias community and Sound of Life radio station sponsored a day of worship and song at Bowdoin Park in Wappingers Falls. The week was cold and rainy and we were all wondering if this day would ever happen. But Sunday morning came and so did the sun/Son.

Church families from all over Dutchess county joined together as one family, united by our Savior. Worship teams from The River Church (you all remember Terry Dunham), Good Will, Saint Columba, Hopewell Reformed Church (Forward Motion with Luke Coleman, Josh & David Nieves) and HRCjourney (Pure Joy big band) were there to lift up God each in their unique style of worship.



It was an amazing day. We all enjoyed hot dogs and hamburgers for lunch and smoked chicken for dinner. More importantly, we all enjoyed lifting our hearts and voices to the King. For an entire afternoon we were one body in Christ.

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## FROM THE OFFICE

### NXP HELPS HRC!

Submitted by Birgit Chisholm

Most of you are aware that NXP, a local manufacturing company, closed its' doors recently. But did you know that, before closing down, they decided to help our community?

The company decided that they would like to donate some of their office furniture to local non-profit organizations. They asked their employees to submit names of organizations that they were involved with that might want these donations.

My daughter, Sarah, was employed there for almost ten years. She submitted our church's name and they called us in early October. After notifying the rest of the staff, Pam and I went over to the facility to see what they had to donate. We met with a Human Resources employee, who spent a lot of time with us showing us all the items and helping us decide what we could use.

The result of our "shopping spree" was that we were able to set up a new sitting area upstairs in the hallway near the balcony for parents waiting for children to come out of Sunday School and for others who might be gathering in that area. My office got three new (very comfortable) office chairs, and a new table for the mailboxes. Pam's office had the biggest change, by adding a small couch to use in her counseling sessions. Stop by and check it out!

We want to thank NXP for their generosity. We would never have been able to acquire the quality of furniture that they provided. We especially appreciate their consideration in helping small local organizations. Their impact in our community will be felt for many years to come.

# DIRECTOR'S PAGE

## OPERATIONS

Submitted by Karen Gomba, Director



### CHURCH ASSIMILATION - The Connection Card

As a follow-up to my last article on this subject, I'd like to let you know how the introduction of the Connection Cards at each of our Sunday services has made a difference, and why we're so excited about it!

The most obvious impact of the cards has been receiving updated contact information. Now we can make sure that everyone is receiving our weekly emails and regular mailings, and that we have the correct phone numbers when we have information of a more immediate nature to share or receive.

Less obvious but just as important, we feel like we're doing a better job of reaching out more quickly and more effectively to welcome new guests, providing them with the information they need, and following up with them to answer any questions they may have. Taylor gives them a phone call and sends them a handwritten note, and includes a Dunkin' Donuts gift card (which goes along nicely with the mug that they've received in their gift bag from the Welcome Kiosk!). And after they've attended a second time, Taylor emails them to let them know what is going on that month that they might want to check out. We've gotten feedback from some of these guests saying that they did indeed feel welcomed at our church, not just because of the call, note and email, but because everyone they came in contact with was warm and friendly. That's exactly what we're striving for each time someone enters our doors, whether it is a first time guest or a long-standing member.

To extend this hospitality even further, we plan to offer new guests an opportunity to meet the pastors and to ask them questions about HRC, the Reformed faith, and how they might get more involved. Look for a "Pizza with the Pastors" event in January!

The cards are also helpful with monitoring attendance, so that we can pay attention to folks who might not have been able to attend Sunday services due to issues that they're dealing with. It is important to us that no one "falls through the cracks" or "leaves through the back door", and we believe this will be a helpful tool to assist us. Betsy DiSomma has been entering this information into our database software (PowerChurch) each week and the resulting reports will highlight anything we should pay attention to. It adds a quantifiable approach to something we may have just "sensed" in the past.

The other feature of the cards is that they give people an opportunity to sign up for upcoming events or ministry opportunities, or to request additional information. Each week I go through the cards, forwarding the information to the appropriate ministry for follow-up, so that our response can be "real time".

We realize that the Connection Cards are just one piece of a welcoming church, but we're happy with the effect they've had already and see their potential for keeping us all in touch, informed and connected to each other and the church.



# DIRECTOR'S PAGE

## OUTREACH

Submitted by Mark Mast, Director



### The Here and Now

I sit looking at this blank page not sure what to write. Do I do a “Year in Review” or a “Vision of the Future?” Do I tell the stories of Christ’s grace I have experienced this past year or look at the Christmas story and how we make it like we have heard it for the first time? Do I share my struggles with “what is next” for Common Ground and HRC journey or do I celebrate all that God has done despite all of our planning?

Then I think about sitting in the hospital with Kyle fighting off the swine flu. I look at my little boy sleeping and wonder if I have spent enough time just living with him in the moment. Perhaps that is what God is calling of me this Christmas season? There is a time to plan as there is a time to celebrate the past. People like me, we tend to live in the past so we know where to go in the future, but we miss the blessings of the present. What would Thanksgiving, Advent and

*What would Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas be like if I just lived in the moment?*

Christmas be like if I just lived in the moment? What would God say to me if I enjoyed playing with my kids? What would God say if I was as enthusiastic to see my Odyssey friends as they are to see me? What would God say if I just enjoyed basking in the glory of God at a Common Ground worship? What would

God say if I looked into the world and brought Christ’s grace through a gracious gift or a kind word?

I have never been good at Sabbath rest and have never practiced a year of Jubilee. So I hear the Spirit calling me to enjoy the moment. Enjoy the good news that because God loves me so much he sent His only son so I might once again be in relationship with my Gracious God. Not something to look towards or something to remember. Something to experience in the HERE and NOW! Care to join me?

## LOCAL MISSIONS

### KID'S HOPE

Submitted by Karen Gomba, Director

We hope by now you’ve heard about this wonderful program, but if you haven’t, we’re excited to tell you that HRC has partnered with Gayhead Elementary School to do one-on-one mentoring for an hour each week with kids who need a caring adult in their life. The premise of the program is that this relationship can help the child learn and grow, even if they are dealing with stress at home or at school. To learn more, go to [www.kidshopeusa.org](http://www.kidshopeusa.org).

Nancy Herrmann and I are the co-directors of the program and we are responsible for recruiting, screening, training and supervising the mentors and for managing the coordination and communication of the program. We had a terrific response from you to be mentors (23 people), substitute mentors (1) and prayer partners (18), but of course we could always use more! We especially will need more prayer

partners. If you are interested, please let Nancy or me know.

We’ve met with the school principal and gave a presentation to the staff. We are hoping that the teachers will respond by referring children in their classroom who they think could benefit from some regular attention from an adult friend. We are planning to start in mid-January with kids in first through fourth grades and hope to be able to expand the program as we move into the next school year.

We’ll keep you updated on how the program is progressing and how the children respond. We’d love your prayers for a successful start and for the hope that young lives may be changed!

# DIRECTOR'S PAGE

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Submitted by Randy Prentiss, Director



### ” Have You Arrived Yet?”



Are you emotionally healthy and spiritual yet? I confess, I am not. I still have work to do. Have you chosen the next 1-2 practices to build into your life more regularly? If so, how are you doing with practicing them? Um, I admit, I am still growing

into my commitments.

The EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY SPIRITUALITY (book by Peter Scazzero) process is built around two key ideas- one, dealing with some of our psychology. Are there areas in which we need to do some particular work in order to better understand ourselves, improve our relationships, and connect with God in a more healthy way? Even if we are not in crisis mode, we all would benefit by doing some of the work Scazzero encourages us to do. As I said when teaching this, six weeks of sermons and discussions is only the beginning of this process. I encourage us all to engage in this work.

The second area has to do with our spiritual life, our devotions, our time with God, or the tools and practices we use to grow closer to God. When I preached the final sermon of the EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY SPIRITUALITY series on October 18, I included the chart below with the two simple questions. I wonder if you took the time to answer them. Did you choose your next steps? I offer it again as a starter or reminder.

From the list below:

- What are you already doing pretty regularly?
- What are the next 1-2 things to build into your life more regularly?

#### PRAYER

- Scripture.
- Silence/solitude
- Daily office
- Worship
- Study

#### REST

- Sabbath
- Simplicity
- Play/Recreation

#### WORK/ACTIVITY

- Missional service
- Care for the physical body

#### RELATIONSHIPS

- Emotional Health
- Community/companions
- Family

I believe this material offers some real benefits, and I ONCE AGAIN, encourage people to follow up on this material, especially if it resonated with you.

Ways to follow through on this.

- Individually, with book and workbook.
- In your CC group, with books and workbooks.

*The benefit is you already know each other and are comfortable with each other, so you can go deeper.*

- Start a group around this material, maybe a new ChristCare group.

You can order materials online and/or go to [www.emotionallyhealthy.org](http://www.emotionallyhealthy.org) for books and additional resources.

Thanks,  
Randy

# AND MY FINAL POINT . . .

## Unpacking Christmas

From the Lead Pastor



*But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on*

*us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is sure. I desire that you insist on these things, so that those who have come to believe in God may be careful to devote themselves to **good works**; these things are excellent and profitable to everyone. (Titus 3:4-8)*

The New York Times started its annual Neediest Cases Fund on Christmas Day, 1911, and it recently began for 2009. A couple days ago I received a check from a guy who never attends church, but every Christmas wants money to go to a needy family. CVS is collecting money for St. Jude's hospital. HRC receives a major portion of its yearly income in offerings during the month of December. The local fire company has a Toys for Tots program. The **good works** are everywhere.

It seems that every Christmas we unpack the **good works** of giving gifts and sharing with the poor for a few weeks at the end of the year. There is something

in the air that encourages Scrooges to seek out the Tiny Tims of the world for blessing. It is something that speaks to the spirit of God in everyone. Each year we unpack ornaments and train sets that remind us of the season of giving, yet in January those things go back in the box and our world returns to "normal." Each year we unpack the ornaments of hope, peace, love, and joy, but in many ways it seems those go back into the attic after Christmas and our world returns to "normal."

What the gospel tells us is that "normal" are the **good works** we see at Christmas, but the invitation for followers of Christ is to make that year round work. In all of our giving and all of our living, we share the grace that God has shown us in Christ.

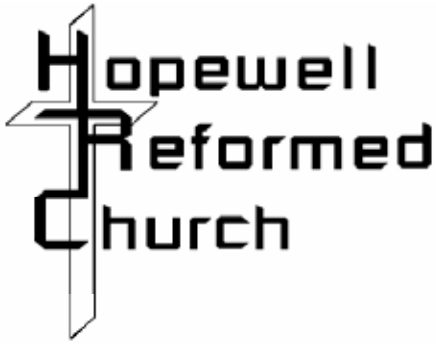
This advent we will cast light on the traditional advent themes of hope, peace, love, and joy. We will be unpacking them again like we do every Christmas, but for Christians, who have seen the loving kindness of the Savior, we cannot put those back in January. We are God's poetry, God's picture of what the new creation is designed to be. The gifts of Christmas are ours to share every day because the Spirit has been poured out on us richly through Christ.

*For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life. (Ephesians 2:10)*

Merry Christmas (every day),

*Taylor*

***We are God's poetry, God's picture of what the new creation is designed to be.***



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### Our Sunday Worship Services

<b>8:45 AM*</b>	<b>The Gathering</b> at Beekman Rd.
<b>10:30 AM*</b>	<b>Foundations</b> at Beekman Rd.
<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>HRCJourney*</b> at Tymor Park in Union Vale (Odyssey, our special needs service, on the 2nd & 4th Sundays)
<b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>Common Ground</b> at Arlington Reformed Church parsonage (129 Ray Blvd, Poughkeepsie)

*\*Sunday School and Nursery provided*

## HOPEWELL REFORMED CHURCH CHRISTMAS EVE



### At Beekman Road Location:

4:00 p.m. Children's Service  
6:30 p.m. Traditional Service  
8:30 p.m. Traditional Service  
11:00 p.m. Reflective Service

### At Tymor Park in Union Vale:

4:00 p.m. Odyssey Service

*To know Christ, and to make Him known.*