

Hopewell Happenings

HOPEWELL REFORMED CHURCH
SUMMER 2010



S U M M E R  S U M M E R  S U M M E R

LETTERS AND NOTES

Dear Readers,

As we wind down our program year and head into the summer, we hope you enjoy this Summer issue.

Looking through the articles, I am once again astounded by the impact we are making in our community through our Sunday school and Bright Beginnings nursery school. From an early age we encourage our kids to reach out to others. This continues through our youth program, especially as seen by the many youth mission trips we offer. Our adults are making their mark through our food pantry, Kids Hope, the Homeless Shelter, Love INC, and the many mission trips we send people on. Yet, there is still so much more we could do with our resources. If you have any question regarding the validity of our mission work, read the article by Rachel Snider. She will inspire you!

Some of you ask, what about the people that need help right in our congregation? Be sure to read about the work being done by the Loving Stitches group, our Yoga class, the Extended Care team to name a few. Again, there is so much we can do, if everyone gets involved.

The work of our Lord, whether in our community or far away, cannot only be done by a few. It takes lots of people, each doing his/her part to make a significant impact. One person can make a difference, but imagine what an entire church community can do! Dream big and share that dream with our leadership. Who knows, it may become a reality!

Dreaming big this summer,

The Newsletter team



Sometimes we take our church family for granted! I was reminded last week how important they are to me. When I fell and broke my wrist and needed help, my good friend and former Stephen Minister dropped everything and spent 4 days with me getting me to doctors' appointments and surgery. And she wasn't alone. Another close friend who is part of our ChristCare group joined us for a long day at the hospital and then spent two more days caring for all my needs. Others were quick to offer assistance, prayers and love. It certainly made me realize that when everyone does even a small thing for someone in need, miracles happen. I thank God for my wonderful HRC family.

Lucia Eckhardt



God has blessed our lives through HRC by the outreach of Journey and Odyssey. One has to visit these special services to be able to "see" and "feel" what is happening. God's love is overflowing and the Holy Spirit is guiding this ministry with the special people who were called by Him to start it. WE thank God for HRC and all those who have made us feel so welcome in our new church HOME.

*In His love,
Patty and Danny Rodgers*

I was blessed to attend the HRC Women's Retreat for the first time this year on April 10th & 11th.

It was an incredible experience that allowed us a chance to praise, a chance to reflect, learn and grow, a chance to be alone with God, and a chance to relax and enjoy the gift of laughter and fellowship with the many wonderful women of HRC who attended.

So many thanks to Cathy Holbrook, Pam Hansen, Lorraine Nelson Wolf, Betsy DiSomma, Kim Warner, Diane Boujikian, Diane Volk, and all the other women who made this retreat possible. It wouldn't have happened without the many gifts and contributions each one of you made to this worthy effort!

Nancy Herrmann

My Darling members of HRC and Beloved pastor Taylor,

I can not think of adequate words to thank all of you for my FANTASTIC 94th Birthday Celebration!!! It was the GREATEST and one that I shall enjoy forever.

GOD BLESS ALL,

LOVE YOU ALL DEARLY

xxoo

Mildred Pearson

To My Hopewell Reformed Family,

My family and I would like to thank you for the many cards that we received upon the passing of Terry's mother, Mildred. We would also like to thank you for keeping us in your prayers during the last two-plus months. When my mom, Marjorie, was hospitalized for a heart attack and pulmonary hypertension in the weeks after my mother-in-law's death, my world was turned upside down. I do know that your prayers helped me to be strong for my mom, and comforted me during this difficult time. I am pleased to let you know that my mom is doing very well. Thank you all,

Ann Hack

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Submitted by Rachel Snider

I just returned from my second trip this year to the Dominican Republic with Sembradores Del Reino. Once again it was an incredible blessing to be a part of such a giving team. I am in awe of how the Lord has used SDR to touch Las Terrenas and the surrounding communities.

I have been going on mission trips with HRC since I was 17. In 2002 I went on my first youth mission trip to Ensenada, Mexico and was affected as so many youths have been by the incredible need in other countries. For me, the inaccessibility to health care had the greatest impact. I remember meeting a man at a migrant workers site who had a horrific chronic ear infection that rendered him extremely ill, but he had nowhere to turn for help. I felt the greatest burden of the poor at that time. How is it that I was born to such privilege? What placed me in the circumstances I was born into instead of the poor found throughout the world, including our own country?

It was worshipping on the hillside of the ranch in Mexico with an unbelievable starry night sky sprawled out before me, when I first felt my calling to work as a medical missionary. I proceeded to return to Mexico on two more trips throughout college and once again was affected by the people and the immense health care needs in third world countries. I chose to go to Physician Assistant school instead of medical school so I would be able to practice medicine by the age of 25 and pursue my dreams. Throughout my training the goal of practicing medicine internationally was never far away. It was my inspiration, my push to succeed.

I graduated from PA school this past August and the first thing I did as a practicing PA was go with Bruce and Ellen Pearson to Las Terrenas in the Dominican Republic. What a wonderful way to start your career in medicine, serving the Lord and his people. I was so amazed with the amount of patients we saw and how far they came for vitamins, parasite medications and Tylenol. I absolutely fell in love with the people, culture and island. God truly is at work in this community. As a practitioner it was unbelievable to go to a village and see patients who had never visited any kind of health care provider before. The children cried when I placed my stethoscope on their chests. The need in these communities is tremendous. Health care education and prevention is essentially non-existent and a foreign concept.

When I returned to the states in November and moved to Manhattan to work in a hospital as an internal medicine Physician Assistant, I quickly realized I had left my heart behind. I always knew I wanted to practice internationally, but thought I would get my fill of living the single mid-20s American dream. How quickly you realize that your plan may not be what God has in store for you. It was quite apparent that American medicine and the luster of NYC had lost the appeal to me that it had once held. When the opportunity arose to return in February to Las Terrenas I jumped at the chance. The minute I stepped off the plane in Santo Domingo I felt like I was home. We were fortunate enough to spend the first day in Agua Sabrosa, a very remote and poor community we served in November. When I saw the smiles on children's faces I had medically treated 3 months before, I knew this was where I belonged. I no longer could ignore my calling and the plan God has in store for me. As a health care provider, it only makes sense to practice where you are needed most. I feel more myself in scrubs with a stethoscope wrapped around my neck on the back of a quad than I ever have roaming the halls of hospitals in America wearing my white coat. These people deserve health care not just once a year but all the time. They need vaccinations and health care maintenance. They need to be educated in simple hygiene and disease prevention. Isn't access to health care a basic human right?

I felt more at peace when I returned to the US after this most recent trip. I felt my calling, now it's figuring out how that calling will unravel. I knew my biggest challenge would be trying to share with others what I feel so strongly in my heart, that medical missions is what I'm meant to do full time. This summer I will be returning to the DR with Lourdes and youth from our church to a different site led by the organization Students International (STINT). STINT and I are interested in determining whether or not they have a position where I can practice medicine full time. It is amazing to think my dreams may become a reality. I am so grateful for the experiences, support and faith our church has provided. I'm beyond excited to see what this opportunity holds and God has planned for me.

YOUTH MISSIONS

Submitted by Lourdes Kleid

MEXICO YOUTH MISSION TRIP

As we plan our summer missions, we again appeal to the congregation for financial support of our ministry project at Pastor Candelarios church- Roca de Salvacion in Ensenada. Many of you heard him preach at HRC in January. This is our sister church. It is the church where Hilary Holbrook worships while a missionary in Mexico. It is where our youth partner with each summer to help build a new church structure. This summer for the first time we will also be doing a women's Bible group including crafts. If you feel led to contribute to this ministry, please write a check made out to HRC Youth with Mexico ministry on the subject line. Our goal is to raise at least \$2,500-\$3,000. This can be placed in the collection plate, mailed to HRC c/o Lourdes Kleid or dropped off at the church office.



We applaud those who will help for the first time and those who faithfully continue to support this project with our sister church in Mexico.

YOUTH TRIPS SUMMER 2010

The following are participating in the **Mexico Mission** this summer from July 24th – August 7th.

LEADERS: Lourdes Kleid, Dave Schuster, Meghan Chisholm, Hilary Holbrook and Brennan Gerlach

TEAM: Claire Viau, Sarah Ruvo, Lauren Peters and Katy Lambert, Brock Rice, Matt Esposito, Rob Flanagan, Ian Dolan and Andrew Holbrook

The following are participating in the **Students International** (STINT) summer mission trip to the Dominican Republic from June 28- July 10th.

LEADERS: Lourdes Kleid and Rick Goerg
TEAM: Tim Burger, Paul and Colette Varanouskas, Kaitlin and Kyle Geysen, Melissa and Jennifer Mansfield, Lindsey Dean, Sawyer Goerg, Shannon Herrman, Danielle Rieland, Mills Shenkman, Caitlin Stark and Zachary Warner

The following are participating in the **FUGE** mission trip in Philadelphia from July 12th- July 17th.

LEADERS: Randy Prentiss, Jen Nieves, Toni Viau, Brian Wrye, Michelle Ryan and Ron Ruvo

TEAM: Jenna Argyle, Dylan Ackley, Tyler Batt, Amber Borrero, Kenny Brofman, Kellyanne Cherry, Hailey Conston, Daniel Dehn, Sean Federighi, Liam Filipowski, Mason Gilbert, Peter Groen, Katy Lambert, Rebecca Martin, Hali Pregnall, Ben Prentiss, Rachel Quimby, Brock Rice, Ron Ruvo, Tyler Ruvo, Katie Seregely, Clark and Addison Shogren, Emily Silvern, Skya Stark, Allie Suriano, Pete Viau, Anthony and Ariana Zannelli.

If your name is not on the list it was because we did not have you registered when this was written.

CHRISTIAN KIDS' CORNER

Submitted by Sheryle Silvern

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The centerpiece of Children's Ministry at Hopewell is Sunday School. We have had a wonderful year, thanks to loving teachers who have faithfully shared the good news of God's love with our children. We are grateful to each of them and hope that you take the time to join us in thanking them!

Summer Sunday School starts on **June 21st** for pre-k through children entering the 4th grade. We hope your children will join us for "KidVenture" as we explore the adventures of the Old Testament heroes.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2010

August 16th -20th

This summer bring your kids to SonQuest Rainforest VBS, an experience of discovery they will never forget. They will be transported into a vivid rainforest environment where they will dig into the Bible and meet Jesus in every day's story. Join us August 16th-20th from 9:00-12:30 a.m, for a week of fun and adventure. As they participate in fun-filled activities, children will learn that they are incredibly loved by Jesus. We will have a great time with lively songs, hilarious skits, creative crafts, exciting games, Bible stories and tasty snacks – all the things that make Vacation Bible School so much fun! Classes are available for children entering kindergarten through the 6th grade. Fill out the registration form on our website and give it to Sheryle Silvern or mail it to the church.



CHILDREN AT THE TABLE

The Reformed Church of America believes that children should be welcomed at the Lord's Table when they are drawn to it by a love for the Lord. On Maundy Thursday, we welcomed a group of children to the Lord's Table for the first time. They had the wonderful opportunity to meet with Kurt

Knoernschild to discover communion's roots in the Last Supper and Passover. The children also met with Pastor Taylor and Elder Shireen Gilbert to learn how we share communion at Hopewell. The first time a child comes to the Lord's Table is a holy milestone for the entire family.



FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

The Children's Ministry team believes that it is important to provide opportunities for families to have fun together at church and to fellowship with other families.

When many people were without lights and heat after that February storm, we had our Winter Festival. We made snowmen in a warm building and had "sled races" and shoveled "snowballs" across the

Community Room floor. Thanks to Jessica Beals, Barbara Jennings and Shelley Stensrud for providing a great opportunity for family fellowship.

Girls and their moms enjoyed a special afternoon together at our Tea Party this spring! We had delicious treats and lemonade "tea" in teapots and teacups hit the spot. The girls made Mother's Day surprises and beautiful bracelets. Thanks to Barbara Jennings and Lori Smalley for organizing this fun event.



CHURCH CLASSIFIEDS

Send your classified ad to
hrcnewsletter@hrcra.org

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

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

PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS in your home: Sax, Flute, Clarinet, Jazz improvisation. Mr. Greg Lofaro, A.A., B.A., M.S., Hofstra University. Retired New York state public school teacher. 845-226-8774; Email: greglofaro@yahoo.com

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)

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

HOUSE FOR SALE: 4 bedroom/2.5 bath remodeled Colonial. CAC, SS/Granite kitchen, new bath w/ whirlpool, wood/tile/marble floors, 2 car garage, 4 zone heat, fin basement play area, level treed acre w/ pool & hot tub. Great location and lots of storage space. \$474,900. Contact Linda Maus (845) 705-5410

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

HOME PARTIES:

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

SILPADA DESIGNS—Durinda Blanchfield, Silpada Designs Representative. Interested in hosting a party? Contact me at 845-227-7537 or view my web-site: www.mysilpada.com/durinda.blanchfield. Mention that you saw this add and I will donate 15% of my earnings to a Church fund of your choice.

PARTYLITE— Need extra income for your sports team, club or organization ? PartyLite now has an awesome FUNDRAISING PROGRAM ! PartyLite gives a full 50% back to the organization. No tax or shipping. Gourmet food items, gift soaps, scented sachets and the highest quality candles on the market. Contact Nancy Herrmann 226-7824 / nangalvin@aol.com for more information.

CHURCH CLASSIFIEDS continued

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

LEGAL

LICENSED NY/NJ ATTORNEY: free initial consultation and reasonable rates. Practice areas include but are not limited to: family law, estate planning, elder law, landlord/tenant law, criminal defense, etc. Call Rachel Flanagan at 845-235-1696 or email RachelDFlanagan@yahoo.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.

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.

BRIGHT BEGINNINGS

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Submitted by Faye Lotze

The children eagerly greeted Spring! They planted seeds, made caterpillars, and learned about the stages in the life of butterflies. The 3's presented a circus for their parents, and all were amazed by the ferocious animals and daring circus acts performed under the classroom "Big Top". The 4's visited the Mid-Hudson Children's Museum where they participated as detectives in an interactive story and explored the exhibits using their senses and hands-on play. Later this month they will go to the Stony Kill Farm Environmental Education Center for a tour of the barn and hay ride.

Our first MDA Hop-A-Thon was a great success! The children raised \$1491.40 for research and services to families whose children have muscular dystrophy. The children's hops were counted and recorded, and they also had the opportunity to ride in a wheelchair and use a walker. We especially want to thank "Miss Millie" Lambeth for visiting our classes and sharing a story with the children as well as patiently answering their many questions!

We are grateful to the Wappingers Transportation Dept. for providing a school bus orientation for our 4 year old classes. The children will be able to experience a bus ride and learn the bus safety rules. We are hopeful that a first bus ride in a familiar setting will help to ease any anxieties that the children and parents might have about the transition to Kindergarten.

Thank you to Rich Lotze for assembling the new airplane seesaw on our playground. The 18 pages of directions only took 3 days to accomplish!!! I

haven't heard the end of this yet!! Seven children at a time can share the airplane, so it is a very popular addition to our playground.



Nancy Geysen was nominated as a Champion of Child Care and received a certificate from the Child Care Council at their awards dinner on April 22nd.

This year has gone by so quickly and soon we'll be planning our end-of-year events. Both classes will have picnics at the East Fishkill Recreation Area. This year we will combine the AM and PM classes, so the 4's can meet other children who will be attending the same elementary schools in September. Our moving up day and graduation will be celebrated on **June 10th and 11th**. It will be difficult to say farewell to the students whom we have seen grow and blossom in the past two years, and we are delighted that almost all of our 3's will be back with us again in the fall.

We still have some spaces available in both our 3's and 4's afternoon classes. If you would like more information about our program, please call 227-8671 or 227-7316. Orientation for Fall classes will be on **Sept. 13th and 14th**. Parents will receive a notification letter by the end of July.

Have a happy summer!



YOUTH MISSIONS

ROCIO: MY STORY

Submitted by *Rocio Del Carmen Miranda Acosta*

It all started the day I was born. Everything was perfect. We were a happy and united family. My parents lived together, both working, we are six siblings in the family; Norma, Jose, Carlos, Viviana and Jonathan. As I said before, everything was perfect, until the day that typical problems that happen with couples and their children started. But in my family they were horrible. Everything became a problem and there were complaints about everything and anything. My parents separated when I was 6 years old (I remember that day well; screams, beatings, insults, and threats). My brothers and sisters and I stayed with my mom because my dad did not want to have anything to do with us anymore.

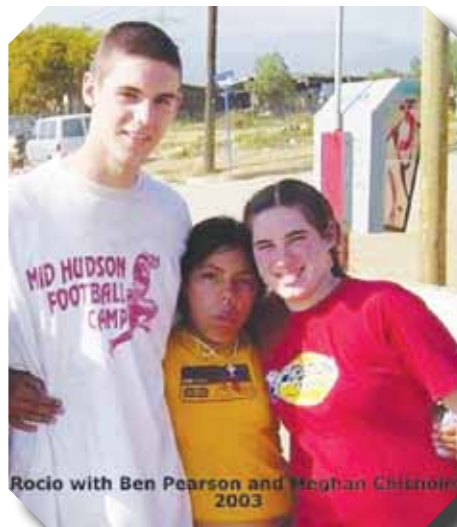
I began Kindergarten with the help and support of my mom. Only three of us children studied (Norma, Jonathan, and I). The older three did not. They looked after us while my mother worked. When I had finished second grade, during summer vacation, my brother Jonathan told me that a group of people had arrived in our "colony" as our neighborhood is called and that they were here to play with the children. (I call them the Famous 17) That's when I met Lourdes, Nelson, Jen, Meghan, Hilary, David, Ben, Sarah, Amanda, Patrick, etc. Year after year, I would go to their meeting at the local church to hear the word of God. I was like the attack of a tornado! I was a little naughty grasshopper! I would call them witches (because they would amuse us in crazy ways!) I would tell them Halloween was over so take off the masks! Well, some of them were a bit ugly! All I really wanted to do was play. I would call them monsters. I don't know why! It was what I would think of saying to them. I was only 7 years old.

As years passed I began to grow older and to know them more and more and understand their mission. I began to help them with the other children and especially to hear the word of God. I loved to go in front when we had to memorize the Bible verses, or win prizes for participating, and then hear the applause of everyone. I loved to draw attention to myself, something I never received at home. Nobody ever paid attention to me. But, I've always been a cheerful person and I have always had the strength to move forward and not fall apart no matter how ugly or hard the situation.

When I started first year of high school, I had to



work so I could pay for (public) school. I worked as a babysitter, caring for the children of my cousins and friends of the family. I saved all my earnings, and sometimes bought food for me and my family. I was only 12 years old when I learned what it was like to support myself, and my entire family with a lot of hard work, blood, sweat and tears (it was not easy). But the saddest day of my life was when at the age of 8, I realized that my mom and my three older siblings (Viviana, José, and Carlos) used drugs. At that moment I knew what real suffering was and it was so hard to see the people I loved most in life slowly destroying themselves. When I was 10 I heard news of my father but the news was terrible. He also used drugs and was in jail because he had been accused of stealing a car (he actually had not done this). I started to believe in a world of evil deeds, drugs, and many other terrible things.



Rocio with Ben Pearson and Meghan Chinoin
2003

When I was getting ready to finish high school, I was happy. I could show all my siblings and my mom that I was not the stupid person they believed I was. Because none of them had finished they assumed I would not

make it either. But in time they realized how wrong they were. I always had goals and dreams in my mind. First I wanted to be a world famous ballerina. But for some reason or another, my family would steal my dreams and destroy my thoughts about them. After watching movies and seeing attorneys, architects, professionals and all those, I thought, "If they can do it, why can't I?" So I started thinking about being a lawyer.

When I was attending high school, I realized if I did not have the support of my parents or anyone else,

YOUTH MISSIONS

ROCIO: MY STORY (CONT'D)

Submitted by *Rocio Del Carmen Miranda Acosta*

that I could not follow my dreams and little by little my dreams were destroyed. I started to look for scholarships so I could finish high school. My mom had to be a part of this process in order to receive the scholarships. She never cared or had anything to do with school unless it was because people would congratulate her because I had done well in something. She would take credit for my success. So scholarships were out of the question. I was eventually given the opportunity to study in high school for free and to take a test to receive my diploma. This process took 6 months and I did it!

I was now desperately looking for a job so I could attend college. The one I wanted to go to was not that expensive but still, for me, it was very expensive. I was not able to find a job. I was not old enough. There seemed to be a thousand complications which led me to conclude that a poor girl like me could never achieve her dreams and her desire to become a professional lawyer and maybe give her family some help. Let's go back a few years. When I was 12 my dad got out of prison only to return a year and a half later. It would seem to me that he liked to live there! I could only communicate with him with letters. The first time he was incarcerated, I could visit him if I went with my mom and my brother Jonathan would come too. But this time my mom did not want to take us. She said that my dad remembered he had children only when he was in prison. And it was true! Sad but true! But I decided to look into it and find a way to visit my Dad.

I talked to Lourdes about it and she was able to help me figure out how to visit without my Mom. For some reason it worked for two months and Jonathan and I were able to visit my Dad but after that we were not able to anymore! I was not able to see him for three years.

When he got out again, I was about to turn 16 and a typical teenager, talking about haircuts, makeup, shampoo, etc. I was really into things like that. I had a cousin that was a hair stylist and she gave me some lessons in how to cut and color hair and a few other things. I really enjoyed this and it was then that I knew I wanted to dedicate the rest of my life to this

profession. Once more I talked to Lourdes about this and she said that maybe she could find help for me. It was then when I said, "Thank you, God! I know now you have never forgotten me. You heard my prayers and You have never forsaken me!"



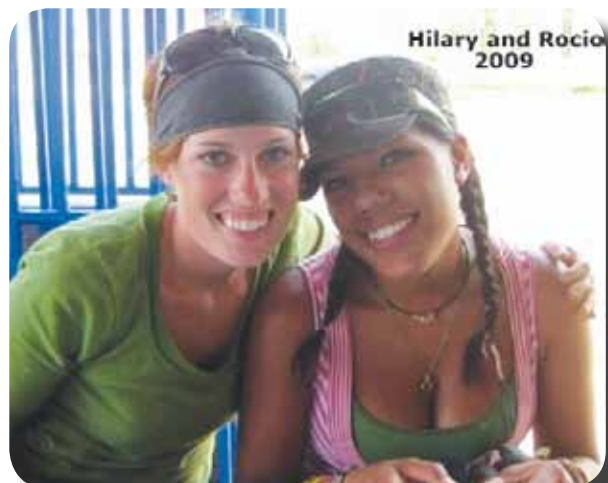
I currently live with my Dad in a small room in the house of my father's mother who has passed away. My Dad and I have a great relationship and he stands by me. I don't live with my mother because I've always had many differences and issues with my mom and brothers. I was a servant, not a daughter or sister! I think the distance has helped our relationship. Today our relationship is fine and my dreams are coming true. I have almost completed the first year of the two year program to be a professional hair dresser. I am trading my knowledge of haircutting with a woman who has her own shop but can't cut hair. She in return is teaching me to do nail acrylics!

I thank God for never abandoning me and I thank you all who are reading this for also never abandoning me and for the great faith and love you always had for me and especially for all the help you are giving me now! Without your help I would never have my dreams come true!

I say this with all my heart!

***Rocio Del Carmen Miranda Acosta
La Famosa Rocio***

(The Famous Rocio! as my American friends have always called me!)



YOUTH MISSIONS

Submitted by Lourdes Kleid

ROCIO: TODAY

Rocio, who will be 18 this summer, is a young lady our Mexico mission teams have had the pleasure of knowing and working with for about 11 years. In the past few years she has been a part of our Spring Barnabas Team in Mexico and in the summer has been helping us at our new ministry site. In 2008 she had the opportunity to share her testimony about her life and her HRC family at the Mexico Outreach Ranch we stay at. She spoke to 500 American teenagers. HOWEVER, let's go back a few years.... She WAS a terror. She treated us terribly, and true to what she says- called us terrible names. I think we all saw something special in this dirty, scruffy little "woman". We never

waivered from loving her. Always the aroma of Christ to her (and of course the rest of the kids). It took her YEARS before she had the courage and trust to take us to her home. We were all shocked in what they called a home. Part plywood, cardboard and block. Dark and dingy with dirt floors. At that time, no electricity, and still today, no indoor plumbing OR bathtub/shower. Raw sewage spilling down the street. When Rocio showed us her room (we had to file

in one by one as the house is quite small) our hearts were lifted by a wall filled with photographs our teams would give her year after year. All the people that loved her she would proudly tell me. Her small room, neat and tidy. The meak possessions of a poor child, in piles on the floor since there was no dresser. She proudly showed us item after item of things we had given her through the years; shoes, shirts, even a dirty old bandana left behind by an HRC team member. Rocio, a new creation, full of spark, life, joy but no bad things to say to us anymore! A part of our church family.

Last summer, towards the end of our mission trip, Rocio did something she never did before. She tearfully broke down and revealed a life of emotional and physical abuse by her mom that had gone on for years. I remember Meghan Chisholm, Hilary Holbrook

and I sitting with her in Pastor Candes church as we all cried together as we tried to give her some hope. As I thought about what we could do I realized that there are a lot of amazing people at HRC who would help this young woman. Stepping out in faith I promised her we would make her dreams come true and support her in her education. And I was right! We were able to get enough support to pay for a full year of her 2 year program and were also able to get all her books, uniforms and supplies! AND pay for bus fare for the year!

My hope is that we can continue so she can finish in the summer of 2011. I do have an update that I know to many will seem dismal and disappointing. Rocio is pregnant and due to have a baby mid July. I was not sure when she told me (this past April when I saw her in Mexico) if I was having feelings of disappointment in her OR in me. Did we not do enough? No, I think we have done a lot. God clearly doesn't make mistakes and I know Rocio will persevere through all this. She has proven it over and over. Her Dad has been very supportive of her and has been able to get her health care. He has promised to pay for child care so she can continue her education. Rocio wants to continue with school and knows she has to. Yes, she needs our financial support,

but also lots of prayers. I do know one thing. This baby will have a wonderful, loving mother and a church family in NY that will love them both unconditionally. THIS is who we are. THIS is something Rocio knows will never stop.

If you would like to help with Rocio's education fund, please contact me at l.kleid@hrcrca.org or make a donation in an envelope marked ROCIO FUND. Checks need to be made out to Hilary Holbrook who has a bank account in Mexico and handles the money for Rocio. You can drop it off in the office or in the collection plate. Cash is welcome as well! Hilary has been a huge pillar of love, support and friendship to Rocio this past year. Thank you Hilary and thank you HRC!



LOCAL MISSIONS

KIDS HOPE MENTORING PARTNERSHIP

Submitted by Nancy Herrmann

It is May 1st as I write this, and I find it hard to believe that we are already entering the fifth month of our Kids Hope Mentoring Partnership with Gayhead Elementary School. With mentor training completed back in November, Orientation was held at Gayhead on January 15 where the mentors got a tour of the building, met some of the staff, and most importantly, had the chance to meet their child for the first time.

The 23 mentors, substitute mentor, and prayer partners were commissioned at both services on January 17 and we began sending mentors in to school to begin their Kids Hope journey that same week.

It is an amazing thing to be at Gayhead on any given day and see our Volunteer Mentors roaming the halls, many walking hand-in-hand with their child, wearing their Kids Hope USA nametags and overall, creating an incredible presence in the school that was not there before.

We already have so many success stories that Mentors have shared. Here are a few:

~ **One child gets a stomachache every day, except the day her mentor is coming.**

~ **One child told her mentor that he only has two friends at school, and one of them is her (Mentor)**

~ **One child told her mentor that this was “the best day of his week.”**

~ **After only the first three meetings, one child’s mother asked the teacher if**

the mentor could stay with the child the following school year

~ **One child said her favorite people are “her Mom & Dad, her teacher, and YOU! (her mentor).”**

~ **One child told her mentor ~ “You laugh a lot ! You make me laugh too.”**

We see God working in so many ways at Gayhead Elementary through Kids Hope.

We can see already how this program has taken root and will continue to grow.

Will you choose to be part of God’s plan to change the life of one child?

Already we see there will be a need for more mentors and prayer partners in the upcoming school year. We will be holding another training session this coming Fall.

Please prayerfully consider if this is where God wants you to be.

Nancy Herrmann and Karen Gomba would be more than happy to answer any questions you may have about the Kids Hope program and what it can mean for you.

Please feel free to contact either one of us at : 226-7824/nangalvin@aol.com (Nancy) or 226-2867/k.gomba@hrcrca.org (Karen).

And remember, YOU COULD BE THE ONE !



LOCAL MISSIONS

FOOD PANTRY

Submitted by Lee Ann O'Connor

Thank you for your continued support and donations to the Food Pantry. Your donations are helping individuals and families throughout the Hudson Valley Area. Please continue to support the Fishkill Food Pantry with your food donations. There is a continuous need for the following items:

- pasta, egg noodles, rice
- spaghetti sauce
- juice
- soups
- unsweetened cereals, oatmeal
- canned beef stew, ravioli, spaghetti-O's
- complete pancake mix
- syrup
- canned fruit
- canned beans
- canned and box potatoes
- macaroni and cheese
- canned meats: tuna, chicken, turkey, 11b ham
- boxed snacks
- peanut butter
- jelly

They are currently very low on rice, jelly, juice and canned meat. They have placed a temporary hold on peanut butter since they have been able to get it donated from another source. * Please note that they also keep a small amount of pet food on hand.

There has been a special request for paper bags with and without handles. Please help the environment and the Food Pantry by recycling your bags. They also need empty egg cartons.

Donations may be placed in the stairwell aside the main entrance. Please look for the signs in the front lobby leading to the new drop off area.

Please remember to check expirations 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'Connor 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).



BIRTHDAYS:

JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST

JUNE

Trevor French 06/02
Samantha Kops 06/02
Jim Booth 06/03
Arlene Surprenant 06/03
Katherine Harrison 06/04
Kristi Kaye 06/05
Ron Abramowitz 06/06
Fred Keane 06/06
Garrett Lee 06/07
Kevin Geysen 06/09
Jerry Bell 06/10
Joe Comolli 06/10
Donna Hitsman 06/10
Lauren Ackley 06/11
Daniel Beal 06/11
Robert Flanagan 06/12
Evan Coe 06/13
Meghan Starr 06/13
Ashley Tricarico 06/13
Amanda Cadwallader 06/15
Matthew Jackson 06/16
Daniel Schweitzer 06/16
Eric Zindler 06/16
Allison DiGregorio 06/17
Kevin Langone 06/17
Beth Lazzaro 06/17
Robert Ferrell 06/18
Ann Hack 06/18
Jessica Hack 06/18
Jennifer Narbaiz 06/18
David Bushey 06/19
Luke Bean 06/20
T.K. Schueren 06/20
Jane Flanagan 06/21
Matthew Hanna 06/21
Steven Luhrs 06/21
John DiFede 06/22
Michael Goetz 06/22
Allison McIntyre 06/22
Miriam Shogren 06/22
Diane Volk 06/22
Silas LaBorde 06/24

Duncan Chisholm 06/25
Richard, Jr. Knesnik 06/25
Susan Owen 06/25
Kelly Seidel 06/25
Markie Goldsmith 06/26
Connor Beal 06/27
Scott Campbell 06/27
Katelynn Cherry 06/27
Dylan Ackley 06/28
Joseph D'Agostino 06/28
Laura Hack 06/28
Harvey Jennings 06/29
Ed Alkiewicz 06/30
David Hondorp 06/30
June Killeen 06/30

JULY

Karli Kaye 07/01
Elke Marsh 07/01
Lorraine Smith 07/01
Jimmy Traill 07/04
Daniel Dehn 07/06
Jasmine Taylor 07/06
Valerie Clark 07/08
Kelsey Coppola 07/08
Samantha Sotland 07/08
Zachary Sotland 07/08
Bryan Gates 07/09
Brian Bosan 07/10
Lisa Fasciglione 07/10
Linda Ritter 07/10
Karen Gomba 07/11
Donald Hitsman 07/11
Kurt Knoernschild 07/11
Brett Bernstein 07/12
Ryan Clark 07/12
David McIntyre II 07/13
Shannon Faughnan 07/14
Kristen O'Connor 07/14
Dianne Zanin 07/14
Elizabeth Bosan 07/15
Meghan Chisholm 07/15
Paul Coppola 07/15

Pete Jaeger 07/15
Rachel Martin 07/15
Ruth Martin 07/15
Steve Dambra 07/16
Stephen Conklin 07/17
Nancy Herrmann 07/17
Jennifer Nieves 07/17
Kathy Pecoraro 07/17
Joshua Barach 07/18
Thomas Budryk 07/18
Keith Hack 07/18
Carole Kuney 07/18
Kerri Letizia 07/18
Brian Luhrs 07/20
Sheryle Silvern 07/20
Robert Alley 07/21
Rick Chrisville 07/21
Matthew Feehan 07/22
Caroline McIntyre 07/22
Betsy Dommreis 07/23
Tyler Reschke 07/23
Justin Duwe 07/24
Paula Engel 07/24
Alma McCaffery 07/24
Brock Rice 07/24
Amy Ferrell 07/25
Michele Ryan 07/26
Josh Beals 07/27
Caroline Conston 07/27
Shannon Herrmann 07/27
Connor March 07/27
McLain Miller 07/27
Robert Friedemann 07/28
Marvelle Hondorp 07/28
Rachel McClellan 07/28
Rick Goerg 07/29
Carol Wilson 07/29

AUGUST

Christy Seregely 08/01
Eveline Dehn 08/02
Eric Jennings 08/02
AJ Martin 08/02

Carol O'Malley	08/02	Erik Reschke	08/12	Sven Nordlund	08/21
Colin McClellan	08/03	Kit Wrye	08/12	Mandi Smalley	08/21
Cyndy Warren	08/03	Sarah Zingel	08/12	Wes Dungan	08/22
Holly Weber	08/03	Wendy Johnson	08/13	Debbie Brady	08/23
David Barlow	08/04	Valerie Lovelett	08/13	Bertha Lee	08/23
Jan Bushey	08/04	Steven Mihalik	08/13	Mary Lou Miller	08/23
JanDell Miller	08/04	Faith Archer	08/14	Dave Schuster	08/23
William Reschke III	08/04	Carlos LaBorde	08/14	Doug Bean	08/24
Emily Silvern	08/04	Leslie MacConnell	08/14	Madeline Gerlach	08/24
Jason Smoot	08/04	Colette Varanouskas	08/14	Halima Oloritun	08/24
Bill Bath	08/05	Tom Williams	08/14	Kylie Delamater	08/25
Caroline Boyd	08/05	Amanda Friedemann	08/16	Aidan Feehan	08/25
Doug Archer	08/06	Bob Lazzaro	08/16	Alyssa Mast	08/25
Shawn Federighi	08/06	Rich Lotze	08/16	Traci Mulligan	08/25
Andrew Goetz	08/06	Florence Sherwood	08/16	Ryan Doherty	08/26
Naomi Pucarelli	08/06	Russ Hiller	08/17	Christopher DiFede	08/27
John Dailey	08/07	Alex Martin	08/17	Meghan Lynch	08/28
Ellen St. George	08/07	Joanne Martin	08/17	Katie Seregely	08/28
Kim Praino	08/08	Jill Mast	08/18	Babs Conklin	08/29
John Zammikiel	08/09	Daniel Murphy	08/18	Kathryn Donahey	08/29
Amy Alkiewicz	08/10	Elise Scagnelli	08/19	Karl Volk	08/29
Diana Murphy	08/10	Ellie Smalley	08/19	Percy Gilbert	08/30
Amy Abramowitz	08/11	Peter Viau	08/19	Tom Kutch	08/30
Joe Comolli	08/11	Lia Mowbray	08/20	Gary Sawyer	08/30
Barbara Garay	08/11	Evelyn Devine	08/21	Timothy Burger	08/31
Sarah Ruvo	08/11	Sam Harrison	08/21		



STAFF & TEAMS

PASTORAL CARE

Taylor Holbrook
Pam Hansen
Nance Williford
Karen Nuessle
Caroline Boyd
Carol O'Malley

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

Pat Blanchfield
Shireen Gilbert
Stephanie Patton
Kevin Warren
Matt Williams

Mike Boyd
Gary Cassaro
Henry Mikhail
Mike Reynolds
Tina Smith

OPERATIONS

Karen Gomba
John Barach
Birgit Chisholm
Lisa Ruvo
Cyndy Warren
David Schuster
Anne Jackson
Barbara Cassaro
Gary Cassaro
Paula Engel
Tom Csillag
Gerry Richardson
Kevin Warren
Diane Morey
Ben Roosa
Karen Gomba
Carl Nuessle
Scott Quimby
Nelson Nieves
Jeff Gerlach

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

OFFICERS

Taylor Holbrook
Kevin Warren
Tina Smith

President
Vice-President
Clerk

WORSHIP & ARTS

Sherri Hondorp
Wesley Joseph
Rch Lotze

Worship & Arts Coordinator
Organist/Choir Director
Usher Team

OUTREACH

Mark Mast
Kevin Warren
Patty Coppola &
LeeAnn O'Connor
Barbie Richardson
Bruce Pearson
Karen Gomba &
Nancy Herrmann

Director of Outreach
CMP
Food Closet
Loving Stitches
Missions Team
Kids Hope

SPIRITUAL GROWTH & YOUTH MINISTRIES

Lourdes Kleid

Coordinator of Youth Worship
& Missions

Sheryle Silvern
Dylan Ackley
Mike Boyd
Jan Bushey
Lucia Eckhardt

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

ELDERS

DEACONS

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

Next Issue SUMMER

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

**FALL issue - deadline is July 15
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

WORSHIP

EASTER DAWN AT TYMOR PARK

Submitted by Mark Mast

Pictures by Mike Reynolds

What a glorious morning it was to gather with 100 people from all of our HRC communities. It was a morning of remembering our baptism as we were reminded that our old life is dead and we left being reminded, as the first women to receive the news, that we have new life in the grace of Jesus Christ. It did not stop there as we “sowed the seeds” of that grace in a world of need.



EXTENDED CARE MINISTRY

SPOTLIGHT ON SPECIAL VOLUNTEERS & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Submitted by Nance Williford

You know how wonderful it feels when someone “makes your day.” All is right with your world when you begin your day with a kind word from a family member, a friend or neighbor. Phone calls, cards, and visits are examples of good feelings that reach out to seniors, the disabled, and to the homebound with a smile and a hug. At HRC, our Extended Care Ministry has several volunteers that love to share their “sunshine”. We also have coordinators for many of the various kinds of volunteering. For example, each week Betsy DiSomma coordinates and makes “follow-up” calls to those people who have asked for prayers in our bulletin’s “Prayer Corner”. She says, “I mostly just listen and the people are so appreciative to get my call.”

When we want to deliver home-cooked meals to someone, Shelley Stensrud makes phone calls or sign-up sheets for our “Caring Cooks” to have the opportunity to volunteer. We usually have some soup in the Extended Care freezer, too.

For decades, Alma Garvan and her team had created and delivered flower bouquets from HRC to people who could no longer come to the church due to age, disability or illness. For the past few years, Judy Phillips has happily taken over Alma’s role as our “chief flower lady.” Just this month, they brought beautiful flowers to twelve different homes!

Edwina and Dave Pratt bring their cheer (and talents) to the residents of local nursing homes by organizing and leading an ever-growing chorus at the Tuesday morning sing-alongs. Their repertoire includes over 100 songs that light up the residents’ day.

Not only does Lucia Eckhardt send cards to our Extended Care family members, but she makes the cards herself! Lucia has a current list of people (and their addresses) to whom volunteers can write some friendly, reassuring words. “It is so nice to know that someone is thinking about me” said one recipient recently.

The above volunteers-- to name a few-- love to serve God by helping others, but there are always more people with needs than there are volunteers. God has blessed our church with many wonderful people who give their time and talents- too numerous to mention here- but we can always use more! If you’d like to volunteer, please contact one of the coordinators above, or call Nance Williford at 221-1855.



YOUTH MISSIONS

2ND ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Submitted by Kim Goerg

This year’s Pancake Breakfast was a huge success!!

We served over 100 people between 7:30-11:00 a.m. This was a fundraiser for youth missions. Katlin & Kyle Geysen, Sawyer Goerg, Katy Lambert, Claire Viau, Sean Federighi, Zach Warner & Andrew Holbrook were all at the church at 5:30 AM and ready to serve.....pretty amazing for 8 teenagers. They flipped over 600 pancakes, set-up, cleaned up, and served with a smile. Thank you to everyone who came out and showed their support. Special thanks to CMP for getting us up early that morning! The teens raised over \$900!!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

HRC WOMEN'S SPRING RETREAT

Submitted by Pam Hansen

On Saturday April 10th 44 women from HRC gathered at the Taconic Retreat and Conference Center in Rhinebeck, N.Y. for the annual Spring Retreat. Located on the scenic Mirror Lake, the setting offered the perfect place for worship, reflection, and fellowship.

Cathy Holbrook led us on a 24-hour inspiring and meditative journey. We were challenged to make 'Space for God' and schedule time with Him in our everyday lives. How can our lives be full, AND fulfilled? We need to be intentional about this holy time.

Cathy challenged us to put ourselves in the place of the Prodigal Son. Why did we leave home? What was it like while we were away? Why did we return home? What was it like to be embraced by the father? One important concept that was stressed was that we belong to God. He waits for us to be in relationship with Him all day, every day.

We looked at ways that we can show gratitude to God. Everything we do can be an act of gratitude. Showing gratitude to God opens up our communication with Him. Prayer, sometimes only reserved for meal time and church, also opens intimate ways of talking to and hearing God. We need to look for ways to incorporate prayer in our lives often.

Lorraine Nelson Wolf inspired us with her music and leading us in worship. The song she sang to begin and end the retreat could not have been more meaningful and significant.

Fellowship and meal time was tons of fun! A highly competitive game called KILLER SCRABBLE entertained, amused, challenged, and frustrated us. It was awesome!



You Are Mine Words and music by Lorraine Nelson Wolf

Is there time in your life for me?
Just a moment when you can be
In a place of tranquility, with me?
Can you stop everything you do
Still the voices you listen to
Hear the words that I speak to you, just you?

'Cause I've been waiting so long
To hear you say you belong to me

In the midst of a life undone,
In a race that is never won,
To this quiet place won't you come with me?

'Cause I've been waiting so long
To hear you say you belong to me

Holy, holy, precious child
Come to me, my, precious child
Holy, holy, precious child
You are mine, my precious child
You are mine
You are mine

The weather was beautiful, and many of us were able to take walks, hike up a mountain, or sit by the lake and chat.

All in all, it was a wonderful way for the women of the church to get away, spend time together, and reflect on the power of making Space for God in our lives.

We already look forward to next year's annual HRC Women's Retreat!

FOR YOUR HEALTH

TRY YOGA!

Submitted by Lucia Eckhardt

Are you feeling stressed?

Do you want some exercise?

Do you want to fellowship with a great group of women?

Then you should consider joining the Wednesday Morning Yoga Class. The class is led by Diane Volk, a certified yoga instructor, who leads us through exercises that leave us feeling refreshed and calm.

It is a beginner to moderate level class and you are encouraged to participate, paying attention to your own body. Diane accepts donations of \$5 per class which go to HRC youth missions.

Join us at 9:30 on Wednesday mornings starting in September. You'll love it!



HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR COFFEE?

Submitted by the "GREEN" Christ Care Group

Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

Genesis 2:15

There is one small thing each of us can do:

Carry to church a cup from home so you can enjoy Sunday's coffee hour without generating trash or using up throw-away cups.

This one small adjustment in habit pattern, made by many of us and multiplied over many weeks, would result in a noticeable reduction in HRC's trash output - and the kitchen supplies budget.

The Green Christ Care Group invites you to try it. As Taylor says, together we can make a dent.

Think of it as tending "the garden."



**Church
Kitchen**

CONSISTORY

ELDERS REPORT

Submitted by Pat Blanchfield

Over the last several weeks, the members of Consistory and other interested leaders and staff have been discussing a new vision statement for HRC. At the time of this writing, it is still very much a work in progress. But this discussion has caused me to at least begin examining what changes would I need to make in my life if I was completely sold- on being a member of a group that – and you may have heard Taylor use this term recently – seeks to be a “167 Church.”

...the number 167 refers to the number of hours in a week outside of the 1 hour we spend in community worship or church

Because I expect that if I am a member of a “167 Church,” I would be striving to be a “167 person.” For those of you that are not familiar with the term, the number 167 refers to the number of hours in a week outside of the 1 hour we spend in community worship or church. And being a “167 church” challenges us to live each and every one of those hours in a manner that glorifies God.

The first thing that came to mind as I thought of this was – I’m glad this is part of a vision statement. It is something we are striving to work towards. Because I’m sure not there now. I could easily think of things I do every day – the way I treat people, thoughts that I have about other people AND about myself, opportunities for service that I selfishly pass by – that clearly do not glorify God. Once I established that being a “167 Person” would truly be a challenging goal, I started getting a little excited. It became evident to me that it would require some deep, introspective thinking. This is not always fun, but I know it is absolutely essential for growth. And I need and want to grow in my relationship with Christ. So as I begin this effort, I’ve committed to do 2 primary actions.

First I have to develop a clear understanding of what God considers are things that glorify Him (and also what he states does not bring glory to Him). The obvious source for this research will be the Bible. Sure, I’m confident I know the major ones – prayer,

worship, service to others, etc. But I’m sure there are areas where I can expand and deepen my understanding of how to glorify God. And maybe more importantly what my heart and motivations should and shouldn’t look like. After all, there are plenty of examples in the Bible of people doing the right thing but for the wrong reasons. So I want to be especially mindful of that aspect as I pursue glorifying Him.

And second, I want to take a close accounting of what I typically do for those 167 hours. Not just breaking it down into the big blocks of time – work, sleep, family, recreation/exercise, etc. But breaking my time into smaller increments and understanding what I’m truly doing – and thinking - during this time. I would equate it to developing a budget and properly itemizing the spending categories so you can thoroughly analyze your spending habits and take specific, meaningful actions if required.

Being a “167 church” challenges us to live each and every one of those hours in a manner that glorifies God.

So that is my plan over the next several weeks. As we as a congregation discuss further this concept of a “167 Church”, I’m going to dig into the Bible regarding glorifying God and take a detailed accounting of what I’m really doing with my time. As you become more familiar with this vision, what are you planning on doing? I’d enjoy hearing and, if you’re interested, sharing with you how I’m progressing.

Send me an email (pblanch@us.ibm.com) or just stop me when you see me. I’m looking forward to it.

YOUTH MISSIONS

SPRING BREAK MISSIONS

Submitted by Lourdes Kleid

Once again we have sent a small team to Mexico to serve as the Team Barnabas for Mexico Outreach in Ensenada during the Spring break. As a Barnabas team member, our role is to be “Barnabas” to these teams.

In the Bible, Barnabas was a Levite. His actual name was Joseph, but the apostles called him Barnabas which meant “son of encouragement,” He was kind and gentle in speech and manner. He was generous and honest. He was always there to listen when Jesus needed someone to talk to.



In Mexico, we pray with the teams, help them work at their sites, make them laugh and just be there for them in whatever their needs are. There is a prayer tent at camp that Barnabas is in

charge of, where students can gather every morning to pray. If you ask the Barnabas team a highlight of their week they will tell you the Barnabas Prayer Tent. We wake the camp up in the morning; send them off to work and spend the day giving them praise and encouragement. We tuck them in at night. We're the first ones up and the last to go to bed.

This experience has been a blessing to our Hopewell Barnabas team. We get to visit dozens of ministry sites while in Mexico and work side by side with American teams as well as Mexican nationals at the ministry sites.

This year's team was Lourdes Kleid, Andrew Holbrook, Michael Pearlman and Katie Leck. Lourdes Kleid and Hilary Holbrook went on to work for Mexico Outreach week 2 of Spring break in Mexicali. They were part of Team Stephen which oversees community service projects throughout Mexicali. While serving in Mexico, they experienced a 7.2 earthquake which lasted almost 2 minutes! I have been asked by so many about it so I will tell you what happened.



Easter Sunday, 3:10pm. Team Stephen had returned from a busy day at work in the community.

A few of us were sitting at camp relaxing and talking. Hilary was in a camper playing Scrabble with some friends. 3:18pm. The earthquake started lightly. My first thought was “Oh, subway”, immediately remembering I was in a field in Mexicali! Those around us just shrugged it as “Oh it's just an earthquake” and continued in conversation. Well that didn't last long as everything started rolling and shaking where literally the ground was rolling in waves. Everything was moving, tents, campers, vehicles buildings. At almost the same moment we all got up and ran to a central area away from any buildings or trees. At the same moment Hilary ran out of the camper with our



friend Jack and Kevin. The four of us just hugged as the ground shook and rolled us. 3:40pm- it's over. Our hearts beating, not believing what just happened! It was quite an experience. I actually was nauseous when it stopped. Thankfully there was only minor damage at camp. Other areas were not so lucky. 25,000 lost their homes. Lots of structure and ground damage throughout the city as well. We were hit by over 600 aftershocks. Some big, but not as big as the 7.2. An Easter Sunday I will

never forget- along with the 1,000 students at the camp! As we all shouted at chapel that evening:

HE HAS
RISEN!

HE HAS
RISEN
INDEED!



INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

SDR

Submitted by Ellen Pearson

Sowers of the Kingdom is the US extension of Sembradores Del Reino. Established in the State of New York in 2009, we are a 501(c)3, non -profit, faith based organization that provides support to those in need. At present, our focus is on the Samana Peninsula of the Dominican Republic. Our vision is to establish long lasting relationships in 12 communities throughout the region. Currently we are working in El Limon, Agua Sabrosa, Sanchez, Arroyo Chico, Barbacoa, Naranjita, Palmarito, Los Puentes and several neighborhoods in Las Terrenas. Upon establishing relationships within these communities we are able to carry out our mission statement, "Sowing the seeds of God's love by partnering with those who serve Him". Partnership with spiritual and community leaders within these areas enables us to serve by providing medical clinics, assistance on construction projects, a school sponsorship program, pastoral training and Vacation Bible School.



A New Partnership in Agua Sabrosa & Palmarito

Article by: Bruce Pearson



Several years ago I met an energetic young(er) man in Las Terrenas named Ofir Hirsch. He is an Israeli that has made the DR his home. He loved the beauty of the island and especially the area of Las Terrenas. Simply put it's "paradise" and so he decided to put down his roots and stay. In no time at all, he also fell in love with the people of the DR too.

Ofir is a man that is seeking to please God and serve others. He ventured into the remote area of Palmarito and Agua Sabrosa. What he found there was an area of poverty, simplicity, much need and people that were loving and very receptive to him. He was drawn to the area and felt a strong desire to serve the people there.

Well, one thing led to another and before you know



it, SDR was involved in the community in Agua Sabrosa. We did our first and largest ever medical clinic there in November 2009. Many of the people there had never seen a doctor before. Ofir also introduced us to the people up on the mountain in Palmarito, a short distance from Agua Sabrosa.

The folks up there have been waiting on the Lord to begin construction of a church on an amazing piece of property they have owned for ten years. They have all the right stuff to get the job done including will power, know how, strong backs, skill and desire. Well, almost everything; they lacked the funds to buy the materials. We were able to provide enough money to help start the construction of the new church.

Our team formed a new partnership and worked side by side with our new friends.

We look forward to returning to Agua Sabrosa & Palmarito in November .

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

Easter Celebration with Lidia's Kids

Article by: Ellen Pearson

We pulled up to Lidia's house over an hour before the children were due to arrive. On our way we passed a few of the kids walking on the dusty road that leads to Lidia and Terry's home. They were excited. This was going to be a very special day. Later on, knowing that we were being watched, we had to sneak around to hide the Easter eggs.

The highlight of every trip is the day we get to spend time with Lidia's Kids. I don't know who has more fun, the kids or the adults. This year we continued our new tradition of an Easter Celebration. Sue Nieves and Linda Smith, the teachers on our team, had everything planned ahead of time. We dyed and decorated hard boiled eggs, made beaded necklaces with a small wooden cross in the center and colored the special bags that would hold the "loot" from the egg hunt.

After a delicious barbecue of hot dogs and chips it was finally time for the egg hunt! Last year, the smaller kids got short changed so this year we gave them about a 30 second head start. It was all

they needed. Even though the little ones wound up with the lion's share of treats, there were no hard feelings. We finished up the party with a baseball game, sprinkler fun and tons of picture taking and hugs.



SDR will return to the DR in November

Our next mission trip to the Dominican Republic is scheduled for November 6th-13th 2010 and the planning has already begun.

This trip has the potential to be our largest trip yet with up to 25 missionaries headed to Las Terrenas. We will concentrate our efforts on medical clinics, construction projects and time spent with Lidia's Kids.

At present we have four medical clinics scheduled. The clinics will be in Sanchez, Agua Sabrosa, Nagua and a small community within Las Terrenas called Come Pan. Three of the clinics are the result of requests brought to us by pastors within their own communities. The word is getting out about Sembradores Del Reino! We have been blessed to have served more than 5000 people in the DR since we began providing medical clinics in 2007.

Construction will continue on the new church we

are helping to build in Palmarito. We look forward to the day when we will all worship together inside their new church. We plan to host a fundraiser later this year to help purchase the windows for the church. Palmarito is set high on a mountain with a magnificent view of the ocean. The windows will open to the view and allow the tropical ocean breezes to flow through the church.

We will return to the hospital in Las Terrenas to do more light construction and painting as well as bringing kind words of faith and hope to the patients staying there. Plans are in the works to begin a new project in Agua Sabrosa that would provide the community with a much needed public shower. This small town was only recently provided with public water access and most of the people cannot afford to build their own bathroom or shower.

We look forward to sowing more seeds when we return to the DR in November.

MISSIONS: INTERNATIONAL

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Submitted by Susan Nieves

Just imagine 150 excited children coming into a church in a small town in the Dominican Republic all looking forward to seeing what the Americans have in store for them today. Some live close enough to walk but many are brought there by small pickup trucks with up to 30 or more children crushed in the back with several more in the passenger seats. They are as young as babies in their sisters' arms to teenagers willing to help if asked, but all are here for one thing, Vacation Bible School.

For the last two years HRC team members through "Sowers of the Kingdom," have been privileged to be able to have a Vacation Bible School for the local children of Las Terrenas. Last year we were at Jesusita's church and this year we were at the Iglesia de Dios. Each year we had a main theme for the week. Last year was the Colors of Faith and this year we talked about the commandment to "Love your neighbor as yourself." Each day we begin with a skit telling one specific story from the Bible. Lidia Dickinson, the local woman we work with who acts as a liaison for the children we sponsor, acts as



the MC for the VBS and she reads the story to the children while members of our mission team act out the story on the stage. We use costumes and various props and scenery as needed. One of the best parts of the skit is where we use several local children each day to be actors. We dress them up with head pieces and many have been animals such as sheep and cows. One small child even was honored to be the fatted calf used for the Prodigal son's welcome home feast.

Our first two stories this year, The Prodigal Son and Joseph, both discussed forgiveness. The third story was Feeding the 5,000 and focused on the boy who

shared his food with the disciples and eventually Jesus blessed it to feed the whole crowd. The fun part of this skit was where every child there got

to share in the feast when we passed out Goldfish crackers to the whole audience. The last skit was I believe the most popular when we had local boys be the robbers in the Good Samaritan skit and were able to beat up one of our team members. They were so excited but then were a little nervous when the "victim" wiped his face with red paint he had hidden in his hand and then looked out at the crowd as he laid on the floor. I'm sure some of the robbers thought he was really hurt. The laughter continued as the Good Samaritan and his faithful "donkey" (another member of the team on all fours with droopy ears) came and carried the victim to the Innkeeper. I'm sure these stories from the Bible will never be forgotten by any of these children.



After the skit, Lidia would ask questions about the story and teach them a memory verse. Using poster boards we taught them several songs and they ended up teaching us a few also. By the last day I'm sure they heard us singing way down the road. We then divided them up into groups of 10 to do the craft for the day. They took this very seriously and made sure they did theirs correctly. The best craft we had was a fish using a small soap that they wrapped with a facecloth and added eyes and fins. The day ended up with a snack and games outside. We had balls, jump ropes and a parachute. The last day the girls on the team were extremely busy doing face painting.

Last year as the week ended we got the best compliment we could have gotten. The Pastor of the church told us she had heard about churches having a VBS and was always hoping to see one or have one in her church one day. She prayed about it and having us there was an answer to her prayers. Most importantly, now she plans to work with a group of teens from her church and bring the VBS to other churches in the area. True to the name, Sowers of the Kingdom really did plant some seeds for Christ in this Church.

DIRECTOR'S PAGE

OPERATIONS

Submitted by Karen Gomba, Director



ONE FANTASTIC JOURNEY

As you may or may not have heard, I will be stepping down from my position at the end of June so that I can devote more of my time to my family and my health. It was a tough decision, but through prayer and support from my family, I am now at peace with it.

So I thought this might be a good time to reflect on my three years in the job to identify the highlights. One of the best things about working at a church is the way that we open and close each meeting in prayer. It helps everyone remember why we are here and who we are here to serve. I've also enjoyed working with so many talented and dedicated volunteers, without whom this church would not be such a wonderful place. I've realized that a large part of my job has been, as Tom Csillag prophetically predicted when I started, decision making and setting direction. And another interesting perspective was offered by John Barach, who said "I bet 90% of your

job is not what you thought it would be when you took it." Truer words have never been spoken! But that is what was so good about it – every day was different and offered a new challenge. I've had boring jobs before and they were painfully difficult, so I am happy to say that that was never an issue here at HRC!

I will be working with Taylor and Mark to define what day-to-day elements of the job are essential, and whether they need to be handled by staff or if a volunteer can serve to meet those needs. And I will also be outlining projects that are in process and ones that will need to be tackled in the future. From this analysis, Consistory will make some decisions about next steps. My goal is to make sure that all the systems we've established are in good shape before my departure. And who knows, I may be one of those volunteers serving in the Operations ministry!

WOMEN'S GUILD

PLANT & BAKE SALE

Submitted by Olimpia Bernard



The 10th Annual Plant & Bake Sale was a big success due to all the volunteers who helped run the event. I would especially like to thank the people who donated baked items and plants, made the phone calls asking for the donations, and the people who helped on the day of the event.

The following garden centers generously donated plants to be sold at the event: Greystoke Gardens, Willow Ridge Nursery, Blue Seal & Feed, Home Depot,

Sunny Gardens, Lowe's, William Tell True Value Hardware, Sabellico's, Plant Depot, Wal-

Mart Supercenter, and Sam's Club. Please continue shopping at these local businesses that have helped give back to their community.



HRC Women's Ministries will donate the proceeds of the sale to HRC Community Maintenance Program and other worthy causes throughout the year.

DIRECTOR'S PAGE

OUTREACH

Submitted by Mark Mast, Director



TOUCH POINTS

For many churches, we evangelize to bring people into the church. The call is to evangelize so people can be faithful followers of Jesus Christ. Although this sounds obvious, often we plan ministry around bringing people to Sunday morning worship. Over the next year we will be working at making a shift where everything we do and offer becomes a Touch Point for someone to become a faithful follower of Jesus Christ.

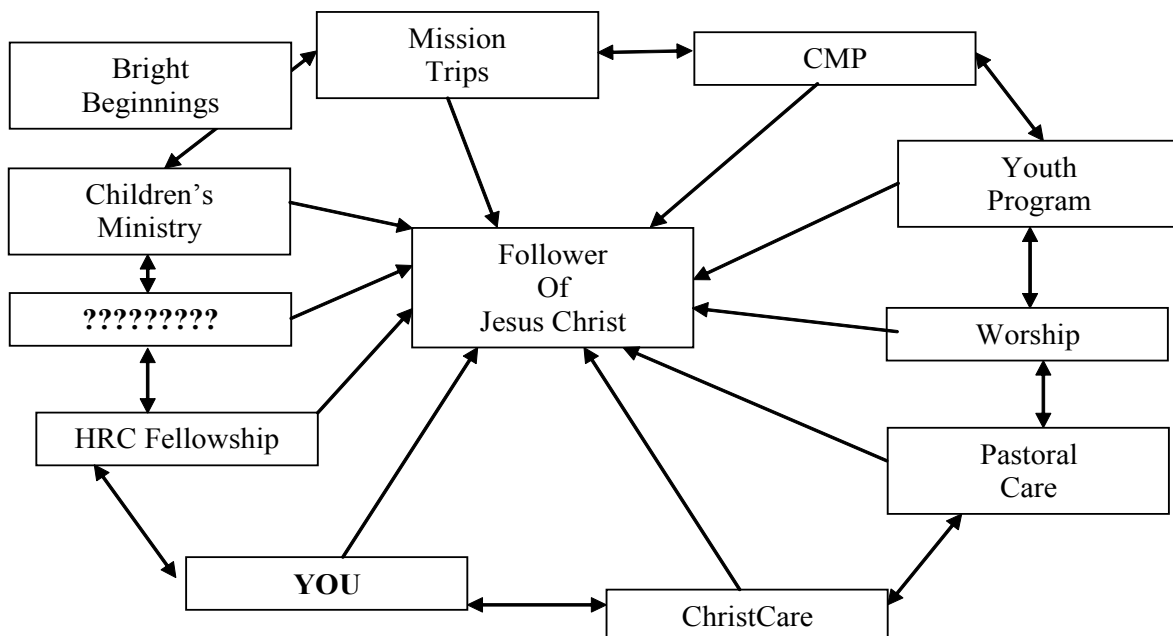
So Joe, not yet a follower of Jesus Christ, starts coming to CMP because a friend knew he liked to help people. After 6 months of CMP, someone else from HRC invites him to their ChristCare group. Then, after hearing about the wonderful worship services week after week, he starts to attend worship. All three of these "Touch Points" work together to help Joe make a confession of his faith in Jesus Christ.

So Mary, not yet a follower of Jesus Christ, becomes friends with a family at HRC because their children

play together in the band. One day, this HRC member invites her to Mystery Night sponsored by our fellowship team. The family comes and realizes that not all Christians are that bad. VBS is coming, so the youngest of Mary's kids is invited and has a wonderful time. The oldest child begins to come to youth group as Mary and her HRC friend continue to have "spiritual conversations." The time comes when Mary realizes she does love Jesus and thanks her HRC friend for all she has done and announces that Mary and her family are returning to the Catholic Church of her youth. All these "Touch Points" work together to help Mary re-discover her love for Jesus.

There are many touch points where HRC can be used as an instrument of Jesus' grace in people's lives.

This year we will be looking at how to make everything at HRC have an evangelism piece so EVERYTHING at HRC becomes a TOUCH POINT.



AND MY FINAL POINT . . .

From the Lead Pastor



A 167 Party

Our 167 Vision

We seek to be a 167 church, putting our faith into practice every hour of every day. Being a follower of Christ is not simply about an hour on Sunday, but living every moment for the glory of God.

At the end of my career at P.S. 92 in Brooklyn, we had an end-of-the-year party in Prospect Park. Lisa Zucrow, the “babe” of fifth grade, wrote in my autograph book that all year I was the one she liked. That was odd because I never knew it. It was the question that Belly, Williams, Lynch and every other boy in Mrs. Reilly’s class wanted answered, but I had only one day to live into the vision of Lisa in love with me. We held hands at that party and I never saw her again. I was sad that the future ended for me on that day.

We are having an end-of-the-year party at Hopewell on Sunday, June 27, at 10 AM: One service at one time for all people connected with HRC. This is a party for living into our future. It is the day that we will roll out our “167 Vision.” All the worshipping communities of HRC will come together to celebrate, have fellowship and reflect on where we are going. We will have folks from all six worship services at HRC on hand. The music will be varied and powerful. To fit everybody in, we need to be outside under the tent. We will have a special refreshment time following the worship that will lead into a time of reflection on Our 167 Vision.

Three years ago we moved forward with “The Next 250.” We have seen faith communities planted and people connected to HRC who have never even been to our church on Beekman Road. This year-end party will be the first time many of us will experience the Odyssey choir. It will be exciting. As that choir leads us in worship we can be humbled by the reminder that God is able to do far more than we can ask or imagine. The Next 250 has not gone in all the ways we expected, but we celebrate the ways that God has brought us to a new place. We continue to move forward.

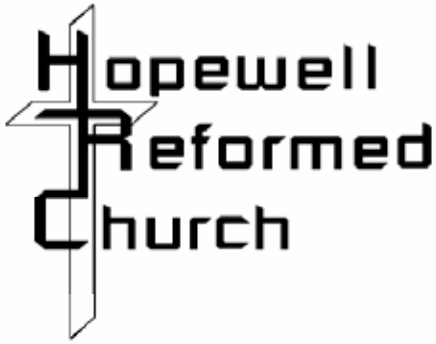
We can be humbled by the reminder that God is able to do far more than we can ask or imagine

So I hope you will join us for our year-end party. It is not the end, but it is the beginning of new things that God is doing. I said goodbye to Lisa in Prospect Park in June of 1969 and it was over, but at this party we are saying hello to our future and it is never going to end.

Yours In Love,

Taylor W. Colbrook





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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*



We dedicate this issue to the memory of Dawn Bell, past editor of *The Visitor* (former name of *Hopewell Happenings*). Dawn died on May 30, 2010 at Vassar Brothers Hospital. She was an active member at Hopewell Reformed Church since 1973 and was involved in various ministries of the church. She was employed as the church secretary in the late 1980's and early 1990's. During that time, she served as editor of the newsletter. She did this job without the great tools we have today!

We will miss you, Dawn.

The Newsletter team



To know Christ, and to make Him known.