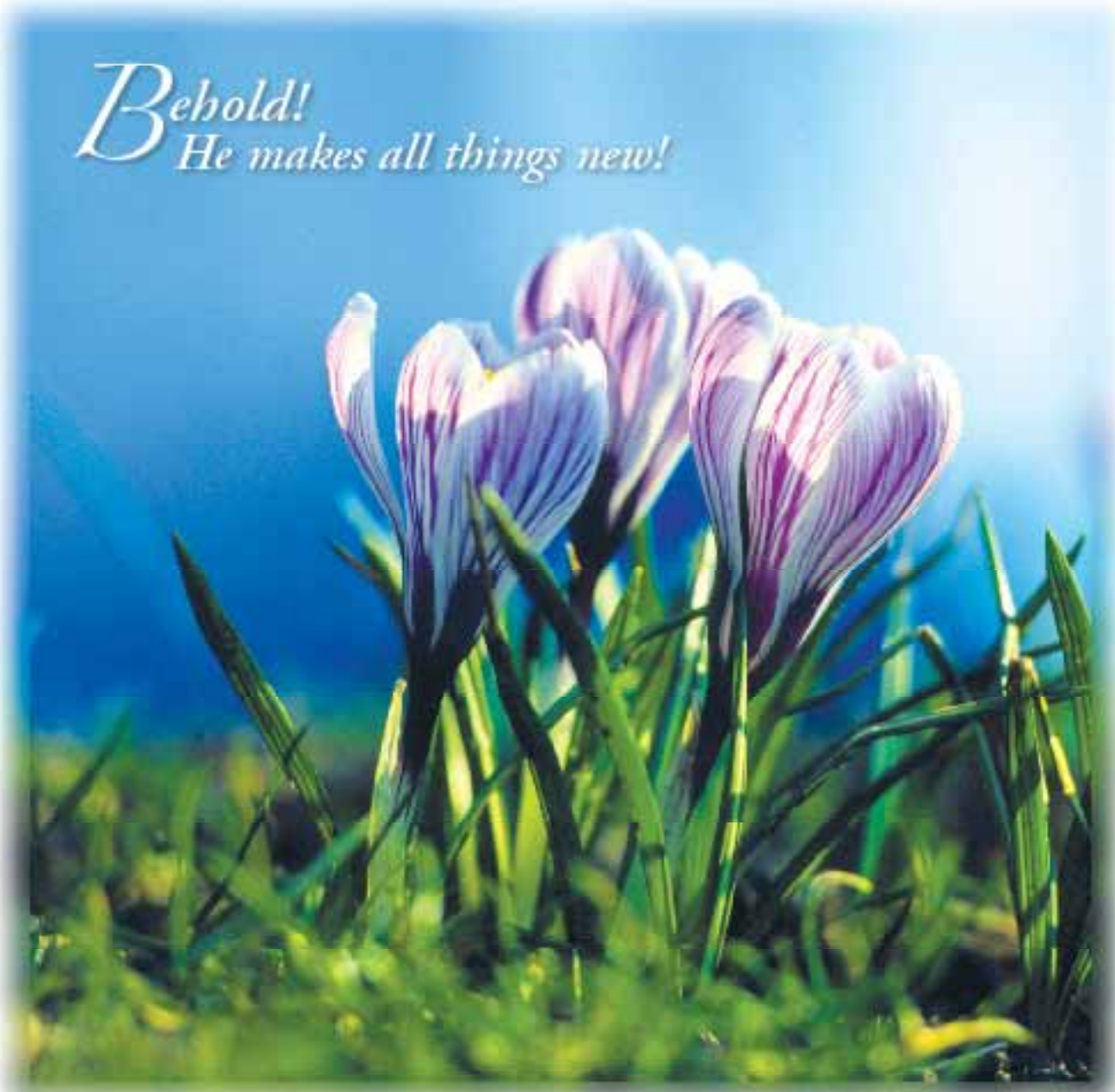


# Hopewell Happenings

HOPEWELL REFORMED CHURCH  
SPRING 2010



*Behold!*  
*He makes all things new!*



# LETTERS AND NOTES



Dear Readers,

We want to thank all our contributors this month. Our goal for every issue is to provide a written history of life at the Hopewell Reformed Church. HRC is a special place. That is something we hear all the time. Whether someone visits for one week or joins the congregation and is here for many years, their time at HRC leaves an imprint. It is a place where lives are touched by God's spirit. We are all blessed to be a part of it.

And that is why we are asking each of you to take a few minutes and send us an email answering this question: How has your life been blessed by HRC? Or, more correct, how has God blessed your life through HRC? We look forward to hearing from YOU!

In this issue you will read about activities in the church and those outside our four walls. We are excited about Kids Hope and how we can help our community through this ministry. We have many opportunities to care for one another through ChristCare groups and support groups. And there are also many opportunities to help those far away who are in need.

As Pastor Holbrook outlines in his Final Point, life and ministry at Hopewell Reformed Church is not an either/or proposition. His vision for HRC is both/and. A bold vision? Yes. But not impossible for our God. He has brought each of us to HRC so that His vision is realized through us. It will be an exciting adventure!

*The Newsletter Team*

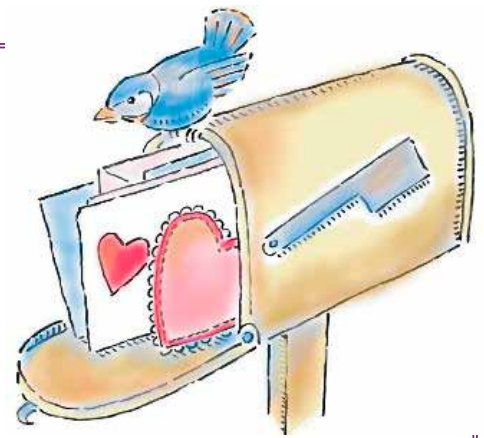
***Dear HRC:***

***Thank you for the cards, flowers you sent me for my 98th birthday. Also, I would like to thank the youth group for stopping by and singing Christmas carols. It was very thoughtful and greatly appreciated.***

***Sincerely,  
Edith Travis***

Spring 2010

My name is Sawyer Goerg and I am a freshman at John Jay High School. I am not your average teenager because when I am not in school, I spend much of my free time volunteering with the Hopewell Reformed Church and Girl Scouts. I have volunteered with numerous agencies throughout Dutchess County including the homeless shelter and Good Counsel (a home for teens and their babies).



God has been an important part of my life for as long as I can remember. The past two summers I have been on a mission trip to inner city Philadelphia, where I served underprivileged children at a recreation site. This summer, I am so excited to be going to the Dominican Republic with a group of 10 students. I will be ministering with Students International, a Christian organization whose missionaries minister to the poor of the Dominican Republic. I hope to be working side by side with Dr. Fernando Gonzalez, an OB/GYN doctor at a women's health clinic. I plan to study nursing in college.

While in the Dominican Republic I will be working on my Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award a Girl Scout can receive. The award requires each Girl Scout to spend 70 hours on a project of their choice. In speaking with Dr. Fernando, I have decided to organize a supply drive. The medical clinic is in desperate need of the following items:

- Vitamins for kids (chewable or drops)
- Prenatal vitamins
- Tylenol/Motrin (liquid or infant drops)
- Diapers (disposable-can be loose diapers or new full packs)
- Gently worn infant clothes (to be given to the women who deliver at the hospital)

I need your help to make this project a success. Please consider donating any of the items on this list so we can make a difference in the Dominican Republic. There are two large donation tubs located in Fellowship Hall and the upstairs hallway near the elevator. You can contact me via e-mail: goergny@optimum.net. Thank you for your consideration and generosity.

Sincerely,  
Sawyer Goerg



*Dear HRC "Family",*

*We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all of you who helped our family after our son Jason's passing. We were overwhelmed by the outpouring of sympathy from HRC. Thank you to*

*everyone who prayed for us, sent a card, called, helped prepare the meal for the memorial service and kept in touch during a very difficult time. The love from all of you helped us to get through Christmas*

*and truly realize that God is ever present in our lives. Our family and friends were amazed at the memorial service and reception afterwards, the way you all were there to help us and take care of everything we needed. Recently Ron said that HRC is like a neighborhood community where we all take care of one another. He is right about that and there is no other place we would rather live in than in the HRC neighborhood.*

*Thank you all again,*

*Ron, Lisa, Sarah and Tyler Ruvo*

# CHRISTIAN KIDS' CORNER

Submitted by Sheryle Silvern

## GOD HAD A PLAN

We were visited by men and women from the Bible during our Christmas pageant. They reminded us that “God didn’t give up, He had a plan. He sent His Son to save us.” From Eve in the garden to the shepherds on the hillside of Bethlehem, the children did a wonderful job sharing this truth with us.

Thanks to everyone who helped make the pageant a holy part of the Advent season at Hopewell!



Our thanks to:

Leslie McConnell for directing the pageant

Trisha Hanna and Rachel McClellen for leading the music

Lauren Arelt, Abby Hoffman and Beverly Miller for designing the costumes

Maryann Quimby for designing the bulletin

Dave Schuster and Jeff Gerlach for technical support

All the parents who chaperoned and helped with the reception  
and to the children who worked so hard



First Communion

## CHILDREN AT THE TABLE

Children who have expressed faith in Jesus Christ and would like to share in communion are invited to attend “Children at the Table”. There will be a class on **Thursday, March 18th at 4:30** in the Community Room to discuss the sacrament. On **March 25th**, the children will meet with Pastor Holbrook and an elder in the sanctuary at 4:30 PM to learn more. The children will receive communion for the first time during the Maundy Thursday Service on **April 1st**. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Sheryle Silvern at 227-1965.

## SANDWICH SUNDAY

We had a great time on Sandwich Sunday. The children made over 200 bagged lunches for the “Lunch Box”. The “Lunch Box” provides food for needy people in Poughkeepsie. They were able to send bagged lunches home with everyone who came that day.

The children always enjoy this hands-on mission project. They carefully make sandwiches and fill each bag with juice, fruit and cookies. Thank you for bringing in the items that we needed! Special thanks to Faye Lotz for organizing this project.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2010

# August 10th - 14th

Save the week of **August 10th-14th** for fun, fellowship and learning at SonQuest Rainforest VBS! Registration for children entering kindergarten through the 6th grade starts on **May 2nd**. We are beginning to get ready for VBS already and could use your help. If you are interested in helping to plan, prepare props, decorations or crafts, please call Sheryle Silvern at 227-1965. Thanks!



### BOY SCOUTS

The Boy Scouts celebrated Boy Scout Sunday and their 100th birthday at HRC on February 7th. The boys served as greeters, ushers and lay readers. We are thankful for their involvement in scouting and for their presence in our midst.

### A SHOUT OUT TO THE NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

Submitted by **Lee Ann O'Connor**

I began helping Sheryle Silvern with coordinating volunteers for the HRC Nursery in September 09. We have been very fortunate with all the responses we have received. It has been a wonderful opportunity to meet new people (unfortunately, mostly via phone). We would like to thank all the volunteers that have returned our phone calls and accepted our requests to volunteer in the nursery. Without you, I would not feel that great sense of satisfaction in making a difference by helping Sheryle and all the nursery parents.



If anyone would like to help us out in the nursery during service, please feel free to phone (223-6750) or email me (LeeAnnTom@optimum.net) directly. Some volunteers offer to try it for the first time; some call when available, and some are on the list multiple times per year. Happily, we usually have teenage helpers available to assist the less experienced and help out as needed.

Thanks again for helping me help others.



## CHURCH CLASSIFIEDS

Send your classified ad to  
[hrcnewsletter@hrcra.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Rpabramowitz@prodigy.net) or [www.ronscomputerservice.com](http://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](http://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

**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](mailto: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

### **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](mailto:GrahamJBoyd@gmail.com)

### **HOUSEHOLD:**

**LYNCH CARPENTRY**—Custom Remodeling, Free Estimates - Please call or e-mail Don Lynch. email:[Lynchcarpentry123@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:HelpingHands.AtYourService@gmail.com)

### **MEDICAL:**

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

# CHURCH CLASSIFIEDS continued

## **MEDICAL continued:**

**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.

## **A CALL TO MISSION**

**Submitted by Lourdes Kleid**



Rachel Snider was new to our church, a high school student, and on her first mission trip. It was on a mountain in Mexico, where Rachel answered a call to pursue a career in medicine.

Fast forward quite a few years later and Rachel went back to the mission field but this time as a Nurse Practitioner. This past November, Rachel enthusiastically joined the Dominican Republic Medical Mission team. It seemed like a dream come true.

Rachel again joined the February trip for another week of medical missions.

Mission work, whether local or away from home, can be life changing for both yourself and those you serve. If you have not had the opportunity to serve, maybe now is the time to consider it!



# EAST FISHKILL COMMUNITY DAY

Submitted by Beth Brofman



Our display outlined the 6 “Gs” of Grace, Growth, Groups, Gifts, Giving and Going.

A big thanks to all who marched in the parade and manned our booth. A special thank you to all the youth for painting faces throughout the day.

East Fishkill Community Day was a great success. HRC had several marchers behind our banner in the annual parade through town.

Afterward, there was free face painting for children at our booth at the East Fishkill Rec. We also distributed magnets and candy.



# BRIGHT BEGINNINGS

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

Submitted by Faye Lotze



December was an exciting month for our students.

The four year olds had a Christmas Festival with carol singing and a visit from Santa. Both classes practiced songs and rehearsed their lines for our Christmas shows. We were so proud of them and so pleased to have

so many of their parents, grandparents, siblings and friends

attend. Taylor and Randy extended invitations to them all to worship with us on Christmas Eve.

January has been very busy so far. The 4's have been learning about healthy foods and will soon be publishing a cookbook of their favorite recipes such as the unedited gourmet treats from last year's class listed below.

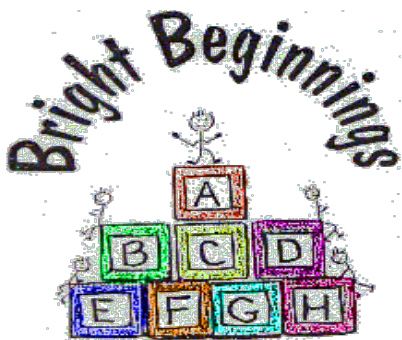
They have also been studying the solar system with an emphasis on God as Creator of the universe. They visited the East Fishkill Library, and the children who have turned 5 were able to sign up for their own

library cards. The three year olds memorized nursery rhymes and recited them for their parents. In chapel, Taylor taught the 4's about the Parables of Jesus: the Good Shepherd, the Good Samaritan, the Sower and the Mustard Seed. Chapel has become a very important part of our program and is very well received by the children and their parents.

Our annual Gertrude Hawk chocolates fundraiser is under way this month. In March our children will participate in a Hop-A-Thon to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association. In conjunction with that, the children will be learning that each person is special and that their amazing bodies have many varied abilities, but sometimes children have muscular disabilities and that they can do their part to help these children.

A big thank you to the members of the congregation who supported the Barnes & Noble Book Fair in November. Because of your purchases, many Spanish dictionaries and NIV Bibles will be going to the children in the Dominican Republic.

Registration for September 2010 is off to a great start! Our morning fours class is already filled - a tribute to our teachers Sue and Nancy! We have openings in the PM 4's and in both of the three year old classes. Please speak to Sue, Nancy or myself or call 227-8671 for information about our preschool.



### Chocolate Cake

Black icing  
Big bowl  
Big spoon  
Cake mix  
Mixer that spins  
4 eggs  
1 spoon water  
1 cup sugar

Mix the eggs, water, sugar and cake mix and put in a big bowl. Use the mixer that spins. Put in a circle pan. Put the pan on top of the stove and cook for 5 minutes. Put the black icing on the cake after it cools. Then we eat it.

### Chocolate Chip Cookies

A lot of milk  
A whole thing of flour  
Chocolate milk

Put them all in a pan. Put it in the stove. The stove should be on 14 and cook for 18 hours. Take them out and eat one and it will taste so good!

# INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

## INSPIRATIONAL YOUTH LEADER PAT LYNN

Submitted by Lourdes Kleid

We hope to have a guest speaker at Gatherings, Foundations and Big Worship on April 18. Pat Lynn, a Bible teacher from Life Christian Academy, Tacoma, Washington, was a leader on our youth Dominican Republic mission trip last summer. Midway during the two week outreach, on July 4, Pat had a serious diving accident which left him completely paralyzed. Pat



spent about a week in intensive care in the DR and then was flown by MedVac to Miami's Jackson Memorial Hospital where he underwent surgery. The doctors in the DR referred to his injuries as those consistent with those of "Superman" (Christopher Reeves).

Pat spent a few weeks in Miami and was then again flown to Harbor View Medical Center in Seattle where he spent several months until his insurance ran out and he was discharged. Pat's sister Meghan, a single mom and RN, agreed to care for Pat. You see, while Pat was going through all this, the bank foreclosed on his house. Many changes had to be made to Meghan's house in order to make it wheelchair friendly. Pat has been living with his sister for a few months. He goes to therapy every day. His last report to me was that he was able to take steps while holding ski poles.

Pat's recovery has been a miracle. His strong faith has been a huge part of it.

I remember riding in the ambulance with him. Before that we were having a picnic in a remote mountainous area by a beautiful river in Jarabacoa. Pat decided to dive into the fast moving river. In a matter of seconds his life changed forever. After a surreal rescue, up a



10 foot vertical rock wall and up a windy path to the dirt road, Pat was placed in an ambulance, if you want to call it that. Now, let me say, Pat is a big guy, 6'4, 300 pounds. The stretcher was way too small for him, the ambulance had no neck brace and nothing to secure the gurney to the floor of the vehicle. That ultimately turned this ride into quite a treacherous adventure. No air conditioning so it was very, very hot and humid. Stifling and suffocating. The road to the local hospital was windy and full of very deep ruts. The gurney, which was being held by two attendants and myself, hit the back door of the ambulance at one point, which swung the doors open. I thought for sure Pat would be gone. The gurney, bounced all over. Thankfully, we were able to hold on to him.

We arrived at the local hospital so Pat's head could be stitched (18 stitches). Back in to the same ambulance for a crazy 45 minute ride to a larger hospital in Santiago. Pat was scared. We continued to pray together and sing praises. This calmed him. He then began to evangelize to the ambulance attendants asking them if they believed in Jesus Christ.

We arrived at HOMS hospital, which happens to be the best in the country and barely a year old. It felt safe and I was relieved.

Pat made a huge impact on the STINT DR '09 team. Kids adored him from the minute they met him. Funny, full of life, love, compassion and above all he showed the team an amazing faith that even in the face of adversity never waivered. I can tell you that Pat has had his ups and downs and, being human, times when he did question God. But through it all he has remained strong in faith and an example to everyone. I know his testimony will be a blessing to us all.



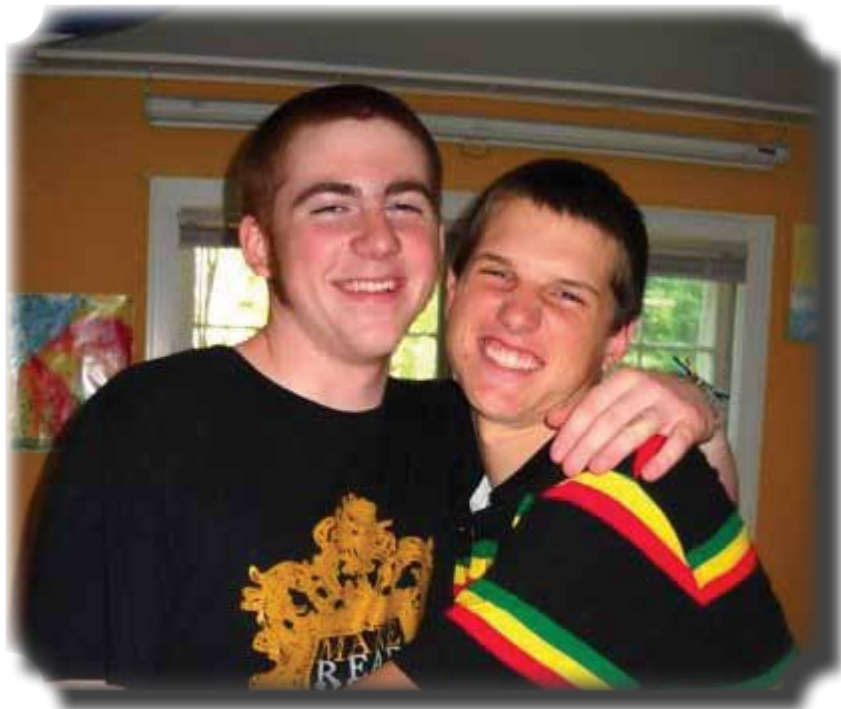
# YOUTH MISSIONS

## MEXICO OUTREACH

Submitted by Lourdes Kleid

Andrew Holbrook will be going to Ensenada, Mexico during Spring break to be part of the Azusa Pacific University- Mexico Outreach Team Barnabas.

He will be joined by HRC member and Azusa University student, Michael Pearlman and HRC Youth Missions Coordinator Lourdes Kleid.



# LOCAL MISSIONS

## LOVING STITCHES

Submitted by Barby Richardson

2009 was a very productive year for Loving Stitches.

In January and February we made 25 sweaters for Guideposts, which sends them to third world countries.

During March & April we made 13 prayer shawls that are given by our church to people who need comfort and the feeling that God's love is with them.

May is always the month we use all of our small amounts of yarn to make 7 X 9 inch patches that are sent to Warm Up America. They take these patches and make blankets out of them and send them to areas that have experienced a disaster.

We usually take a break in the summer. But this year during June, July & August, 80 items (hats, scarfs & mittens) were made for children for Dutchess Outreach to give to those in need.

The September & October project was hats, scarves & mittens, a total of 73 items, for the Homeless Shelter.

In November 15 baby blankets were delivered to

Care Net for women who elect to keep their babies. Three cheers for the busiest month of the year, December, when 20 lap blankets were made for delivery to a local nursing home.

Active members of our group are Anneliese Schmid, Amy Liang, Rosa Dogan, Anna Boffie, Lorraine Volk and Barby Richardson.

New members are Jessica Morsey, Joann D'Agostino, Miranda Mikhail, Michelle Frego, Heather Maillet, Kelly Langone, Doris Johansen, and the Saint or Saints who leave items in Loving Stitches' closet.

A huge thanks to the people that donate yarn. To date we have not asked the church for money to buy yarn and, as you see, we use a lot of yarn and nothing goes to waste.

Being a member of this group of dedicated women that help those in need has been a most rewarding experience. To see the smiles on the people's faces and the thanks we receive when we deliver these items makes every minute spent in God's work such a blessing.



# LOCAL MISSIONS

## FOOD PANTRY

Submitted by **Patty Coppola**

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
- spaghetti sauce
- juice
- soups
- unsweetened cereals
- oatmeal
- canned beef stew
- boxed rice
- complete pancake mix
- syrup
- canned fruit
- canned beans
- canned potatoes
- boxed mashed potatoes
- macaroni and cheese
- tuna
- canned meats such as chicken and turkey
- boxed snacks
- peanut butter
- jelly

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. Please look for the signs in the front lobby leading to the new drop off area.

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 knows 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)

## DECEMBER FOOD DRIVE

Submitted by **Lee Ann O'Conner**

### Huge Blessings From Cub Scout Pack 48

Cub Scout Pack 48's December Den Holiday meal donation was a huge success. We were able to provide meals directly to 9 families in our community. Six of these families were referred from our church members via the white bucket reach out and help request during church services on Sunday 12/14/09.

The meals included our Pack donations, fresh hams donated from Shop Rite customers and gift cards from the Hopewell Reformed Church Food Closet account.

Thank you to Shop Rite management along with their customers who were happy to work with us, donating 12 fresh hams. Any remaining hams and canned/boxed foods were delivered to the Fishkill Food Pantry prior to Christmas, along with all the generous food donations received at Hopewell Reformed Church.

# INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

## PASTOR CANDE FROM MEXICO VISITS HRC

Submitted by Lourdes Kleid



On Missions Sunday we were blessed by visiting Pastor and wife, Candelario and Angelica Quiñones from Ensenada, Mexico. Paster Cande, as he is affectionately called, has had strong connections to HRC for several years.

Jen Nieves and Rachel Flanagan spent a summer in Mexico with the Quiñones family. Pastor Taylor refers to Pastor Cande as his daughter Hilary's Mexican father. Hilary attends his church while working at the Gabriel House. Our youth have been partnering with Pastor's church "Roca Salvacion" for several years and are now helping to build a new church as the old one

is deteriorating. This summer our youth will again return to continue in that project. They will soon be accepting sponsor money towards building supplies.

Pastor Cande was in awe of our church history. He was really moved by how evident the presence of God is at HRC. "Mexico is celebrating its 200th anniversary of its independence and your church is older than that!"



# CHRIST CARE

## MY CHRISTCARE GROUP - THE LEADER'S PERSPECTIVE

Submitted by Nancy Herrmann

We meet on Wednesdays, 12:45-2:30 pm

We are reading and discussing  
*The Power of a Woman's Words* by Sharon Jaynes

Our missional service is the *House of Faith Domestic Violence Shelter*

Our group is a bunch of fun-loving moms with children who vary in age from elementary school all the way up to older ones who are married and have children of their own!

We welcomed 3 new members this year - Jennifer Diehl, Cynthia Salberg, and Joann Zannelli.

We were thrilled to welcome BACK our dear amiga, Durinda Blanchfield, after her two-year stay in Spain. She was able to do our book studies with us, and share her joys and concerns, via email during those two years, but we missed her terribly and are so happy to have her back with us in person.



OUR CHRISTMAS BRUNCH DECEMBER 16TH

We break for the summer months June-August when the kids are out of school.

## MY CHRISTCARE GROUP - A NEW MEMBER'S PERSPECTIVE

Submitted by Cynthia Salberg

I am a new member who was welcomed lovingly by this great group of women.

Every week we practice the covenant of ChristCare -

1 Biblical Equipping: We are reading *The Power of a Woman's Words* along with a workbook which involves questions and discussions.

2 We listen to each other for prayer requests and/or praises.

3 We discuss our missional services.

It is like no other group I have ever been in and I feel blessed to be a part of it. There is a level of respect, kindness and love that is truly an example of living out Christ's love for each other. I have been a member of the Hopewell Reformed Church for over a year and wanted to get involved with a group for a while - and I am so glad I took that step.

# A NOTE FROM THE ELDERS

## THE ELDERS INVITE YOU TO WORSHIP WITH US DURING LENT

Submitted by Stephanie Patton

Jan Bushey has often talked about Max Lucado's books. But it wasn't until a few years ago that I got around to reading "Traveling Light." An interesting title by itself, but it was the subtitle that caught my eye: "Releasing the burdens you were never intended to bear, the promise of Psalm 23."

Hardly any words in the Old or New Testament are as well loved as this familiar psalm, and I thought I knew it pretty well. At the bedsides of the dying, and at so many funerals, we've heard these words spoken to comfort the grieving. But Max Lucado sees a new dimension in the familiar, an affirmation of life, with God as our shepherd. And he talks of "traveling light," meaning trusting God with the burdens we were never intended to bear alone.

We all travel the path we call life with too much luggage, though not necessarily the kind we grab off a carousel in the airport. Max says we lug around

the suitcase of guilt and a sack of discontent. We drape a duffel bag of weariness on one shoulder and a hanging bag of grief on the other. And then we add on a backpack of doubt, an overnight bag of loneliness, and a trunk of fear. No wonder we're tired at the end of the day. Lugging luggage is exhausting. But the psalmist wrote that we don't need to travel alone, because "He leads us in the paths of righteousness."

He talks of "traveling light," meaning trusting God with the burdens we were never intended to bear alone.

Max says the path we follow is a narrow, winding trail up a steep hill, at the top of which is a cross. At the base of this cross he sees countless bags full of a multitude of sins and burdens and disappointments, where people have laid them down. He likens Calvary to a place where all the heavy stuff of our past lives will be "composted," made clean, pure and spotless, forgiven. Isn't compost awesome?



# HRC JOURNEY

## ODYSSEY BRIGHTENS A COLD WINTER DAY!

Submitted by Jan Bushey

Pictures by Linda Zieres

Folks attending the Odyssey service on January 24 worked together to make a snowmen craft. With wood donated by Williams Lumber in Hopewell and parts cut and assembled by the Thursday morning ChristCare group led by Jan Bushey, each person received a kit.



Thanks to helping hands from HRC, the project was both fun and successful as our Odyssey special needs friends met many new people.

Thanks also, to a crew of painters and band saw and drill press operators. (David Bushey, Silas and Jordan LaBorde, Steve Snider, Linda Zieres, Lynn Morrison, Stephanie Reynolds, Carole Kosakowski, and Fred Zieres)



# ChristCare Groups at HRC

## SUNDAYS

7:30 - 8:45 AM Bill Lavacca 223-7759 Men  
**Beginnings**

## TUESDAYS

6:30 - 8:00 AM Henry Mikhail 223-5461 Men  
**Ephesians**

9:30 - 11:00 AM Pam Hansen 226-1046 Women  
 Lisa Prentiss 889-8469  
**Mountains of Spices by Hannah Hernard**

7:00 - 9:00 PM Sarah Phillips 358-9156 Young Adult Women  
**Thessalonians**

7:15 - 8:45 PM Susan Nieves 592-0764 Women  
 (1st & 3rd)  
**Phillippians**

## THURSDAYS

8:00 - 10:00 AM David Bushey 221-6123 Mixed  
**Ephesians: Wholeness for a Broken Heart**

9:00 - 10:30 AM Jan Bushey 221-6123 Women  
**Cast of Characters by Max Lucado**

9:30 - 11:00 AM Beth Brofman 221-9647 Women  
**Bioethics**

1:15 - 2:45 PM Karen Gomba 226-2867 Women  
 (1st, 2nd & 3rd)  
**Bad Girls of the Bible**

6:30 - 8:30 PM Kevin Phillips 914-882-7729 Young Adults-Men  
**Emotionally Healthy Spirituality**

## SATURDAYS

**Starting in the Spring - group for cyclists**  
 7:30-10:00AM Julie Martyn-Baker 227-2706 Mixed  
 (every other) Rev. Holbrook 227-0402  
**Romans 8**

## MONDAYS

9:00 - 10:30 AM Jim Collins 226-5572 Men  
**Gospel of John**

9:30 - 11:00 AM Barbara Cassaro 226-5057 Women  
**Ruth**

7:30 - 9:00 PM Michelle Ryan 452-3640 Women  
 (every other)  
**Book of Acts**

## WEDNESDAYS

6:30 - 8:00 AM Bill Levy 227-8301 Men  
**Paul by Charles Swindoll**

8:30 - 10:00 AM Doug Archer 226-3514 Mixed  
**For Job Seekers**

9:00 - 10:30 AM Jeanne Campbell 227-1465 Women  
**Power of a Praying Woman by Stormie Omartian**

12:30 - 2:45 PM Nancy Herrmann 226-7824 Women  
**The Power of a Woman's Words by Sharon Jaynes**

7:00 - 8:30 PM Tony Congi 227-2739 Mixed  
 (2nd & 4th)  
**The Prodigal God**

## FRIDAYS

7:00-8:45 AM Bruce Pearson 298-8251 Men  
**Old & New Testaments, alternate weeks**

7:30 - 9:00 AM Rev. Holbrook 227-0402 Mid-life Men  
**Gospel of Luke**

9:30 - 11:00 AM Lucia Eckhardt 221-8597 Women  
**Having a Mary Spirit by Joanna Weaver**

7:00 - 8:30 PM Theresa Gerlach 896-0821 Mixed  
 (every other)  
**Survey of Minor Prophets**

7:00 - 9:00 PM Rick Rieland 223-4588 Couples  
 (every other)  
**John**

7:30 - 9:30 PM Mike Boyd 227-3019 Couples  
 (every other)  
**James**

Current studies are listed in **bold type**.

For information on ChristCare groups for teens, please contact Randy Prentiss.

# BIRTHDAYS: MARCH, APRIL & MAY

## MARCH

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
Tom Jacobs	03/08
Chris Snider	03/09
Paul Pearson	03/10
Michelle Lambeth	03/11
Pauline Raine	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
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
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

## APRIL

Barbara Dailey	04/01
Judy Phillips	04/01
Stephen Zammikiel	04/01
Ryan Gomba	04/02
Doris Bates	04/03
Lauren Nelson	04/03
Ellen Bosan	04/04
Maxwell Kleid	04/04
Nicole Wells	04/04
Cynthia Salberg	04/05
Kacee Cooke	04/06
Ray Budryk	04/07
Jim Holder	04/07
Millie Lambeth	04/11
Caroline Ryan	04/11
Matthew Scagnelli	04/11
Emma Schueren	04/11
Paula Zammikiel	04/11

Diane Ackley	04/12
Lucia Eckhardt	04/12
Angelina Lizardi	04/12
Beth Seregely	04/12
Michael Comolli	04/13
Brennan Gerlach	04/13
Elaine Hurlie	04/13
Joe Wilson	04/13
Traci Clark	04/14
Jack Dorler	04/14
Sarah Phillips	04/14
Mike Reynolds	04/14
Chris Cassaro	04/15
Bill Reschke	04/15
Ellen Saint-Louis	04/15
Allison Smoot	04/15
Caroline Galati	04/16
Kirsten Moore	04/16
Joan Alkiewicz	04/17
Cindy Davis	04/17
Jane Godfrey	04/17
Youngsung Sim	04/17
Kristen Cherry	04/18
Aidan Gold	04/18
Doris Johansen	04/18
Del Lee	04/18
Caitlin Stark	04/18
Jared Bean	04/19
Riley Feehan	04/19
Norma Jacobs	04/19
Zach Warner	04/19
Frank Cherry	04/20
Justin Connolly	04/20
George Gomba	04/20
Kevin Ackley	04/21
Karina Arelt	04/21
Lorraine Valk	04/21
Billy Bath II	04/22
Kevin Phillips	04/22
Ben Ryan	04/22
Kelly Sawyer	04/22
Jameson Hanna	04/24
Danielle Pecoraro	04/24

Tippy Stensrud	04/24
Sara Irvin	04/25
Andrew Zammikiel	04/25
Sandra Coe	04/27
Patty Coppola	04/27
Austin Seipp	04/27
Allie Wagner	04/27
Ethan Coe	04/28
Randy Federighi	04/28
Les Jackson	04/28
C.J. MacKay	04/29
John Goetz Jr.	04/30
Stu Silvern	04/30
Katie Villanova	04/30

## MAY

Mason Gilbert	05/01
Daniel Hitsman	05/01
Wayne Morrison	05/01
Kerri Roger	05/02
Anne Ryan	05/02
Jesse Schmid	05/02
Jake Slagle	05/03
Jeanne Delamater	05/04
Ariana Gulbrandsen	05/04
Dan Holder	05/04
Paul Holder	05/04
Jeremy Lovelett	05/04
Betty Munson	05/04
Bob Arelt	05/05

Lynn Beal	05/05
Connor Clark	05/05
Brittney Wagner	05/05
Robin Fasciglione	05/06
Kenny Silvern	05/06
Chris Gates	05/07
Annabelle Quimby	05/07
Katelyn Schuster	05/07
Diana Lawson	05/08
Joyce Rice	05/08
Janet Geary	05/10
Courtney Martin-Crawford	05/11
Michael Miller	05/11
Emma Beals	05/13
Emily Gullick	05/13
Dani Rieland	05/13
Byron Roger	05/13
Jacobus Smit	05/13
Meredith Angyal	05/14
Brian Bernard	05/14
Nick Boyd	05/15
Barbara Cassaro	05/15
Bill Newman	05/15
Tara Asher	05/17
Lisa Dean	05/17
Rebecca Martin	05/17
Paul Steenson	05/17
Andrew Keane	05/18
Bonnie Luhrs	05/18
Katie Mekeel	05/18

Nance Williford	05/18
Christine Ross	05/19
Graham Boyd	05/20
Richie Hoffman	05/20
Christopher Juliano	05/20
Lisa McDonnell	05/20
Lauren Saint-Louis	05/20
Donna Bernstein	05/21
Anthony DiGregorio	05/22
Phyllis Forde	05/22
Marjorie Sawyer	05/22
Edwina Pratt	05/23
Elizabeth Saint-Louis	05/23
Beverly Williams	05/23
Samantha Ferguson	05/24
Curtis Smith	05/24
Courtney Hansen	05/25
Norm Bell	05/26
Ryan Hayes	05/26
Jimmy Ferguson	05/27
Ron Ruvo	05/27
Nico Batkay	05/28
Joanne Doney	05/28
Zack Narbaiz	05/29
Josh Nieves	05/29
Gerard Stark	05/30
Samantha Blanchfield	05/31
Madeline Jennings	05/31
Kathie Mace	05/31
Frieda Sawyer	05/31



# STAFF & TEAMS

## PASTORAL CARE

Taylor Holbrook  
Pam Hansen  
Nance Williford  
Karen Nuessle  
Sara Irvin  
Carol O'Malley

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

## OPERATIONS

Karen Gomba  
John Barach  
Birgit Chisholm  
Lisa Ruvo  
Cyndy Warren  
David Schuster  
Anne Jackson  
Linda Smith  
Gary Cassaro  
Paula Engel  
Tom Csillag  
Gerry Richardson  
Kevin Warren  
Diane Morey  
Ben Roosa  
Karen Gomba  
Carl Nuessle  
Duncan Chisholm  
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

## WORSHIP & ARTS

Sherri Hondorp

Worship & Arts Coordinator  
Organist/Choir Director  
Music Team  
Usher Team

Rich Lotze

## OUTREACH

Mark Mast  
Kevin Warren  
Patty Coppola &  
LeeAnn O'Connor  
Toni Viau  
Barbie Richardson  
Bruce Pearson

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

## 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

Pat Blanchfield  
Shireen Gilbert  
Stephanie Patton  
Kevin Warren  
Matt Williams

## DEACONS

Mike Boyd  
Gary Cassaro  
Henry Mikhail  
Mike Reynolds  
Tina Smith

## OFFICERS

Taylor Holbrook  
Kevin Warren  
Tina Smith

*President*  
*Vice-President*  
*Clerk*

## Phone Numbers

Office (845) 221.9542

Fax (845) 227.1908

## Youth House

Rev. Mark Mast-  
(845) 226.3514

Rev. Randy Prentiss -  
(845) 226.3514

## Bright Beginnings

(845) 227.8671

### Next Issue SUMMER

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

**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**

# CARE MINISTRY

## STEPHEN MINISTRY CONTINUES TO GROW

Submitted by Pam Hansen, Coordinator of Care

Stephen Ministry is led by a leader team of five people who share various responsibilities. For the last several years, Sarah Irvin has faithfully served as leader of the team. Her passion and desire to support the ministry toward continued growth is evident. Though she will continue to serve as a Stephen Minister, Sarah has made a personal decision to step down from leadership, enabling her more time to spend with her sweetheart Jim. Sarah, thank you for all your years of service to Stephen Ministry!



leader team and have returned from their training with new vitality and ideas for us. We welcome them to the team!

Also in January, we begin a new training session for new Stephen Ministers. Our trainees include Norma Jacobs, Ray LeGrand, Marjory Fiorile, Jane Schlick, Adam Izzo, Michelle Comolli, and Cheryl Barkley. The class is filled with energy and folks anxious to learn more about caring for others. They will be commissioned in the Spring.

We also thank Elke Marsh who has been dedicated and served as a Stephen Minister and Stephen Leader for the last few years.

We are very excited about the growth in Stephen Ministry!

In January, Carl Nuessle and Betsy Dommreis spent a week in Orlando, Florida training to become Stephen Leaders. They will fill these empty spots on the

If you, or anyone you know, needs a Stephen Minister, please contact me. We are here to serve you!

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### DID YOU KNOW?

HRC has a NEW FIRST AID KIT fully stocked and ready for use!



Located just inside the kitchen and mounted on the wall on the left, it is easily accessible. Many thanks to Karen Nuessle who researched our needs to find the perfect one for us. Should you need to use the first aid kit, note that there are descriptions for its contents. If you have used the First Aid kit and notice that the supplies are getting low, please let us know.

# LOCAL MISSIONS

## KIDS HOPE

Submitted by Karen Gomba, Co-Director

We are now up and running at Gayhead Elementary School! When we first started in the middle of January, not every mentor had yet been assigned a student. But we are happy to report that we now have 23 kids who have been referred to the program by their teachers, which means that each mentor has been paired with a child who will benefit from one hour a week with a caring adult. We also have a prayer partner for each mentor who will pray weekly for the child and their relationship with their mentor.

Thanks to everyone who donated supplies to get us started. We received so many wonderful books, games and activities to support our time together with the kids. They are greatly appreciated!

We'd love your continued prayers for this program, and for the hope that young lives may be changed. And if you are interested in becoming a mentor or prayer partner, stay tuned for upcoming opportunities to sign up to join this wonderful ministry!



## THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD

Submitted by Stephanie Patton

When getting ready for your spring house cleaning, the Wednesday morning Christ Care Group suggests you consider these common “green” household cleaner alternatives suggested by Consumer Reports. You will enjoy the satisfaction of knowing you are not adding potentially dangerous chemicals to the earth, and you will be saving money.

### *Ammonia*

Add 1 pint of rubbing alcohol to ½ cup of soapy ammonia, then add enough water to make a gallon. Pour into spray bottles, use to clean glass.

### *Baking soda*

Use to remove stains from tile, glass, and china; clean inside the fridge; remove baked-on food from pots and pans.

### *Borax*

A freshener and deodorizer in laundry.

### *Castile soap*

Made from vegetable oil. For general use on countertops and other surfaces.

### *Cream of tartar*

A mild acid that can lift stains from sinks and tubs, and remove spots from aluminum cookware.

### *Lemon juice*

Lightens stains and removes tarnish from brass, copper, bronze, and aluminum.

### *White vinegar*

Helps kill germs; removes some carpet stains; cleans coffeemakers and chrome. To clean wood floors, use 1 cup of vinegar per pail of hot water.

CONSUMER REPORTS MAGAZINE ISSUE: FEBRUARY 2009

# FELLOWSHIP

## KITCHEN COURTESIES

Submitted by Paula Engel

To all who use the kitchen, **PLEASE:**

1. Wash, dry and PUT AWAY all dishes, utensils, carafes, trays, supplies etc.
2. WASH coffee pots, large and small, dry and reassemble.
3. Clean the microwave oven after use.
4. Put baskets back where you found them.
5. Leave the counters clear of bags, food, crumbs etc, and wipe up all stains.
6. Refrigerator is not for long term storage of food. If you leave items for other people to eat, please mark as such, and date. Wipe up spills.
7. Use paper towels (not dish towels) to wipe up spills (coffee, soda, tea etc.).
8. Help, by taking home dish towels that are wet and dirty. Wash and return.
9. Those people in charge of events who use the kitchen, check to make sure that the refrigerator and kitchen is in order before you leave.
10. Put all empty (washed out) bottles (plastic and glass) and metal disposables in recycle can (near the dishwasher).
11. Do not leave behind dishes that you brought from home. We accumulate so many and do not know what to do with them.

If we all pitch in and help, we can keep the kitchen in great shape, and it will always be ready for the next person to use. We are fortunate to have such a nice kitchen. Let's keep it in good order.

Thank you.



Church  
Kitchen

# DIRECTOR'S PAGE

## OPERATIONS

Submitted by Karen Gomba, Director



### ARE YOU LOOKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Part of my job is helping to “connect people to their call”, and it may be what I enjoy most! In this issue, I’d like to feature two specific ministries where you can make a difference.



The first is our Community Maintenance Program. Certainly we would love to have volunteers to help with the construction and repair projects, but we know there are other folks

who want to get involved who do not feel they have the skills to work at a site. So here are some additional ways that you can contribute:

- Expense Tracking Coordinator - work with our site leads to keep track of our onsite expenditures, fill out expense forms, make sure receipts are turned in, and report to the CMP team on expenses for each site.
- Lunch Coordinator - make sure that the work teams have lunch provided.
- Donated Material Coordinator - keep track of what has been donated or offered to CMP in terms of materials, appliances, cars, etc. and where they are.
- Site Evaluator - do technical evaluations of work to be done on new site applications.
- Visitor Coordinator - make sure we have a visitor for each new site. CMP visitors are people who go to new sites to spend time with and listen to the resident.

If you feel a calling to help with this amazing ministry, please contact me (at [k.gomba@hrcrca.org](mailto:k.gomba@hrcrca.org)) or Kevin Warren (at [kwwarren@gmail.com](mailto:kwwarren@gmail.com)) and we’ll get you started!

The second opportunity to make a difference is with Love INC. We are a partner church in this regional ministry and, at a recent meeting, I learned of the following ways we can serve:

- 2nd Annual Cookie Walk – bake cookies, shop for cookies, spread the word about this fundraiser or volunteer to set up or staff the event, which will be held on Saturday, March 27th from 10:00 – 2:00 at Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church.
- Furniture Ministry – donate furniture, deliver furniture (with strong bodies and/or trucks), make phone calls to coordinate pickup and delivery, repair furniture, make or coordinate site visits.
- Personal Care Ministry – donate items (I have a list), pack bags, or deliver items.

If you’d like to learn more, or would like to volunteer, you can speak to me (the HRC liaison), or you may contact Love INC directly at [services@mhinc.org](mailto:services@mhinc.org) or 471-0102.



# DIRECTOR'S PAGE

## OUTREACH

Submitted by Mark Mast, Director



### “A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME . . . NOT!”

Like it or not, Christians have their own lingo that we Christians do not always understand. One of those phrases that is thrown around is “Kingdom of God” (I prefer Reign of God because it is more universal and has fewer boundaries, but a rose by any other name . . .). I know I talk a lot about the reign of God and anyone who has sat in a meeting or worship with me knows my favorite question, “Where have you seen Jesus this last week?” This is a reign of God question.

When it comes to understanding the reign of God, many Christians look to the reign that is to come. Many put all of their focus on either what happens after death or on the second coming of Christ. I do not disagree with these ideas, but I think it is a very narrow understanding of the reign of God. In the Reformed tradition, we believe that Satan was defeated at the cross. The time between the resurrection of Jesus Christ and his second coming is like the time between D-day and the official end of World War II. We knew we won, yet there was still some fighting going on. As a Christian who believes that the reign of God was fulfilled in Jesus Christ and will be seen and recognized by all in his second coming, **I believe that the reign of God is here and now.** In fact, I would go so far as to say if you believe in the power of God, then you must believe that the reign of God is here and now.

The problem is we have not been taught to see the reign of God that is all around. In Mark 1:14, Jesus says, “The time has come, the kingdom of God draws near, repent and believe.” Simply saying, “Where

Jesus is, there is the reign of God.” Now I have heard some folks say, “We need to bring Jesus to the world.” I think this misses the boat a bit as well. When I go out into the world, I am not bringing anything. I have been invited by Christ to join Him where He already is. Jesus is in the world, and if we assume He is in the same places He was when He walked this earth, then I expect to find Jesus in the churches and the homeless shelters, in the homes of faithful followers and with the hookers standing on the corner, in ChristCare groups and at the local pub, etc. If I don’t go, Jesus is still there. What I miss are the blessings of being used by God to make the reign of God seen throughout the world.

So why do I love to ask people where they have seen Jesus? It is the only way we are going to learn how to see Him. The world calls Jesus by many names. Some say coincidence while others call it karma. Some say it is human nature while others call it rare. I know that in all of these places it is Jesus. We need to be there “calling a spade a spade.” If it LOOKS like Jesus, SOUNDS like Jesus, SMELLS like Jesus . . . THEN IT IS JESUS!. And in this situation, “Jesus, by any other name . . .” doesn’t cut it.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to make disciples of all people. First, we must get out there. Then we must learn to see the work Jesus is doing. Finally, we join in and enjoy the ride. Blessings await, but to start, I challenge you to end your day by answering one question, “**Where have I seen Jesus (the reign of God) today?**”



# AND MY FINAL POINT . . .

From the Lead Pastor



## A “Both/And” Vision

Many of you know that I love a buffet. The opportunity to choose both this and that, rather than this or that, makes me very happy in my eating. As I have gotten older and the pounds go on easier, I no longer choose the Chinese buffet. This is a good thing for my waistline, but in my leadership I am still a both/and guy rather than an either/or guy. So as I share with you this vision for HRC, keep the buffet in mind.

Both/and has precedent in scripture. The blessing of Abraham is famous for its both/and promise. God says, *You will be blessed and through you all the nations of the world will be blessed.* We are blessed to be a blessing. Jesus says the law is summed up in both/and. When he was asked which is the greatest commandment, he said, love God this way: love others as you love yourself. He did not choose either/or. Our own mission statement is both/and: To know Christ and to make him known.

**The blessing of Abraham is famous for its both/and promise.**

In the church many believe that you have to be either/or: traditional or contemporary, world mission or local mission, evangelism or discipleship, growing large or planting new. At HRC, for the last number of years, we have not accepted either/or and we will continue to be a both/and place.

### *Worship*

In our worship we have been guided by Paul’s vision of “being all things to all people so that by all means we might win some.” We do it all for the sake of the gospel that we might share in its blessings. I remember that when we started the Gatherings service on Sunday morning, I shared the hope that some day HRC would have seven different styles of worship, not just two. This year as Sherri Hondorp talks about adding a Saturday night worship service we are looking at seven different styles from Gatherings to Odyssey, to Foundations, Common Ground, Youth Worship and Journey. It is great to see so many styles of worship at HRC. I hope in seven years, we have seven more options.

### *Planting and Partnering*

2010 sees us launch a covenant partnership with the Arlington Reformed Church. Randy Prentiss will serve Arlington in the role as pastor and return to his primary work at Hopewell, which is leading the youth ministry. It is exciting to see this opportunity to help another church in our classis (our grouping of churches). It is a way we can be a blessing as we are blessed. We continue to converse with the Beacon Reformed Church, as well, in exploring how we can partner with them in ministry.

This will not come at the expense of our planting work. Odyssey is the surprise blessing



of 2009, and we hope in the year and years ahead to build on Odyssey and help other congregations plant special needs communities.

### *Spiritual Growth*

Shireen Gilbert, Mike Boyd and Neal Marsh have been working closely with Randy in developing our spiritual growth model at HRC. It is a season for us to work at knowing Christ in deeper ways by meeting people where they are and helping them grow into all that God wants them to be. I appreciate the challenge of both/and in this area as I would always look for the opportunities to make Christ known, but that only comes when the foundation to move out in evangelism is built strongly on discipleship.

In making Christ known we are planning an evangelistic outreach event like Alpha that will invite folks to explore the Christian faith. That is being planned for the season following Easter.

### *Mission*

I think that we are poised for a missional revolution to take place through HRC. Under Mark Mast's leadership, the understanding that everything is mission is being the vision placed before us. More and more our ChristCare groups are taking up the call and we see the touch of Christ in tangible ways being evidenced around us. Kids Hope is an example of that happening, and CMP continues to grow. Discussion is developing on how we can make this local component of our missions even broader and more effective.

### *Caring Ministry*

We are seeing new leaders in Stephen Ministry step forward and Pam Hansen continues to engage more and more people in the areas of perceived needs and support in time of crisis. From divorce recovery to parenting teens, we are starting some very practical support groups that reach people in our church and outside.

**I think that we are poised for a missional revolution to take place through HRC.**

### *Operations*

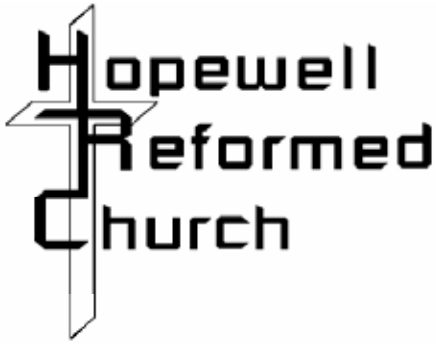
2010 saw our deacons and finance team working hard to get a budgeting model that works for the ways that our church is growing. We hope to see our income grow at Hopewell and through the communities that we have planted. One decision that we need to make is how we go forward with building plans on site. We want to see the home base grow and our church facility be all that it can be. It is a challenge in these economic times to move in that direction, but whatever the case, we do know that we want to see the ministry on site at Hopewell continue to grow in the practical ways of giving and in the space we use.

### *2010*

So in a couple of pages we outline some of the vision that will be coming our way this year. Consistory will be spending a day away in March to listen to God and understand how all these pieces fit in place. We won't take consistory to the Chinese Buffet to eat that day, but we will be looking for a smorgasbord of blessing as we seek to be a blessing others.

*In Christ,*

*Taylor W. Colbrook*



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## Our Sunday Worship Services

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

*\*Sunday School and Nursery provided at these services*

### HOLY WEEK

April 1, **Maundy Thursday** (7:30 PM)

April 2, **Good Friday** (7:30 PM)

April 4, **Easter**

6:30 AM - *Sunrise Service* at **Tymor Park**, followed by breakfast at the park

8:45 AM - *The Gathering* Contemporary  
Easter Worship at **Beekman Road**

10:00 AM - HRC journey worship at  
**Tymor Park**

10:30 AM - *Foundations* Traditional  
Easter Worship at **Beekman Road**

4:00 PM - *Common Ground* Easter Worship  
at **129 Ray Blvd., Poughkeepsie, NY**

# To know Christ, and to make Him known.