

For unto us a child is born,  
unto us a son is given:  
and the government shall be  
upon his shoulder:  
and his name shall be called  
**WONDERFUL, COUNSELLER,  
THE MIGHTY GOD,  
THE EVERLASTING FATHER,  
THE PRINCE OF PEACE**

Isaiah 9:6

In this Issue: **“Breaking the 500 Barrier”**

*Arts & Worship*

*Odyssey*

Bright Beginnings

*Pumpkin Party  
Fall Sunday School  
Christmas Pageant*

*We Approach God*

Homeless Shelter

*More Than  
a Box of  
Pasta*

*Consistory Corner*

Leadership Community Meeting Summary

**MEET WARREN AND LYNETTE JEE**

Supporting Our Missionary

Christian Kids Corner



Hopewell Reformed Church

*to know Christ and to make Him known*

## Notes & Letters

I would like to thank the congregation of Hopewell for all the cards and encouragement through my recent stay at Wingate and Plant. Your prayers and support are support for me as I return to my home.

Thank you.

Jacobus Smit



*Thank you for your kindness.*

*I don't know how to thank you and the church for your support. It means so very much to so many - you may never know.*

*On behalf The Hopewell Jct. Group of A.A.,  
Chris Schraud*

*Our family would like to Praise God and thank Him for our wonderful church family at Hopewell Reformed Church.*

*During Peter's illness, you have loved and cared for us throughout our journey. There is no greater expression of God's love than His love shining through others when they care for, pray for, lift up and walk along side those in need. There is no better church family than HRC, who has blessed us for so long. The Word says, "we rejoice with those that rejoice and we mourn with those that mourn" and you have done that with us.*

*Thank you all: those who prepared the wonderful meal for us, those who served so many wonderful family and friends, those who helped make the memorial service that celebrated Peter's life with music and song so beautiful and those who blessed us with their video technology skills...thank you.*

*God's blessings always,*

*Judy Jaeger and our daughters, Veronica and Kristin, and their families*

# Christian Kids Corner

## PUMPKIN PARTY

Children's Ministries seeks to provide opportunities for young families to have fun together at church and to connect with others through family events like the Pumpkin Party. What fun we had at this year's Pumpkin Party! Before we enjoyed a meal together, the children and their families played games and created fall treasures. They made jingle-bell spiders and candy corn garlands and decorated mini pumpkins that they found



hiding throughout the Sunday school rooms. Pumpkin bowling was a big hit and the giant spider web was a challenge for all ages. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the party a wonderful time of fellowship.

## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The children of Hopewell Reformed Church invite you to worship with them as they lead us to Bethlehem and remind us of God's gift of love in Jesus Christ.



## FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are off to a great start of a new year of Sunday School thanks to our wonderful teachers. They faithfully serve the Lord, this church, our children and their families with love and grace.

I encourage you to take the time to get to know your children's Sunday school teachers, to pray for them and to encourage them. They play an important part in nurturing our children in the faith, sharing Biblical truth and helping them to know God and enjoy each other.



## A NOTE ABOUT ATTENDANCE

It has been interesting to track Sunday School attendance this fall. Throughout October, there

were over a hundred children in Sunday School. On any given Sunday though, there was an average of 65 children. We strongly believe that consistent Sunday School attendance allows children to grow in the faith as well as in relationship with each other and their teachers. If children make friends at church, it is where they want to be now and into their teenage years. God bless you as you seek to raise your children in the faith.



# Arts & Worship

## **Odyssey** Submitted by Rachel Snider

I confess that I spend many days wishing that I weren't living at home. Don't get me wrong, there are parts I do love. I love seeing my parents on a day to day basis. I love the beautiful Mid-Hudson valley and I love the small amount of friends I have left. But, the best part of living at home is being involved in Hopewell Reformed Church. I am so blessed to have such a strong church body and community of believers to look to and guide me on my journey.

One of the ministries I've been involved with is called Odyssey. Odyssey is a church plant of HRC for people with cognitive and physical disabilities. It started about 3 years ago with 4 people and has grown into a congregation of approximately 80-100 people. This ministry has been such a blessing. We're talking about a population that is often over looked. Are people with disabilities brought to church? Sometimes. By their families growing up. But, once they are older and are placed in group homes run by the state there no longer is an emphasis to bring them to church. Not to mention many church services are difficult for people with disabilities. To sit still. To be quiet. To sing. To hold hands and speak to one another. To try and understand a sermon.

I, of course, speak from experience. I remember many years growing up with my brother where my Mom would spend the whole service making sure Jamie behaved and wasn't too loud or have an explosive episode. This is where Odyssey is incredible and the people have really been committed to this ministry. We sing. We have a sermon. We pray. We make a craft. All on a level that people with developmental challenges can understand. So what if people talk during the service? Or have to get up to walk around? We don't care.

And let me tell you, neither does God. I have never been in a place where God is more tangible than in an Odyssey service. I selfishly say that I probably get more out of an Odyssey service than any of the people with disabilities. Jesus is with the weak. Oh yes.

I bring this to your attention today because on Wednesday night we changed things up a bit. Our church has been studying Philippians and how to be joyful through all the days of our lives. We have been

conducting small group Bible studies for the past five weeks. The first four weeks were at people's houses, but this week we decided to have the last Bible study at GreenBrier, a nursing home for people with disabilities.

I can't tell you how excited this nursing home was to have us. If there's one thing you need to know about people who have disabilities, they love love love to show people where they live. Well, most, except my brother who would just prefer to live in a dark cave by himself (haha.) But don't worry, we "force" him to socialize. We had 26 people, not including the 5 of us visiting!

I speak of this night because I had the realization, as we were teaching about keeping joy through the hard times, that my faith fails in comparison to many within this population. I don't want to generalize, but it seems everyone who spoke had such a pure, uncomplicated, deep belief in Christ. I believe that Jesus speaks to each of us in our own language. And let me tell you, I am convinced that some of these people actually see Him. That He chooses to reveal himself in a visual way.

I also realized that intelligence gets in the way of our belief. We try to rationalize or find proof of our belief. God doesn't ask us to do that. He asks us to believe, wholeheartedly and without reservation, to have faith. My scientific/medical brain constantly wants to have proof. Whether it's some crazy way the Holy Spirit has worked in my life or proof that this world just could not have been made without God. I find myself envious of how Odyssey people believe and worship without reservation. Shouting to their maker with hands held high. Not caring what people think. Trusting that they are in the hands of the one who loves them most.

I pray that we may all be more like Odyssey people. That we may love Jesus without reservation or doubts. Without caring what other people think of us. That we may follow His will for us. That we (I) may stop looking for earthly proof to his existence, but look around us, to the people who surround us, and the Holy Spirit that is shining through in normal day to day life.

# Bright Beginnings

## Bright Beginnings News Submitted by Faye Lotze

We were happy to welcome back all of the three year olds from last year's classes and some new friends as well. We currently have two class sessions for four year olds and one morning class for three year olds and are hoping to be able to add an afternoon class for 3's in January.

September and October were busy months. Helping the children adjust to the school schedule, separate from Mom and Dad, and make new friends were our top priority. The 3's learned about colors and shapes, and the 4's made weather wheels and studied forms of transportation. On the first day of Chapel, the 4's met all three pastors. They have had lessons about creation and have enjoyed singing Bible songs. Both age groups have participated in seasonal activities. The 4's went apple picking at Meadowbrook Farms and pumpkin picking at Secor's Farm, made applesauce and decorated their pumpkins. The 3's had an Apple Festival in the Fellowship Hall and chose pumpkins in



our own pumpkin patch in the playground.

Kevin Geysen and Zach Gray, from the Hillside Lake Fire Department, spoke to the 4's about fire prevention. They showed them the equipment on the fire truck and Zach, dressed in turn-out gear, reminded the children not to be afraid of or hide from fire fighters. The children tried on fire helmets and were thrilled when Kevin turned on the lights and the siren!

Slayton Studio photographed students, siblings and class groups, and this year, for the first time, also photographed family groups in the evening. Outgrown



shoes were collected for children in the Dominican Republic and families filled shoeboxes for the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. The children were screened by a speech therapist and an optometrist and parents were informed about any potential difficulties and referred for further evaluation.

We are looking forward to the holidays and our Thanksgiving feasts with our school friends and our Christmas programs for our parents and grandparents. For information about our school, please call 227-8671 or 227-7316 or just stop by the classroom for a visit!



# Consistory Corner

## Leadership Community Meeting Summary Submitted by Shireen Gilbert

A Leadership Community Meeting was held on October 25, 2011. The purpose of the meeting was to give the leaders and staff of HRC the opportunity to share their goals for the coming year and to give HRC members an opportunity to make comments, ask questions or raise concerns about those goals or other issues. The meeting opened with prayer and devotion from the 40 Days of Joy study of Philippians.

Pastor Taylor Holbrook presented goals for improving the vitality of Worship. He will lead a new Worship Team. One goal is to have a combined average of 500 active members attending services at all of HRC's worship communities from September through May. Discipleship goals include forming a Discipleship Team, a Mentoring Ministry for new believers, and increasing small group participation to 65% of worship attendance. Building plans need to be re-evaluated for the space where the youth house currently stands to plan a financially feasible building better suited for the needs of the Youth Ministry.

Pastor of Outreach Mark Mast announced that the Odyssey Service at Tymor Park will now meet weekly and possibly move to a site closer to Poughkeepsie. Tymor may become a training site for other churches doing special needs services. There will be Wednesday night Worship (& Respite) services for Journey members. Common Ground will become 16 to 20 house churches that will come together twice monthly as a large group. 5th Sundays will be set aside for missional service. HRC's Elders will assist in training house church leaders for two years in discipleship. As Mark commits more time to studying, preparation and preaching, he will be looking for more volunteers to help with church operations.

Missions has been restructured into four areas, Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the World. HRC's partnership

with Sowers of the Kingdom in the Dominican Republic will continue. HRC will support Rachel Snyder, a medical missionary in the DR and Rodney and Tina Smith, missionaries in South Africa. The church will participate in Family Promise, a local ministry to care for homeless families. CMP will begin partnering with churches in Poughkeepsie. The Kid's Hope program which is currently at Gayhead Elementary School is seeking to start an afternoon program at Arlington Middle School. The Youth Mission Team has planned four trips in 2012: FUGE in Philadelphia, Stint in the DR, Mexico, and Bridge Builders in Poughkeepsie. There will be one large youth mission fundraiser to help provide funding for these trips.

Youth Pastor Randy Prentiss told the group that Youth Ministry is moving away from a "church within a church" model and is encouraging more inter-generational events and trips. HRC youth also participated in several inter-church activities including Bridge Builders. Over 72 kids attended the Fall Kick-off event at the end of September. The Junior High Retreat at Lake Champion had a total of 65 kids from HRC including the high school work crew. Several youth members are stepping into leadership and growing in their faith and commitment. Two challenges facing the Youth Ministry are better communication and finding new Sunday School teachers for Junior and Senior High during the 10:30 service. Randy feels that the new Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries will be stepping into a great spot and a solid youth program.

Pam Hansen, Care Coordinator, shared her goal to have HRC live 167 caring. Pam has developed a Care Team to oversee the caring ministries in the church. Those ministries are Stephen Ministries, Extended Care, Prayer, and Pastoral Care. The Care Team will be a springboard for new ministries and will be Pam's right hand. Neighborhood Care Groups will

launch in January. The goal is to group 15 to 20 families from all church sites and then have a coordinator of each group. The coordinators will be trained and will be the liaisons between the groups and the Care Team to identify any and all needs. A 5-week Parenting workshop will be offered in January. An Art of Marriage weekend will be offered by Mike and Caroline Boyd's Christ Care group. The HRC Women's retreat will be held in April 2012.

**B**irgit Chisholm, Church Administrator, is working to improve and expand the church website. The goal is to get more people to go to the website for information and answers to questions. The website has links to Facebook and Twitter as well as podcasts of sermons. An online member directory is now available. Birgit is developing a communication plan for both inside and outside the church.

**S**heryle Silvern, Children's Ministry Coordinator, told the group that 24 men and women are currently serving on the ministry team. They minister to over 100 children monthly with an average weekly attendance of 65. The challenge is to get more consistent week-to-week attendance so that the children build a strong relationship with God and Jesus. Sheryle is asking for ongoing prayer around this.

**W**esley Joseph, Choir Director and Organist is focusing on increasing the number of Chancel Choir and Cherubs members. Chancel Choir membership is up about 30%. Wesley is assuming more responsibilities now that the church no longer has a director of Worship and the Arts. He has begun to share with the congregation in newsletter articles HRC's worship philosophy.

**M**ike Reynolds, Deacon, gave a financial report. A fiscal year of October through September has been adopted in order to improve the accuracy of the budgeting process. The 2011 fiscal year ended with a deficit of \$2,252 (income vs. expenses). The expected shortfall was \$35,564; therefore \$33,000 was recouped by cutting expenses and increased giving. The 2012 annual budget is based on an income of \$753,328. A challenge of the 2012 budget is that the total percentage for ministries is 8.1% and not the target of 15%.

Taylor explained that the process of hiring Warren Jee for the position of Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries was handled as a "called" pastor would have been handled. He feels God's intervention in this and is excited about Warren's experience and the gifts that he and his wife Lynette will bring to HRC. *Shireen Gilbert is the Consistory liaison to make sure the Jees are welcomed into the community. David and Jan Bushey have offered to rent the Jees an apartment.*

**O**ne of the challenges that HRC has is a one more year of commitment to Arlington Reformed Church to supplement Randy's salary in the amount of \$13,000. Taylor is asking members for an additional year end gift to cover this amount.

**S**tephanie Patton, Elder and the church's Classis Representative, provided a Classis update. Classis is the Latin word for fleet. Congregations are compared to ships; so a classis is like a fleet of congregations sailing together, each under its own captain but toward a common goal. Classis issues the final call to any pastor being hired by a member church. Classis provides financial help to churches, missionaries and other ministries. Classis assessments are distributed locally and to the Regional Synod and then to the General Synod. This assessment has increased in 2012 to \$90 per active member. Steve Dambra was added to the list Classis maintains for pastors and preaching elders who can fill in for churches without a resident pastor.

**T**he final topic of the meeting was the 2012 HRC Consistory. Elders Shireen Gilbert and Matt Williams and Deacons Mike Boyd and Mike Reynolds will complete their 3-year terms at the end of this year. All have agreed to serve another term and Consistory will place their names on the nomination slate at the annual Congregational Meeting.

**T**he meeting ended with prayer.

# Arts & Worship

## **We Approach God** Submitted by Wesley Joseph, Organist and Chori Director

“We Approach God” are the first words many of us see when we open our bulletins on Sunday morning. We approach him carrying our successes and our struggles of the week, looking to somehow make sense of what sometimes can seem senseless. We approach God because we have learned that there is nowhere else to approach. Whether we come to him realizing that our successes could not satisfy us the way we imagined or come to him realizing that our struggles are more than we can handle, “We Approach God” because we have no place else to go.

But, as Pastor Mark never fails to remind us, “You may think you decided to come to church this morning. In reality, God called you and brought you to church this morning.” “We Approach God” is just as much “God Approaches Us.” And this approach of God is not safe for us. Even though we may think, as I have said, that we have no place else to go but God, do we really believe that? Some of our successes still seem important to us on a Sunday morning and some of our struggles we still hold onto bitterly.

When “God Approaches Us,” we realize that we really do have no place else to go. We have given some of our successes and some of our struggles to him, but we have never really given them all. In other words, when “We Approach God,” we realize that the 167 hours we thought we had offered to him completely are full of holes: holes when we bask in our own glow, holes when we hold on to our struggles instead of releasing them to God.

But God does not approach us in judgment of our last 167 hours. He approaches us in Jesus Christ, who comes offering reconciliation. When God calls us to approach him, it is not to punish us, but to make us more like him. We may turn our faces to see this and our ears to hear, but like the paralyzed man brought to Jesus, we can't go much farther than lying at his feet. It is up to him to tell us to “Rise and walk.” God,

in other words, is not passive, waiting for us to approach him with news of our wonderful 167 hours this week. He is active, calling us and bringing us to a place where we can be stripped of everything that hinders us (even our last 167 hours) and clothed in the garments we need to walk before him, for every hour of our lives.

In other words, when  
“We Approach God,”  
we realize that the 167 hours  
we thought we had  
offered to him completely  
are full of holes:

So when we approach, we are not passive spectators at a concert or lecture, but guests thanking our host for his invitation and hosts inviting a guest more powerful than us to come into our lives. What we do at the beginning of worship is to welcome God into our presence and to be welcomed into his presence. The prelude and introit cut us off from the previous 167 hours of our lives, announcing that the great one hour and the one who makes it great are here. The call to worship and opening hymn declare God's welcome to us and our welcome to him. We use this time, not only to offer the successes and struggles of the last 167 hours to him, but to be offered something better than our own efforts. When we approach God, he approaches us and offers us himself. ■

# Missions *Jerusalem*

## **Homeless Shelter** Submitted by Carol O'Malley

**F**or over 10 years the DUTCHESS COUNTY COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS SHELTER has been a JERUSALEM<sup>1</sup> local mission HRC has supported with volunteers, meals and donations. HRC has been supplying the evening meal (bag lunches) on the second Monday of each month and the 3 volunteers to serve the meal that evening since we became involved with the Shelter. In order to continue this ministry we need your help.

Would your ChristCare group consider signing up for one of the Mondays? If you can help but you're not in a CC group or any other group, could you get 5 or 6 other friends to work with you & help split the cost? We supply 60 bag lunches each second Monday. A sample bag lunch is a turkey sandwich (figure 2 oz. meat per sandwich), an individually wrapped slice of cheese, a small bag of chips, a banana, and a brownie or couple of cookies. The Shelter provides the beverage. HRC Missions supplies all of the paper goods.... napkins, baggies, alum foil, lunch bags, etc.

The volunteers who will be serving the meals will come to church around 6:25 to pick up the boxes of bag lunches to take with them to the Shelter which is located in the Town of Poughkeepsie near Dutchess Community College. The guests at the Shelter arrive

around 7:30 & the HRC volunteers can leave as soon as all are served....usually before 9 p.m.

Carol O'Malley can give detailed instructions & help with the bag lunches & Dave O'Malley co-ordinates the volunteers for the evening. Please email them at dcomalley@optonline.net or home phone 221-4432 if you can help anytime. At this time all 2nd Mondays each month are available. Please sign up now.



<http://www.hudsonriverhousing.org>



## CHURCH CLASSIFIEDS

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.

### **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.

HOUSE CLEANING: Reliable, trustworthy house  
cleaning and MORE. References available. Will  
concentrate on what is important to you. Need your  
closets organized? Is your garage, basement or attic a  
mess? Elderly assistance needed? I am also available  
for personal shopping of any kind! Reasonable fees.  
YOU NEED IT DONE? Call me! Lourdes Kleid-  
240/1430 or email me at lurtz71@hotmail.com

### **LEGAL:**

LICENSED NY/NJ ATTORNEY: Free initial con-  
sultation and reasonable rates. Practice areas include  
but are not limited to: family law, estate planning,  
elder law, matrimonial law, criminal defense, loan  
modifications, etc. Call Rachel Flanagan at 845-235-  
1696, email RachelDFlanagan@yahoo.com or visit  
www.RachelFlanaganLaw.com

### **LESSONS:**

PRIVATE GUITAR LESSONS: in your home or at  
our studio. Learn how to read music, improvise, and  
play in a band. All levels taught, all styles — includ-  
ing electric, acoustic, and bass guitar. Call Wayne  
Morrison at 845-473-7534, 845-797-8866 (cell) for  
an appointment. I have been teaching guitar for over  
30 years. Email: purejoymusic@verizon.net

PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS: 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

### **MEDICAL:**

MEDIQUIP LOAN CLOSET—medical equipment  
available to borrow; located at the Poughkeepsie

### **RENTALS: 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 any-  
one 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.

### **REAL ESTATE**

LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKER: Practice area  
covers Dutchess, Putnam, Westchester and Queens  
counties. If you are thinking of buying or selling a  
home I can provide a Complimentary Market Analysis  
and consultation to discuss your real estate needs. Call  
Helen Schweitzer at 845-222-3724 or email hsrealty@  
comcast.net. Visit us at www.schweitzerrealty.com

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# Staff & Teams

## CARE MINISTRY

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

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

## OPERATIONS

John Barach  
Birgit Chisholm  
Lisa Ruvo  
Cyndy Warren  
David Schuster  
Anne Jackson  
Barbara Cassaro  
Paula Engel  
Bill Proal  
Kevin Warren  
Duncan Chisholm  
Ben Roosa  
Carl Nuessle  
Birgit Chisholm  
Nelson Nieves  
Jeff Gerlach

Sexton  
Church Administrator  
Bookkeeper  
Financial Secretary  
Audio Team  
Buildings Team  
Special Events Team  
Fellowship Team  
Grounds Crew  
Historian  
Newsletter Team  
Investments Team  
Project Manager  
Technology Team  
Van  
Video Team

## WORSHIP & ARTS

Wesley Joseph  
Rich Lotze

Organist/Choir Director  
Usher Team

## OUTREACH

Mark Mast  
Charles Mack  
Patty Coppola &  
Lee Ann O'Connor  
Barbie Richardson  
Kevin Warren  
Bruce Pearson  
Mark Mast/Tina Smith

Pastor of Outreach  
CMP  
Food Closet  
Loving Stitches  
Missions-Jerusalem  
Missions-Samaria  
Missions-World

## DISCIPLESHIP

Randy Prentiss  
Sheryle Silvern  
Jan Bushey

Youth Pastor  
Children's Ministry Coordinator  
ChristCare  
Librarian

## BRIGHT BEGINNINGS PRESCHOOL

Faye Lotze  
Sue Nieves  
Nancy Geysen

Director  
Lead Teacher  
Assistant Teacher

## ELDERS

Pat Blanchfield  
Shireen Gilbert  
Stephanie Patton  
Colette Varanouskas  
Matt Williams

## DEACONS

Mike Boyd  
Gary Cassaro  
Henry Mikhail  
Mike Reynolds  
Tina Smith

## OFFICERS

Taylor Holbrook  
Shireen Gilbert  
Tina Smith

*President*  
*Vice-President*  
*Clerk*

## Phone Numbers

Office (845) 221-9542  
Fax (845) 227-1908

## Youth House

845-227-0152  
Rev. Mark Mast -  
(845) 242-0077 (cell)  
Rev. Randy Prentiss -  
(914) 629-8943 (cell)

## Bright Beginnings

(845) 227-8671

**Next Issue Spring on March 4th** All articles must be received in the church office or by e-mail no later than 2/1/2012

## The issue theme is CARE

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 WITH any other support documentation into the newsletter mailbox, or use e-mail address below.
- When using e-mail, please provide all requested information in your mail and ATTACH any other support documentation to:

**HRCNewsletter@HRCRCA.org**

# Missions Samaria

## **Supporting Our Missionary** Submitted by Rachel Snider

On Sunday, November 20, I was so blessed to have the opportunity to share with HRC my path towards full time medical missionary work in the Dominican Republic with the Christian missionary organization Students International. It was incredible to stand in front of my church, so many years after I first felt Christ calling me to serve in a third world country. I was so humbled by the encouragement I received! What a testament to the community Christ speaks of in fellow believers.

God willing, I hope to leave for mission training school in Denver at the end of June 2012. Following this three week cross-cultural preparation I will head to Guatemala for three months of Spanish language school and total immersion. If all falls into place I should be starting my ministry in Jarabacoa, DR by November of 2012. So exciting!!

# Missions Jerusalem

## **More Than a Box of Pasta** Submitted by Pam Hansen

### HEARTWARMING STORIES OF GIVING

For many years members of the Hopewell Reformed Church have contributed to the food pantry at the Fishkill Reformed Church. Thousands of items have been donated over the years that have helped provide food for families in need in Dutchess County. Week after week caring people contribute to this cause and we appreciate your help.

At Thanksgiving time there is a special focus on this ministry. Along with members of the church, Bright Beginnings Preschool also requests donations for food items. This is a great way for us to serve our church and community!

But our Food Pantry is much more than a box of pasta or can tuna fish!

That being said, I can't leave the states until I am fully funded. I'm looking for people who are not only willing to partner with me in prayers, but also monthly financial support. I have to raise \$3470/month before this all becomes a reality. These expenses include a car (gas, maintenance, insurance), rent & utilities, insurance & health care, communication, air travel, Physician Assistant expenses (certifications/licensing expenses/student loans), etc.

I would love to speak more to anyone who is interested in hearing about my ministry and role in the DR! If you feel the Holy Spirit is moving your heart to partner with me you can contact me at [snider.rachel@gmail.com](mailto:snider.rachel@gmail.com) or (845) 926-6076. Or check out my blog at <http://thecalling-wheneveritmaylead.blogspot.com/> With peace, love, faith and joy!!

Your monetary donations to the food pantry help in other ways too. We are able to provide Walmart gift cards to help families with medications, toiletries, baby formula and diapers.

Families in our church also receive support when in need. During the last few years of unemployment and economic decline, the Food Pantry has helped people who might have otherwise been able to put food on the table.

We are called to give 'a cup of cold water' to those in need. As we share the bountiful blessings and resources that have been given to us, we also share God's love, mercy and grace, and hope.

Keep that pasta and tuna fish coming!

# Youth Fellowship

**Meet Warren and Lynette Jee** Submitted by Birgit Chisholm



They are Warren and Lynette Jee. Warren is our new Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministry and Lynette is his wife. This is some background information about them:

Warren and Lynette have been actively involved in youth ministry for the past 17 years. Warren holds a diploma in Sports Administration and has trained many sports ministry teams, as well as churches, in using sports as a tool for ministry. Warren greatly desires to see young people changed by the gospel and, in turn, reaching their communities. He has also trained leaders for the International Sports Coalition. He was previously the youth pastor at the Vereeniging Baptist church before joining J-Life Ministries. Lynette is a musician and vocalist, who holds a diploma in sound engineering and is currently the Worship coordinator at ACTS Family Church. Over the past few years she has trained worship teams, leaders and youth in lead-

ing worship and unifying their worship teams, as well as trained the J-Life music and arts outreach team. Lynette greatly desires to see young people rise up in worship to God through expression in song, dance and the arts. They have been serving in their current positions with J-Life since 2005. Before that they ran ASAP (Africa Sports, Arts and Praise) a ministry founded by them to reach young people with the Gospel using Sport and Music as the tool.

Here is some information about them that you might not have heard before:

We'll start with the most important - food! Lynette's favorite food is curry; Warren's favorite is prawns (jumbo shrimp!). Get your recipes out! Lynette enjoys cooking. Warren does not!

One of them likes to watch movies, listen to music (more on that later), collect pictures, and go to music concerts and the other likes to watch and play sports – can you guess which is which on this one? Warren particularly loves to run!

In regards to music, they both like Toby Mac; Lynette also likes Israel Houghton and Leeland; Warren is a fan of Delirious.

This will be Lynette's first trip to the USA ; Warren was here in 2006.

I hope this will help introduce Warren and Lynette to you. Moving to a new country is an adventure. It can also be difficult moving away from family and the familiarity of your surroundings. I know you will make them feel at home. Welcome Warren and Lynette!

# Care Ministry

## Do You Believe in Miracles?.... I do!

My miracle happened last October, 2010. I was on my way home to Ohio to visit my family, a trip I had been making for almost forty years. I was traveling across Pennsylvania on I-80, enjoying the beautiful autumn day. My traveling companion was my ten-month old puppy, Honey Bear.

The next thing I know I am hanging upside down by my seat belt. I could hear a woman's voice asking me if I was all right and had anyone else been in the car with me. I told her I was okay but my right hand was stuck under the car and that my puppy was the only one in the car with me. She said she didn't see a dog but she would check with other people who had seen the accident. She reported back to me that people had seen a little dog running away and she didn't appear to be hurt. I begged her to please try to find my puppy. She said that they were more concerned for me right now, and that EMS should be arriving soon.

To make a long story short, it took the emergency crew over an hour to free me from the car. The car was completely demolished. They loaded me into a helicopter and took me to a hospital.

I arrived at the trauma center in Altoona, Pa., (a wonderful hospital). Immediately the trauma team was all over me, doing x-rays, cat scans, and blood test. The doctor was taking my medical history and asking me what had happened. I told him I didn't know and had no memory of the accident. I had passed out while driving.

The Chaplain came in to get phone numbers of family members I would like notified. The Doctor then came in with the results of the x-rays, and cat scans.

He said, "Would you believe you do not have one broken bone, not even in your hand? I said,

"Yes, because I had a guardian angel with me." He said, "Well someone certainly was watching over you. He said they were going to admit me to the hospital overnight and if everything was all right in the morning I could go home.

By the time we finally got in touch with my husband, Jim, it was about 7 in the evening. We decided he and my son would come early in the morning. Jim had been in touch with the State Police and the Sheriff's Dept. who had made a search for Honey Bear, and had been unable to find her. I

submitted by Kay Booth

tearfully told Jim he and Randy had to look for her in the morning. I told him I didn't think she would have gone that far from the accident site, because she was very attached to me. He said, "Kay, we will try but if she is gone, she is gone".

I prayed all night long, for God to please keep that little dog safe.

The next morning friends from the church stated calling, and all I could do was cry about Honey Bear and ask them to pray for her. When Holly and Pam called, I told them I didn't know how I was going to be able to tell Barbara I had lost Honey Bear. You see, Honey Bear was one of her puppies. Of course, Barbara called with much sympathy and understanding. So my family in Ohio and my church family were all praying for my little dog.

Jim and Randy arrived at the accident scene at about 2:00 pm They drove by once - no sign of Honey Bear. They drove back east and parked in a turn-around area on the median, about ½ mile from the scene. Jim started walking by the shoulder, but Randy was drawn to a deep ravine right by the turn around. He kept going and there she was. She never barked or made a sound until Randy went to pick her up. Then she growled! She smelled pretty bad, but she didn't have a scratch on her, and her demeanor got a lot better when she saw Jim. My little grandson, Nathaniel, loves to say, when we are telling the story, "and my Daddy found Honey Bear!"

Jim called me about 3 PM and told me they had found Honey Bear. Praise God! He does answer prayers for all His creation, even little dogs. Honey Bear had survived her night in the woods in the median of an interstate highway. She was very frightened, but unharmed! I was so happy we went back for her. She had faith that we would come back for her and waited. I just praise and thank the Good Lord for His faithfulness to us. I thank Him for the miracle of my life and for protecting Honey Bear.



# And My Final Point...

Submitted by Pastor Taylor Holbrook

## “Breaking the 500 Barrier”

*I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"  
(Psalm 122:1)*



At our leadership community meeting in October I shared with all gathered that we hope to see an average of over 500 people in weekly worship in 2012. That would break out to a goal of 200 people in Gatherings, 200 people in Foundations and 100 people in worship at our other sites. Currently we average about 450 people in worship on a Sunday.

Why would we set such a goal? Are we just interested in numbers? No, we believe that people are transformed into 167 living through active participation in three areas: Worship, Discipleship and Mission. We have noticed that although we probably minister to over eight hundred different people in worship in a month, for many, consistent presence in worship is sporadic. Some people we see a few times a year, some once a month and some every week. Sheryle Silvern has noted the same pattern in Sunday school. In September we ministered to over 100 kids in preschool through fifth grade, and in October our number was 122, but our week to week numbers show much less than that.

**We don't want to simply wag a finger and say: "You should be here every week"**

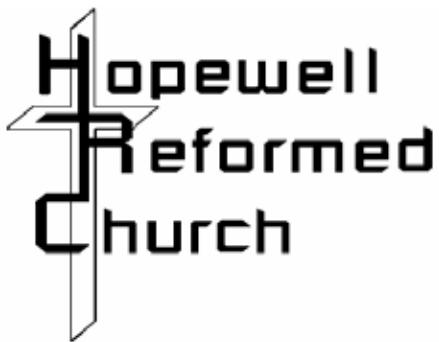
We don't want to simply wag a finger and say: "You should be here every week"; instead we want to look at what makes our worship experience vital...what makes us rejoice when we hear them say, Let us go to the house of the Lord. This invites us to take a look at every area of our worship: preaching, music, liturgy, parking, bulletins, coffee, everything!

Steve Shenkman has retired from IBM and is ready to engage at HRC. He will bring some of his expertise in quality control to the kingdom of God at HRC. I look forward to the ways that we will work together in framing the questions and shaping the plans for moving forward.

So let the growth begin. What are the things that keep you away from weekly worship? What are the things that keep you engaged in weekly worship? We want to know and stay connected, not to see our numbers increase, but instead to see lives transformed.

Yours rejoicing,

*Taylor*



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To know Christ, and to make Him known.

Sunday Worship Services at HRC		
<b>8:45am*</b>	<b>10:30am*</b>	
<b>The Gathering</b>	<b>Foundations</b>	
(Contemporary)	(Traditional)	
Sunday Worship Times & Locations		
<b>4:00pm</b>	<b>10:00am*</b>	<b>10:00am*</b>
<b>Common Ground</b>	<b>HRCjourney</b>	<b>Odyssey</b>
129 Ray Blvd, Poughkeepsie NY 2nd & 4th Sundays; 6:15 - 8 PM Banks Square Coffeehouse Beacon, NY	Tymor Park 249 Duncan Road Lagrangeville, NY 12540	(2nd & 4th Sundays) Tymor Park
<i>*Sunday School and Nursery provided at these services</i>		

GOD BE IN MY HANDS AND IN MY MAKING.  
 GOD BE IN MY SENSES AND IN MY CREATING.  
 GOD BE IN MY HEART AND IN MY LOVING.  
 GOD BE AT MY DESK AND IN MY TRADING.  
 AMEN.

FROM COVENTRY CATHEDRAL (1 OF 2)