

THE REFORMED INFORMER



The Colts Neck Reformed Church

February 2012

ARE WE THERE YET? SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH Presented by Jubilation!

“Are we there yet?” How many times have we heard or spoken this phrase in our own travels? This saying takes on a whole new meaning in this youth musical which



seeks to communicate the connection between knowing God’s love and being doers of the Great Commission. Jesus calls us to be his witnesses in Acts 1:8 – “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Through songs and skits, this musical asks us some hard questions: Does everyone know the Good News? Are we, as God’s people, the shining lights that we should be? Does the world see us and know us by our love? The task of reaching the world starts inside each one of us.

Come and be inspired by this collection of songs and dramatic sketches presented by Jubilation! on Sunday, February 26th at both worship services. You won’t want to miss it!

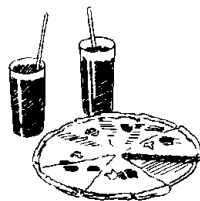
Our Jubilation! choir consists of 30+ members in grades 7
(Continued on page 6, see Musical)



PIZZA WITH THE PASTORS

by Scott Brown and Chris Vande Bunte

One of the important things while considering connection to a church is its leadership. If you are a recent visitor or frequent guest of the congregation and would like to meet and talk with our ministers, to share a meal and have an informal time of conversation with them, please come to “Pizza with the Pastors”, beginning at **12:15 p.m.** in LaPenta Lounge (located upstairs in the Education Building) on **Sunday, February 26th**. Indicating you’d like to attend is helpful (call or email the church office at 732-462-4555 or coltsneckreformed@verizon.net) but not necessary. Children are welcome! There is no cost.



ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP Colts Neck Reformed Church February 22nd at 7:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday, beginning the season of Lent, is a time to remember Christ’s journey to the cross, our mortality and our need for a Savior.

This special evening worship service will be held on Wednesday, February 22nd at 7:30 p.m. in our Sanctuary as we combine with the congregations of Old Brick in Marlboro and The Reformed Church of Freehold. The Revs. Scott Brown, Chris Vande Bunte, Chris Jacobsen and Kent Huyck will all participate. A Lenten drama entitled “The Trials of Jess Goodnuff” will be presented, and a choir comprised of members from all three churches will offer an anthem. The imposition of ashes will be available to all who wish.

Lent



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FOCUS ON FAITH



Dear Friends,

February is something of a smelly month. Somehow I associate Super Bowl Sunday with the aroma of mini-meatballs with a sweet-savory glaze of jelly and chili sauce that have been simmering all day in a crockpot; food is as much a part of the day as football. Next up in the month is Valentine's Day with the scents of roses, chocolates and perfumes. And then there is Ash Wednesday. My first experience with this church holy day was as a boy when I went with my Catholic friend to his church. During that service there were clouds and clouds of incense. This was certainly a different kind of worship to be sure. Yet as it says in the Revelation of John, incense, with its sweet, eye-watering odor, symbolizes the prayers of the saints in heaven (*Revelation 5:8, Revelation 8:3*).

Though in our tradition, we don't employ the censers of incense, for some that smell equals "church." Yet we have our own church smells. Before we got all carpeted-up, churches often had the distinct smell of sweeping com-

pound, especially when the Sanctuary was closed up all week long, allowing for the semi-musty smells to really seep into the woodwork. If you were dropped into a church hall like that, you'd be able to know where you were with your eyes blindfolded. There's still the faint smell-memory of onions cut up from decades of Election Day dinners, added to perking coffee from fellowship time, combined with the whiff of untold numbers of Jell-O salads unmolded for funeral repasts, joined with the pungency of Easter lilies, with just a dash of mimeograph ink from church bulletins of decades long past...

Life nowadays has become more antiseptic and odorless. So as we begin to build our new ministry center, I'm wondering what it will smell like, if anything at all. To counter some of that, I've bought a candle that smells to me like "old incensey church" – and I light it during my prayer-time for our new construction, that our work and witness may be pleasing and acceptable in the sight of God.

All in all, "Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God." (Ephesians 5:2)

Peace,

Scott D. Brown

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Consistory

Elders:

Ginny Russell *Vice-President*
Barb Brown *Worship*
Debi Jensen *Discipleship for Ongoing Ministries*
Ginne Hooper *Assimilation & Congregational Care*
Carol Barnett *Long Range Planning*
Art Peslak *Discipleship for Christian Education*

Deacons:

Mike Williams *Clerk*
Brian Allain *Outreach*
Tom Saker *Fellowship*
Greg Robinson *Stewardship & Finance*
Reed Feuster *Building & Grounds*
Dottie Weidman .. *Mission*

PRAYER CONCERNS IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY~

by Dianne O'Hara

Please include the following members of our church family in your prayers this month. In addition to your prayers, they may really appreciate an occasional card, call or (if local) visit. If you are available to visit members of our church family and would like to be added to our rotating list of visitors, please contact Dianne O'Hara in the church office (732-462-4555 or cnrc-care@verizon.net). This requires a commitment of one visit every 2 – 3 months.

- ❖ **Pam Hoppes**
MS, at home recovering from a stroke
- ❖ **Bella McGovern**, child of Sean and Bethany Link McGovern, brain tumors
- ❖ **Emma Sklair**, health concerns
- ❖ All residents of the Reformed Church Home including, **Irene Kiefer**, **Loretta Lawrence** (*Shearon Grierson's mom*), **Ernie Orgo**, **James McCoy** (*Bill McCoy's dad*), **Jean Sherman** (*Dave Sherman's mom*), and **Amy Ferrari** (*Patty Eastman's mom*)
- ❖ **Evelyn Schweitzer**
Church member who lives in Seabrook Village.



IS THERE CHURCH WHEN IT SNOWS?

It's been quite a mild winter so far – compared with the last two years! But, as a reminder, here is some information that may be helpful if we were to experience a large amount of snow on a Sunday.

If there is a snowstorm or other weather emergency, there are several ways you can find out updates about the church service schedule:

- ◆ **Call the church office at 732-462-4555, press 3** (*when the message begins*) to access the church worship schedule, and listen for any updates. If any changes to the worship schedule have been made, the update will be on the answering machine.
- ◆ **The church website will be updated** as well with any pertinent messages listed on the front page—just scroll down. [coltsneckreformed.org].
- ◆ **An email will be sent out to all those** on the church prayer chain and the all-church email list. If you are not on the email prayer chain but would like to receive an email for any emergency notifications, please let us know by sending an email to the church office at [coltsneckreformed@verizon.net] and putting **'all church email'** in the subject line.

So...just because there's snow on the ground, don't assume that church is cancelled! Our ministers and music directors have a very short commute to get to church!

WHO AM I?



1. I was born in Rahway, NJ.
2. I was a gymnast in high school.
3. I was a member of the first graduating class of Marlboro High School.
4. I joined Colts Neck Reformed Church in 1978.
5. I started my career at Bell Labs in Holmdel.
6. I was married in the church in 1979.
7. I sang in the choir for more than 20 years — not consecutively.
8. I like to try to play golf in my spare time.
9. I was a cast member in CNRC's first two productions of *The Last Supper*.
10. I have dabbled in construction.

Give up? Turn to page 10 to see my name and picture.

MINISTRY CENTER UPDATE~

by Scott D. Brown

This past month has been one of behind-the-scenes busy-ness for our new construction. The engineer, architect and township planner met several times (*Brett Woodward, the principal of the construction firm and members of our implementation committee were actively involved as well*) to make sure that everyone was working off the same prints, documents and drawings. This is being resolved as quickly as possible. In the meantime, Woodward Construction Corporation is purchasing the steel for the new building now, in order to avoid a significant price increase announced for the near future. Other good news is that our local fees for building permits were waived by Colts Neck as is their custom for churches.

Please keep the committee and construction contractors in your prayers. If you have further questions, please be in touch with committee members: *Ed Aras, Ron Bird, Reed Feuster, Bob Gassaway* (chair), *Paul Horan, Bill Perkinson, Ron Shellock, and James Wishbow*.

JANUARY BLOOD DRIVE SUCCESSFUL~

by Kathy Rodman

Thank you to everyone who was able to participate in the January 18th blood drive. A total of 54 people volunteered to donate and the Central Jersey Blood Center collected 48 units of blood. That is an amazing response by our congregation and our best numbers yet! Special thanks to Cathy Della Fera for her help with sign-ups, and to Peggy Shellock, Lynne Devlin and Barb Serafin for their TLC during the drive.

Dylan Tucker prepares to give blood for the first time



Each year the Consistory is required to submit answers to particular questions to the Classis and General Synod (our denominational governing leadership). Mike Williams, as Clerk of Consistory, has provided a wonderful retrospective. Here are the questions and answers...



have served, or are serving as missionaries on site in Texas, Paterson, NJ, Eastern Europe, Niger and Malawi, and throughout Monmouth County. Major support of Open Door and numerous other food drives are but a few of our outreach efforts.

What other commitments and processes have helped us become more vital this year?

- We had a Miracle Sunday which raised over \$200,000 toward the erection of our new "Ministry Center."
- We have an enhanced web site with audio sermons available.
- We are connecting with the Samaritan Center of the Jersey Shore to provide a ministry of Christian Counseling.
- Our annual Election Day dinner and bazaar continues to grow, to the benefit of those who participate and those who receive the proceeds.
- An expansion of our "musical mission" has brought pleasure to many more groups including the Reformed Church Home.
- Annual efforts including CROP Walk, Soles 4 Souls, and Pedals for Progress provide spiritual as well as financial benefit for many.

What two or three specific goals might we set this year to help us more intentionally live out the call to discipleship, leadership, and mission?

- Move toward completion of the Ministry Center and develop spiritual plans for its role in our mission.
- Establish the operational parameters for our site as we connect with the Samaritan Center of the Jersey Shore Counseling Center.
- Bring concepts from the "denominational conversations" of the February RCA convocation for study by our congregation.

How have our commitments to discipleship, leadership and mission contributed to our congregation's health and vitality?

Our congregation continues to grow in membership and in commitment to many constituencies far and near. The leadership provided by Rev. Brown and Rev. Vande Bunte is tireless and exhilarating. Opportunities for involvement by any and all members of the church, young and old, abound. Our campus is expanding with the construction of a new Ministry Center which will certainly enhance congregational health and vitality. Benevolent giving totals over 21% of our staff-plus-operating expenses, but at least as important is the enthusiastic giving of time and talent. Congregational members

At the present moment, what are two or three concerns of our church?

- Insuring that our physical expansion does not outdistance our spiritual expansion.
- That we continue to promote opportunities for assimilation for all members so that each feels connections socially and spiritually.



A NEW YEAR REFLECTION FROM NIGER~

Only one hour of the year remains. I am seated on a hard wooden bench inside the church- the Harmattan winds whip around the concrete structure kicking up dust and whipping the branches of the small trees scattered about the school's compound. It is late and the younger children stretch out on the empty benches and fall asleep. I wear a Nigerien shawl around my shoulders and another around my head, the former for warmth and the latter for custom. For a small congregation, the service is well attended. About thirty devoted members sit for the three-hour New Year's Eve service this Saturday evening. The Sunday service awaits us tomorrow morning as well.



Pray for Missions

My ignorance of Hausa keeps me from grasping the words which instead ping off my ears and lull me into a cat's nap. Tom stands and gives a short prayer in French asking for peace and guidance in the coming year. May the conflicts of Nigeria remain there and leave peace and stability in Niger alone. The pastor stands at the pulpit and, using his cell phone, counts in our new year. I wonder what those around me would think if I told them how I usually count in the new year, watching a sparkling disco ball suspended on top of a skyscraper in NYC fall to the cheers of the expansive party below. The clock strikes midnight and, in celebration, we greet each other. Barka. Happy New Year.

We settle back onto our benches for the first prayer of the new year and then the service is over. We are quick to part for home. Gazing at the crisp sky, I walk back to my home on the other side of the dusty compound. What a strange vastness this existence is.

~Anna Dayle Petrie

Editor's note: Anna Petrie, daughter of Clark and LuAnne Petrie, is currently volunteering with the RCA in Africa. She initially spent time in Niamey (*nee-a-may*), the capital city of Niger, with the Beebouts and has now joined Tom and Aïchatou Johnson in the countryside of Niger where she will be teaching their children.

DRESSES FOR AFRICA~*by Jill Niehaus*

The **Piecemaker Quilting group** is currently sponsoring a "sewing mission" and there is still time for you to participate. **We are making dresses for young girls in Africa** (there's a pattern for little boy pants, too!).

We provide the directions/patterns and kits are available for those who don't have a fabric stash at the ready. You can sew your dresses at home or bring them Monday evenings (6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall) when we meet. **On Saturday, February 11th** there will also be a **workshop in Fellowship Hall from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** All are welcome – any help with sewing, pinning, cutting and/or pressing will be appreciated!

Dresses will be collected throughout the month of February. In March we will ship them to those in need in Africa. Contact Jill Niehaus (732-530-4368) or [janiehaus@verizon.net] for more information or to obtain a kit.

IT'S HAMMER TIME!*by Kay Brown*

A mission trip for adults — men and women — is coming this May! The need is great; will you serve God by providing home repairs to a Hurricane-Irene devastated area in the Prattsville, NY area (15 miles north-west of Hunter Mountain)? To see something of what happened last August, this link (if you are able to type it in) shows an interview with Anderson Cooper right after the flooding: [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?NR=1&v=0VVQPPGrU2g&feature=endscreen>]

Working with Bruce and Laurie Hawley, RCA on-site mission facilitators, we will be the group of twenty-five to bring help and hope from **Saturday, May 19th – Thursday, May 24th.** All skill levels are welcomed. The cost is \$125 per person which covers travel (we'll carpool), all meals and lodging at a local retreat center.

More information is available on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board where you may also sign up. If you have further questions please contact Kay Brown at 732-683-0530 or [scott-kay@juno.com].

**How is CNRC INVOLVED WITH FAMILY PROMISE?**

Colts Neck Reformed Church is a **support congregation for Family Promise of Monmouth County.** As such, we partner with the Presbyterian Church of Freehold to provide food and shelter to homeless children and their families in our area. This commitment requires us to prepare a meal and to provide company about once every 3 months throughout the year. Our next commitment is on **Thursday, February 16th.** Volunteers are needed to

1. *Provide an evening meal,*
2. *Share dinner and spend the evening, and*
3. *Stay the night.*

We do this at the Presbyterian Church in Freehold. **You don't need to do all three things** and we welcome and encourage families to sign up to help.

Additional dates in 2012 for CNRC to do this mission work are May 3rd, July 19th, October 4th, and December 20th. If you are interested in learning more about Family Promise and this mission endeavor, contact Barb Serafin (732-946-3311, [barbserafin@yahoo.com]) or Kathy Rodman (732-946-4121, [krodman2@gmail.com])

mission

SAVE THE DATES~

- The Mission Commission will meet in the Choir Room on Tuesday, February 28th at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in the mission programs of our church and want to know how you can be involved, come for project updates and bring your ideas to share.
- Looking ahead – we will have a Church World Service hygiene kit drive during the month of March. Items that are needed for the kits will be listed in the March newsletter and Sunday bulletins.

MAKE A DONATION DURING THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING!*by Chris Vande Bunte*

Please remember to bring a canned food item or \$1 to donate during our youth group food drive on **Sunday, February 5th.** This national program, which donates 100% of contributions directly to a local chosen charity, has raised over 72 million dollars and countless amounts of food for local charities since its inception in 1990. Be a part of the big day! On one of the biggest "eating holidays" of the year, we remember that there are those who are in need. Buckets for collections will be available after each service. **Donations will support Open Door of Freehold.** The youth groups thank you for your support of this worthy cause!

Reminder: If you ordered a sub for Super Bowl Sunday, you can pick it up on Sunday, February 5th beginning at 10:30 a.m. in the kitchen.



**SOUPER
BOWL
of CARING**

ON THE ROAD AGAIN WITH *ARE WE THERE YET?* SUNDAY, MARCH 4TH

Celebration Ringers and Jubilation!

CNRC has a wonderful connection with the Faith Chapel Reformed Church (Paterson, NJ) as a result of our women's mission trip there in June 2011. Work was accomplished and relationships were formed. Now we seek to deepen that connection as our Celebration Ringers and Jubilation! choir travel to Faith Chapel Reformed Church on Sunday, March 4th.

Our teens will participate in worship on Sunday morning and then present a handbell concert and youth musical *Are We There Yet?* at 4:00 p.m. that afternoon. We look forward to a chance to re-connect with the congregation and to meet other youth and adults from their church and community.

All are welcome to come to the concert! Paterson is about an hour from Colts Neck. Directions will be available on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

SPECIAL HANDBELL EVENT AND CONCERT Saturday, March 24th – 7:00 p.m.

It is a common sight on a Sunday morning at CNRC to see 13 handbell ringers ringing 60+ handbells. But can you imagine hearing and seeing a solo handbell ringer? It is a very special experience and one that we are excited to be able to offer.

We are privileged to welcome Ron Bellamy, a handbell clinician and soloist from Lancaster, PA to CNRC. Ron will be doing a clinic with our Exultation Ringers from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. that day and will share his gift as a handbell soloist with us that evening at 7:00 p.m. Our Exultation Ringers will also ring several selections during the concert.

You will definitely want to mark your calendars for this (FREE) special musical event on **Saturday, March 24th, at 7:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary!**



WOMEN'S OUTREACH CHOIR MINISTRY CONTINUES~

In February, our Women's Outreach Choir will be singing at the Reformed Church Home on Wednesday, February 15th at 10:30 a.m. (*meet at church at 10:00 a.m.*) and at Brandywine Reflections on Saturday, February 18th at 2:15 p.m. (*meet at church at 2:00 p.m.*). There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall to indicate your availability. Questions? Call or email Maggie Tripold in the church office.

(Musical, continued from page 1)

through 12. They will be accompanied by guitar, drums and keyboard. Kelly Bird, a member of our congregation, has been working with these teens for several weeks on staging, acting and movement, along with Jeff Brown and Maggie Tripold, co-directors of the group.

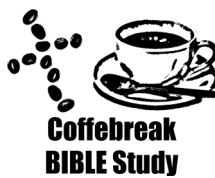
MEN'S BREAKFAST AND BIBLE STUDY ~MEETS IN FEBRUARY~



On **Saturday, February 4th**, all men are invited to join for discussion and breakfast from **7:30—9:00 a.m. in LaPenta Lounge.**

The group will continue to meet the first Saturday of each month through May. Cooking and breakfast prep rotate among the group. Study guides are available in the church office. **March's gathering is on March 3, 2012.**

WOMEN'S COFFEEBREAK BIBLE STUDY Continues on Thursday Mornings



Join this Small Group Bible Study, **meeting from 9:30—11:00 on Thursday mornings in LaPenta Lounge.**

You'll find fellowship and great discussions on the selected passage for the week. The study, led by Barb Tucker, just began a new series entitled "*Looking at the Life of Jesus*" by Rebecca Manley. Stop by the church office, or come to the study to pick up a guide! Call Barb (732-845-9388) for more information.

THURSDAY EVENING STUDY ROLLS ON!

This small study group, meeting on **Thursday evenings from 6:00 – 7:15 in the Education Building**, continues our series on *the Lord's Prayer* this month. All are invited to join us in Fellowship Hall or LaPenta Lounge, based on availability for a lively discussion in our "*one room school house*" - there is something for everyone, no matter your experience or level of expertise! Light refreshments and coffee are served. Please contact Chris Vande Bunte at the church office [cvandebunte@verizon.net] to be sent our weekly focus and questions via email.



SCIENCE AND FAITH LEARNING OPPORTUNITY~ by Art Peslak

Dr. Chris Kaiser, a professor at the Western Theological Seminary, will be visiting CNRC to present a learning group on **Saturday, March 24th from 2:00—6:00 p.m.** Dr. Kaiser has a PhD in *Physics* and a PhD in *Christian Dogmatics and Divinity*. He will be presenting a program on science and our faith.

Dinner will follow the presentation. We will have more details in the March newsletter but save the date of March 24th for what should be an interesting and informative afternoon.



UPCOMING YOUTH SCHEDULE~

- February 4th:** Senior High Sub Sale Prep
4:00 — 5:00 p.m. in the church kitchen
- February 5th:** Senior High Sub assembly
8:00 a.m. in the church kitchen
- February 5th:** Senior High Super Bowl Party @
the Vande Bunte's; 6:00 p.m. to halftime
- February 12th:** Jubilation! extended rehearsal
Junior/Senior High Youth are invited to
join for lunch and fellowship from Noon —
1:00 p.m.; Fellowship Hall
- February 19th:** Jubilation! extended rehearsal
Junior/Senior High Youth are invited to
join for lunch and fellowship from Noon —
1:00 p.m.; Fellowship Hall
- February 26th:** Jubilation! musical—*Are We There Yet?*
No youth group scheduled



YOUNG YOUTH FELLOWSHIP (YYF) FOR GRADES 1-6~

Join the Young Youth Fellowship Group for grades 1-6 when they meet this month for Valentine's fun! We'll get together from **6:00 – 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 5th**, in Fellowship Hall. Please speak with Sherre MacClellan (732-625-0001) for more information. Sign up on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.



Please mark your calendars for next month's meeting on Sunday, March 11th.

FELLOWSHIP FRIDAYS FOR 4—6 YEAR OLDS~

Join us for a Valentine's Party on **Friday, February 10th from 5:00—6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall!** Pizza and dessert are served at the meetings, which are drop off events; however, parents are always invited and encouraged to stick around and join the fun!



Sign up on the bulletin board or contact Kristi Stoever [krististoever@gmail.com] if you plan to attend or for more information on this group.

Mark your calendars now for our next meeting – a Spring Fever Party on March 9th.

**Senior High Youth
IT'S TIME TO MAKE OUR SUPER BOWL SUBS!**



We need your help again this year to prepare and assemble our famous Super Bowl Subs.

- **Saturday, February 4th, 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.**, we'll meet to prepare for our big sub sale the next day. We need to slice all of the meat and veggies. If we finish early, we'll hang out and play some games together.
- **Sunday, February 5th, starting at 8 a.m.**, we'll get together to assemble the subs so that they will be ready by 10:30 a.m.

SENIOR HIGH SUPER BOWL PARTY~



Join Chris and Ellen Vande Bunte at their house (28 Village Lane) for a big Super Bowl Party on the evening of **Sunday, February 5th**. We'll be hanging out and playing board games and ping pong until the opening kickoff and then we'll watch the big game together! **Bring a snack to share at the party.** As usual, we'll award prizes for those who are best at predicting what will be in the commercials from kickoff to halftime. **We begin at 6:00 p.m. and finish up at half time** so that you can watch the end of the game with your families. Sign up in Fellowship Hall or see Chris Vande Bunte for more information.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service.

Through **World Day of Prayer**, women are encouraged:

- ◆ to become aware of the whole world and no longer live in isolation
- ◆ to be enriched by the faith experience of Christians of other countries and cultures
- ◆ to take up the burdens of other people and pray with and for them
- ◆ to become aware of their talents and use them in the service of society



This year's theme, "*Let Justice Prevail*," was prepared by the women of Malaysia. For more information visit their website at [www.wdp-usa.org].

In observance of World Day of Prayer our Sanctuary will be open from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. for personal prayer and meditation. You are welcome to stop in anytime during those hours and spend some quiet time with God.

THE BIBLE CAN HELP~

To know the Bible as it deserves to be understood requires great effort, concentration and a careful reading of all its books. However, there are sections of the Bible that speak to us in special times of need. Here are scripture verses that some have found especially helpful. Here's suggestions as to where to look in the Bible, when:

- *Facing a crisis:* Psalm 46; Psalm 121
- *Moral choices are to be made:* Psalm 1
- *Thankful:* Psalm 92:1-5; Psalm 103:1-14; Psalm 150; Psalm 139
- *Tempted to do wrong:* Psalm 139; Matthew 4:1-11; James 1:12-15
- *Things look "blue:"* Isaiah 40; Psalm 34
- *Discouraged:* Psalm 7; Psalm 55:22; Psalm 91; 2 Corinthians 4:4-18; James 1:12
- *Thrilled with life out of doors:* Psalm 19
- *Tempted to lose faith:* Acts 17:22-31; 1 John 4:11-16; Hebrews 11
- *Angry:* Luke 6:27-38; 1 Corinthians 13
- *Lonely:* Psalm 27; Psalm 23
- *Anxious:* Psalm 107; Psalm 43; Matthew 6:19-34; Philippians 4:8-13
- *Suffering in sickness:* Psalm 91
- *Things seem to be going from bad to worse:* 2 Timothy 3; Romans 8:28-39
- *Needing inner peace:* Luke 6:22-23; John 14; Philippians 4:7; Colossians 3:12-17
- *Longing for happiness:* John 15:9-11; Colossians 3
- *Desiring to find a right way in life:* Micah 6:8; John 14:1-6; Philippians 4:8-9
- *True liberty is desired:* Galatians 5:1-26
- *Sorely tempted:* Psalm 73:2-26; 1 Corinthians 7:1-9; Hebrews 4:14-16
- *You feel the need of prayer:* Psalm 42; Matthew 6:7-15
- *In need of God's protection:* Psalm 62; Psalm 139:1-12; Matthew 10:29-31
- *Bearing heavy responsibilities:* Joshua 1:1-9
- *You have done something wrong:* John 3:1-21; Isaiah 53; Psalm 51; Isaiah 55:7
- *Called upon to face death:* Psalm 23; John 17; John 20; Revelation 21 and 22
- *God seems far away:* Psalm 139
- *Leaving for travel:* Psalm 121
- *Seeking rules for living:* Romans 12; Matthew 5:1-12

- *The Ten Commandments:* Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5
- *The Shepherd Psalm:* Psalm 23
- *The Birth of Jesus:* Matthew 1 and 2 and Luke 2
- *The Sermon on the Mount:* Matthew 5, 6, and 7 and Luke 6:17-49
- *The Beatitudes:* Matthew 5:1-12
- *The Great Commandment:* Matthew 22:34-40
- *The Lord's Prayer:* Matthew 6 and Luke 11



MARK YOUR CALENDARS~

- Sunday, April 29th** – Our 9th annual “A Spring Ring” CNRC Handbell Concert at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

INITIAL OFFERING ENVELOPE EXPLAINED...

by Chris Vande Bunte

“What is the Per Member Assessment all About?” You may have noticed as you opened your 2012 Offering Envelopes that there is a small yellow slip of paper along with an “initial offering” envelope. Some have asked what this is all about; perhaps a brief explanation will help. Our church functions within a larger denomination of the Reformed Church in America. Locally, 28 churches make up a larger body called the Classis of New Brunswick, and four Classis bodies make up the Regional Synod of the Mid Atlantic, encompassing all of the RCA churches in NJ and PA. Regional Synods are all part of the denomination that has churches throughout the US and Canada.

Each of these levels has various mission projects, administrative functions and employees (*one great example is the Reformed Church Home in Old Bridge, a ministry of the Regional Synod*). Each RCA church is assessed a certain amount per member to support these different people, projects and ministries of the larger church of which we are a part. CNRC pays an assessment of \$101.29 per member for each of our 500 members, which comes from our operating budget, in support of the larger body of Reformed Churches. If you have questions about the structure of the church, or various ministries of the RCA, please speak with Scott Brown or Chris Vande Bunte, or take a look at the RCA website [rca.org]. The breakdown for the \$101.29 assessment is as follows:

<i>General Synod</i>	\$45.24
<i>Regional Synod</i>	32.56
<i>Local Classis</i>	<u>23.49</u>
TOTAL	\$101.29

WHO TO CALL?: *A brief summary of “who’s in charge of what...”*

Have there been times when you had a question about something going on at church, or you wanted to make a suggestion, and you weren’t sure who to call? **Cut this page out and keep it at home.** Certainly there are many situations that do not appear below. In those cases, simply call the church office (732-462-4555), and Betsy Aras, our Church Administrator, will help to steer you in the right direction. Also, staff emails can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.

To inquire about... The person to contact is... *(732 area code if not indicated)*

marriage, baptism, confirmation or counseling.....	Scott Brown or Chris Vande Bunte (462-4555)
a pastoral concern and the ministers are unavailable	Dianne O’Hara (462-4555)
joining the church	Scott Brown or Dianne O’Hara (462-4555)
submitting an announcement for the Sunday bulletin	Betsy Aras (462-4555)
submitting an article for the church newsletter	Betsy Aras (462-4555)
contributing flowers for worship.....	Betsy Aras (462-4555)
becoming a Greeter.....	GINNE HOOPER (908-962-1599)
becoming an Usher or Communion Preparer.....	Barb Brown (643-1463) or Betsy Aras (462-4555)
church nursery, or volunteering in the nursery during worship	Jill Edwards (987-6504)
becoming a Sound or Video Operator during worship	Bill Perkinson (462-1283) or Maggie Tripold (462-4555)
using the hearing assist devices during worship	Bill Perkinson (462-1283)
coffee hour / volunteering to host	Lydia Coulson (972-7692)
Church School.....	Stacey Savage (761-1861) / Jennifer Mayrose (741-4684)
Adult Christian Education	Art Peslak (308-0460) or Debi Jensen (747-3963)
Music Program/Worship Arts/Drama.....	Maggie Tripold (462-4555)
Youth Group programs (<i>Jr. & Sr. High, 7th—12th grades</i>)	Chris Vande Bunte (462-4555)
Young Youth Fellowship (YYF for Grades 1—6).....	Sherre MacClellan (625-0001)
Fellowship Fridays (for 4-6 year olds)	Kristi Stoeber (462-8781)
children receiving communion	Chris Vande Bunte (462-4555) or Nancy Ruitter (462-3770)
Women’s Coffeekick Bible Study (<i>Thursday mornings</i>)	Barb Tucker (845-9388)
Senior Bible Study (<i>Friday mornings</i>).....	Scott Brown (462-4555)
Thursday Evening Bible Study.....	Chris Vande Bunte (462-4555)
Women’s Book Discussion Group (<i>Tuesday evenings</i>)	Mary Iking (751-1413)
fellowship activities / suggestions for activities.....	Tom Saker (1-609-223-0497)
Election Day Luncheon and Dinner	Sherre MacClellan (625-0001) / Joy Lenz (409-6558)
Creative Hands Craft Workshops.....	Mary Van Mater (872-2176) / Bernadette Riehle (908-692-4196)
Quilting Group (<i>Monday evenings</i>).....	Nancy Feuster (431-4125) or Jill Niehaus (530-4368)
benevolence and mission programs.....	Dottie Weidman (409-4987) or Chris Vande Bunte (462-4555)
church budget.....	Greg Robinson (308-1644) or Alicia Dimtsios (431-3144)
your record of giving / pledge	Tom Russell (741-8125)
Endowment Fund	Reed Feuster (431-4125)
repairs / improvements to our church property.....	Reed Feuster (431-4125)
Nursery School	Tullis Savage (462-4662)
Atlantic Cemetery	Tom Russell (741-8125) or Scott Brown (462-4555)
sharing a prayer concern/ joining the prayer chain	Dianne O’Hara (462-4555)
having the Sacrament of Holy Communion brought to your home or to the hospital.....	Scott Brown or Chris Vande Bunte (462-4555)
getting more involved, but not sure how?.....	Dianne O’Hara (462-4555)

OPEN HOUSE SET FOR NURSERY SCHOOL~

The **Colts Neck Reformed Church Nursery School** will hold an **Open House for parents and visitors** on

Wednesday, February 1st, 2012 from 6:00—7:30 p.m., and on Thursday, February 2nd, 2012 in the classrooms from 9:30 — 11:00 a.m.



Applications for the 2012-13 school year will be available on Sunday, February 5th for the church family and Monday, February 6th for everyone. Expected class offerings include:

- **Playgroup for the 2-½ year old child**
1 or 2 days/week (no parent participation)
- **3 year old classes**
2 or 3 days/week (optional parent participation)
- **4/5 year old classes**
3 days/week (optional parent participation)
- **4/5 year old classes**
4 days/week (no parent participation)



Additional offerings:
TRANSITIONAL DAY – an optional 4th day for the 3-day 4's with the focus being math and science activities, self-directed and outside play, story reading.

LUNCH BUNCH – an optional extended day from 11:45 a.m. until

1:30 p.m. for both 3's and 4's to play inside and outside and socialize with friends.

GEOGRAPHY – the “hands-on” study of various countries throughout the world, geared toward the interest level of the 4/5 year old. This program is also optional.

LITERACY – a more intense study of phonics through the use of outstanding children's literature and journal writing. This program is by invitation only.



WHO AM I?
from page 3

Al Lewis
pictured (r to l)
wife,
Lyn
and daughter,
Amy

PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES TO~

- ❖ *Krissy Cantin*, on the death of her friend, *Morgan Judd*, on December 6, 2011.
- ❖ *Marge Flock and Chris Weh and family*, on the death of *Bill Flock*, husband and father, on December 22, 2011.
- ❖ *Marc and Carol Barnett*, on the death of Marc's mother, *MaryJane Hawthorne*, on December 28, 2011.
- ❖ *Harold Kruse and family* on the death of his wife, *Dorothy*, on January 2, 2012.
- ❖ *Peter and Jeanne Sokol*, on the death of their friend, *Jim Waugh*, on January 9, 2012.

CONGRATULATIONS AND BLESSINGS TO~

- ❖ *Rick and Erica Moos* on the birth of their grandson, *Jackson Richard Caudill*, on January 1, 2012. Proud parents are *Cheryl and Ben Caudill*.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MEMBERS of our church family who are in elected public service. *Jarrett Engel* was elected as mayor for Colts Neck; *Tom Orgo* was sworn in as the newest township committeeman. *Jim Schatzle* continues on as a committeeman. Thanks also to *Ed Eastman* who completed a term as committeeman for Colts Neck. *Lillian Burry* is beginning her third term as Freeholder. Please keep these officials in your prayers.

Our heartfelt appreciation to our wonderful church family for your cards, concern and prayers when Bill passed away. Thank you all very much for being so caring.

The Flock Family

Dear Rev. Vande Bunte,

I will never forget you and your parishioners helping my children last year. They still play with their game systems and headphones. All of you are in our hearts forever,

God Bless

(editor's note: this is from a family the church was able to help in 2010 and the mom thought to drop us a note, which we are sharing with you)

~MEMORIAL GIFTS~

During the month of January, memorial gifts were received by the church in memory of *Bill Flock*, *Peter Goetke*, and *Dorothy Kruse*; and in honor of *Bob and Jessica Thurston*.

THE WOMEN'S BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP will meet on Tuesday, February 7th from 7:30—9:30 p.m. at the home Gloria Thornton, 3926 Applewood Drive, Freehold (732-431-1614). We will be discussing "Lottery" by Patricia Wood. All women of the church are welcome to join this group where we enjoy informal discussion, great refreshments, and each other's company.



Looking ahead: We will be reading and discussing "Sleeping with the Enemy" by Hal Vaughn for our March meeting. If you have questions, please contact Mary Iking at [miking@verizon.net] or 732-751-1413.

CHRIS AND SCOTT TO FLORIDA...

Our pastors will be part of a large delegation of denominational church leaders who will be participating in "Conversations" in Orlando, Florida from Thursday, February 9th through Sunday, February 12th. *Conversations* is an event designed to put a finger on the pulse of the Reformed Church in America and better discern the future direction of the RCA. This event is happening, in part, so that we may listen to the vision of the new RCA general secretary, the top leader, Tom De Vries, who began his new role six months ago. Please pray for Scott and Chris as well as all the participants, that a good and Godly direction will be discerned.

In the absence of our ministers, if there is a pastoral emergency, please contact one of the elders or the church office. On that Sunday, worship will be led by our consistory members, with Elder Debi Jensen preaching. Debi is a gifted conveyer of God's Word and is currently a student at New Brunswick Theological Seminary.

USHERS ARE NEEDED—CAN YOU HELP?

Ushering is a very important part of the ministry of the Colts Neck Reformed Church and we are **searching for people who would like to join this ministry team**. We need ushers for both 9:15 and 11:00 a.m. — you can specify, when you volunteer, at which service you prefer to serve. Some folks serve as individuals—we also have many husband/wife teams of ushers. Please consider whether this might be a way you can give of your talents and time.

Ushers Needed Training is provided and your commitment is to be willing to usher approximately once a month throughout the program year. The summer commitment is a bit less as we only have one service. **To find out more information about this ministry or to volunteer**, please call or email Barb Brown at (732-643-1463) or [barbaralynn54@gmail.com] or you can speak with Betsy Aras in the church office at 732-462-4555 x10, or email Betsy at [coltsneckreformed@verizon.net].



CREATIVE HANDS CRAFT GROUP GETS BACK TO WORK

by Mary Van Mater

Creative Hands will be getting back into action on **Wednesday, February 29th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** in classroom 9/10, downstairs in the Church building. We will be tossing around some ideas of what to work on for the year. We can also work on some simple children's bracelets for the Election Day Bazaar, while we talk about future plans. We are hoping to meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month until summertime. Come and relax with us. We love new friends and old friends! Questions? Please call Mary Van Mater (732-872-2176) or Bernadette Riehle (908-692-4196).



CRAFTS, CREATIVITY, AND CASTOFFS...

by Mary Iking

The Election Day Bazaar is a way off, but it's never too early to prepare for another successful event. To maximize the amount of hand-made items we have to offer (and thus maximize the money raised for missions), why not take advantage of the long winter's nights and create some items now? Or... if you received a gift that doesn't match your style or taste, don't dispose! Save it and donate it in November to the bazaar's bargain basement room.

NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY PLANNED~

by Sherre MacClellan

As Gloria Swanson portraying Norma Desmond in *Sunset Blvd.* once said... "Mr. DeMille, I'm ready for my close up", **CNRC is ready for your close up!** We are updating our church picture directory. **Our church is continually growing and changing and what better way to get to know your church family than a pictorial directory?** Our goal is to include the entire congregation — but we need your help!

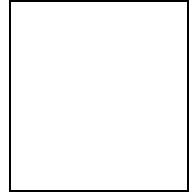


Just for participating, *Olan Mills* will provide you with a \$25 gift certificate to use toward a portrait order. You will have a variety of priced packages to choose from but you are under no obligation to buy. Mark your calendars with the following dates —

- March 29th, 30th and April 20th** from 2:00—9:30 p.m.
- April 21st and May 19th** from 9:30 a.m. — 5:30 p.m.

Contact Sherre MacClellan 732-625-0001 if you have questions or concerns. Sign-ups will be held on Sundays, February 19th and 26th and March 4th.

COLTS NECK REFORMED CHURCH
P. O. BOX 57
COLTS NECK, N. J. 07722



Return Service Requested



FEBRUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH *Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany.* We worship at 9:15 and 11:00 a.m. and share in the Sacrament of Communion at both services. We continue the sermon series on the “*I am*” statements of Jesus as recorded in the Gospel of John. This week’s focus is on the declaration, “*I am the way, the truth and the life.*” The Senior Choir and Joyful Ringers will provide special worship music. Members of the youth groups will be receiving a donation of a dollar or a can of soup for *Open Door* – the food pantry in Freehold as part of the “*Souper Bowl of Caring.*”

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH *Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany.* The Alleluia Angels and Alleluia Jazz members share the gift of their talent at both the 9:15 and 11:00 a.m. services. Elder Debi Jensen, a student at New Brunswick Seminary, will be preaching and members of consistory will serve as liturgists.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH *Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany.* Concluding the sermon series from the book of John, we consider what Jesus meant when he said, “*I am the true vine.*” The Senior Choir and Exultation Ringers provide musical leadership at both the 9:15 and 11:00 a.m. worship services.



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND *Ash Wednesday,* beginning the season of Lent, is a time to remember Christ’s journey to the cross, our mortality and our need for a Savior. This special evening worship service, at 7:30 p.m., will be held in our Sanctuary as we combine with the congregations from Old Brick (Marlboro) and Freehold Reformed Churches. A Lenten drama, “*The Trials of Jess Goodnuff*” will be presented, and a choir comprised of members from all three churches will offer an anthem. The imposition of ashes will be available to all who wish.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH *First Sunday in Lent.* This morning our Jubilation! choir will lead worship at both services (9:15 and 11:00 a.m.) with the youth musical *Are We There Yet?* Through songs and skits, this musical explores the connection between knowing God’s love and being doers of the Great Commission. Our hope is that this musical will inspire all of us to be witnesses for Christ to every person we meet, and to press on toward the goal of becoming more like Christ.