

Colts Neck Reformed Church Annual Report

ANNUAL MEETING

September 15, 2011 – 7:00 PM



Confess our Faith: Jesus Christ is Savior

Nurture our Faith: Life-long Learning

Reflect our Faith: Worship and Witness

Carry out our Faith: Everyone in Ministry

CONSISTORY NOMINATIONS

The following people have accepted the nomination by the nominating committee to serve on Consistory or next year's nominating committee. The election will occur at the Congregational Meeting 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 15, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. A power point presentation of the 'year in review' will be shown, followed by the business meeting.

DEACON

Tom Saker
Dottie Weidman

ELDER

Carol Barnett
Barb Brown
Ginne Hooper
Debi Jensen

2011/12 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Jack Coffey
Jan Peterson
Barb Serafin

Average Church Attendance

	2009	2010	2011
January – May	376	378	385
June – August	225	237	227
September – December	347	385	**

**figures available next year

The following tallies are based on the church's fiscal year July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011

New Members (32)

Joseph J. Anania
Janice M. Anania
Ray Reis
Kathy Baghsarian
John Baghsarian, Sr.
Timothy Jacoutot
Shari Jacoutot
Rose Pisarek
Kenneth R. Howlett
Lonnie Howlett
Tom Kirchner
Tina Rakitt Kirchner
Cassidy Alia
John D. Cerny
Faith Lenz
Luke Laffey
Austin Janowski
Kimberly Rivera
Aimee Jeanette
Davin Eugenio
Chris Campbell
Bethany Zaccaria
Kristen Siebenheller
Marissa Hamilton
Gabby Mahoney
Julianna Heck
Catherine McCoy
Austin R. Ptaszynski
Anthony Gugliotta
Christine Gugliotta
Maria Siddons
Earl B. Siddons, DVM

Baptisms (4)

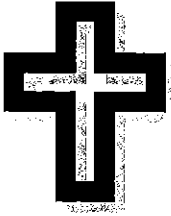
Noah Isaac Benkendorf
October 17, 2010
Don Viet Phan III
March 27, 2011
Logan Thomas Travers
April 10, 2011
Timothy Cichetti
June 26, 2011

Marriages (6)

Sean Horan and Briana Martinez
September 11, 2010
Patrick T. Detwiler and Diane M. Moos
October 3, 2010
Steven Persamanos and Dawne Serani
November 20, 2010
Terry J. Karl and Ellen Shakespeare
March 5, 2011
Dennis Harold Reed and Kathy K. Klutts
April 15, 2011
Joseph Palermo and Elizabeth Peterson
June 16, 2011

Funerals / Memorial Services (7)

Elizabeth H. Ford – *August 20, 2010*
Harry R. Shakespeare – *August 25, 2010*
Julius Schweitzer – *September 2, 2010*
Barbara Gunther Reed – *January 2, 2011*
Judith Ann Hansen – *February 25, 2011*
Tammi L. Casey Goselin – *May 8, 2011*
Frederick E. Jones, Jr. – *June 27, 2011*



The Colts Neck Reformed Church

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**CONFESS OUR FAITH:
JESUS CHRIST IS SAVIOR**

**NURTURE OUR FAITH:
LIFE-LONG LEARNING**

**REFLECT OUR FAITH:
WORSHIP AND WITNESS**

**CARRY OUT OUR FAITH:
EVERYONE IN MINISTRY**

SCOTT D. BROWN
MINISTER

CHRIS VANDE BUNTE
ASSOCIATE MINISTER

MAGGIE TRIPOLD
DIRECTOR
MUSIC AND WORSHIP ARTS

DIANNE O'HARA
CONGREGATIONAL
CARE COORDINATOR

DAVID TRIPOLD
ORGANIST/SENIOR CHOIR DIRECTOR

TULLIS SAVAGE
DIRECTOR
NURSERY SCHOOL
732-462-4662

BETSY ARAS
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

JOY LENZ
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

GARY FARE
CHURCH SEXTON

ALICIA DIMTSIOS
TREASURER

September 1, 2011

Dear Friends,

As another September is upon us, and with that, a look both back and forward, I grow in my awareness of the overarching sense of God's presence. Though the earth shakes, and the stock market swings, and life is both sweet and savory – I find growing peace in the deep faith that God is alive and in charge. Though I sweat the economics that attend running the business side of the church, I rest in the comfort that God is directly involved. Though I worry about the health and welfare of family and friends, I abide in the knowledge that, despite problems and pain, Jesus holds us each in the palm of his gracious hand.

Thus, as we transition into another program year, I am filled with gratitude. At the Colts Neck Reformed Church we have many opportunities to worship, learn, care, give, share and serve. I hope you will look through this annual report and be excited to be part of our shared ministry. We are, thanks to God, engaged in effective ministry. I see the Realm of God advancing in dynamic ways through the dedicated volunteers of our congregation! There is a lot of activity, but with each report presented there is an underlying story of people who are growing spiritually.

I look forward to a program year of significance. Even in the next few weeks we have many ways to seek God's leading. Educational and musical opportunities resume. We'll remember the fragility of life and how we are called by God to respond with 9:15 a.m. worship on September 11th. On September 18th we'll have a special Miracle Sunday worship, followed by our ministries expo, groundbreaking and catered picnic, all on our church campus.

Please come and hear more at our congregational meeting, which will be held on Thursday evening, September 15th. We'll meet at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall with a visual overview of the year past. Come, remember and celebrate! The subsequent meeting includes agenda items such as reviewing the budget, electing elders, deacons, and next year's consistorial nominating committee, as well as a time for congregational comment. Childcare will be provided if requested by September 9th (contact the church office).

I join with Chris in saying that it is a privilege and a pleasure to serve as your pastor. These are exciting times in an exciting place to be in ministry. Let us build on that – all to the glory of God!

Scott D. Brown

**COLTS NECK REFORMED CHURCH
BUDGET: JULY 2011 / JUNE 2012**

The Church budget for the fiscal year 2011/2012 has been approved at \$729,532. This represents an increase of \$22,503, or a 3.2% increase over actual 2010/2011 year.

Following is a brief overview of the upcoming church year's budget:

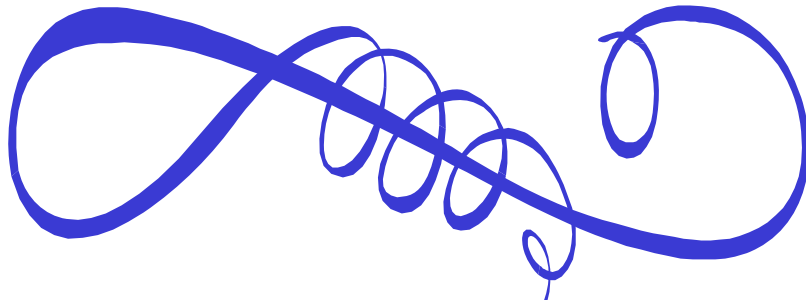
- Staff salaries and expenses: \$347,222
 - Overall salaries increased 3.1%.
 - No increase the previous two years.

- Operating expenses: \$254,702
 - 1.9% increase over the prior year.
 - One new item in the budget: lay training and conferences for \$1,300. As we continue to expand our ministries, we would like to have more lay people involved. We feel this will be a good use of our resources.

- Benevolence budget: \$127,608
 - 21.2% of total staff and operating expenses.
 - Consistent target as a % of expenses for over 10 years.
 - Strong, diversified programs, that impact regionally, as well as globally.

We would like to thank the congregation for their continued financial support of our staff, campus facilities, church programs, and benevolence programs.

*Respectfully submitted,
Gregory Robinson, Commissioner for Stewardship and Finance*



FISCAL 2010/2011 BUDGET, 2010/2011 ACTUAL, 2011/2012 BUDGET

	2010 / 2011 BUDGET	2010 / 2011 ACTUAL	2011 / 2012 BUDGET
TOTAL STAFF SALARIES AND EXPENSES	333,557	333,466	347,222
<u>OPERATING EXPENSES</u>			
Mortgage Debt Service	99,690	99,690	99,690
Electric	19,200	18,239	19,000
Gas	21,500	16,067	18,000
Telephone	4,800	4,643	4,800
Insurance	17,800	18,389	18,800
Cleaning Service	16,000	15,576	16,000
Building and Grounds	10,000	9,826	12,000
Routine Maintenance	12,399	13,374	13,300
Equipment - Lease/Rental	2,038	1,943	2,038
Waste Removal	2,124	2,124	2,124
Supplies	11,500	13,252	12,000
Payroll Services	1,900	1,870	1,900
Postage	4,000	3,673	4,000
Music & Worship Arts	5,500	6,162	6,000
Classis Dues	42,000	41,856	42,000
Adult Education	1,700	1,513	2,000
Church Sch/Communicants	2,500	1,035	1,700
Bibles:Gr 4,8, new members	350	257	250
Vacation Bible School	0	0	0
Women's Retreat	0	0	0
Youth Fellowship	0	0	0
Lay Training /Conferences	0	0	1,300
Cong. Care/Assimilation	1,050	657	750
Publicity/Outreach	1,850	450	550
Miscellaneous	375	3,295	500
Total Operating Expense	278,276	273,891	278,702
Less transfer from Nursery School	(24,000)	(24,000)	(24,000)
Adjusted Operating Expenses	254,276	249,891	254,702
Total Staff Plus Adj Operating	587,833	583,357	601,924
Benevolences	124,621	123,672	127,608
Total Expenditures	712,454	707,029	729,532

ASSIMILATION AND CONGREGATIONAL CARE

The Assimilation commission's purpose is to encourage active membership within our church community. New members are drawn to a church by the friendliness and warmth of a congregation. Some new members become involved on their own and others need support and encouragement. Small group ministries provide a vital role in connecting church members with each other. Our goal is to connect new members with 5-10 other members within their first year.

In the fall of 2010 there was a parent workshop presented by Dr. Judith Kramer, Ph.D., entitled "*Whose Homework is it Anyway?*". Dr. Kramer provided useful information regarding the role of parents in their children's homework responsibilities and other basic parenting tips. In January, Scott Brown spoke during an 11:00 a.m. Learning Group on "*What to say when you don't know what to say?*". And in May we scheduled *Care Sunday*, an insert was provided in the bulletin to feature the many opportunities available to congregants to connect with each other in service.

We continued holding *Pizza with the Pastors* on Sunday afternoons to offer frequent visitors a chance to informally meet and share a meal with the ministers. After the Sunday meetings, new member dinners, luncheons and even desserts were held at which time consistory members interviewed and introduced new members to all in attendance. New members were then introduced to congregants at a Sunday service where their photos are projected. The newsletter also provides short bio's and photos of new members.

The assimilation team continues to serve as greeters to welcome visitors and church members to service. Surveys of new members consistently stated friendliness and warmth from the first contact had an impact on their decision to join. A consistory member stands with the minister after services to provide an additional contact for visitors as they leave worship.

Name Tag Sundays continue to be a part of the assimilation program. We try to schedule them on the Sundays new members are being introduced, therefore providing the opportunity for all worshipping that day to put names with faces.

Coffee Hour Connections continue to link bulletin board sign-ups with a representative from one of our many small groups.

The monthly newsletter article "*Who am I?*" continues to be a favorite of many congregants. Through the ten clues provided, it is fun to guess who the person is and what you might have in common with them. Sometimes the clues reveal information even close friends or family didn't know about the featured congregant! A photo of the featured member is provided on the back page of the newsletter.

If you are interested in participating in assimilation activities, please contact Eileen Moore.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Moore, Consistory Commissioner for Assimilation and Congregational Care



**New
Member
Classes**

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

At Colts Neck Reformed Church we all belong to an “extended” church family that cares about us and supports us. I feel blessed to be in this important role as congregational care coordinator. Here are just a few examples of how different people from our congregation use their spiritual gifts in order to minister to others in the church family.

- ❖ Volunteers organize and serve a welcome luncheon, dinner or dessert for new members, all of which is provided by church members.
- ❖ Volunteers prepare and deliver meals to a family that just had a new baby, or is dealing with an illness or death in the family.
- ❖ Volunteers visit church members who are ill or homebound.
- ❖ Volunteers organize, cook and serve funeral repast luncheons here in Fellowship Hall, following a funeral service.
- ❖ Volunteers read prayer requests that have been sent to them via email, and then pray for those concerns. (our prayer chain has about 90 members)
- ❖ Volunteers deliver Easter flowers and Christmas poinsettia plants to members who are homebound, to let them know that their church family is thinking of them.
- ❖ Volunteers provide transportation to doctor appointments and or church, if needed.

In addition we offer:

- ❖ medical equipment available for members to borrow if needed
- ❖ a blood drive in the fall and winter
- ❖ small group ministries/support groups
- ❖ weed-a-week summer opportunity to help care for the church property
- ❖ Nametag Sunday
- ❖ small group seminars on congregational issues
- ❖ New Members- We offer an initial informal first meeting with the pastors entitled “*Pizza with the Pastors.*” This is open to all new visitors and/or current visitors who are interested in joining and/or learning more about the church. This gives Chris and Scott a chance to meet and greet our newcomers. If a visitor then decides they are interested in joining the church or learning more about it, a second meeting would then be set up with Scott or Chris. If a visitor decides to join they attend a New Member luncheon, dinner or dessert and then are introduced in church on a chosen Sunday.
- ❖ Healing Services
- ❖ Remembrance Services
- ❖ congregational care brochure- outlining our services
- ❖ National Day of Prayer

These are just a few examples...there are many other things going on all the time behind the scenes!

During the coming year there will be continued care, support, and prayer within our church family. If you would like to get involved in these types of ministries, please contact me through the church office or email me at [cnrc-care@verizon.net].

~Dianne O'Hara, Congregational Care Coordinator



BUILDING AND GROUNDS

The Building and Grounds Committee meets on the first Thursday of the month to plan and coordinate the various activities needed to maintain and preserve the CNRC buildings (Church Building, Education Building, Brown's Parsonage, Vande Bunte's Parsonage, Tripold's House, and East House) and the associated grounds.

Committee members (*Bob Gassaway, John Jacoby, Ron Bird, Larry Otten, and Fred Kluge*) have Leader/Coordinator roles for the principle buildings. *Ed Aras, Carter Hall, Rick Moos, and Tom Russell* also serve as key committee members.

Gary Fare (Church Sexton) performs many of the routine maintenance activities required throughout the properties.

Betsy Aras (Church Administrator) provides the overall coordination of the various maintenance activities and vendor interactions throughout the year. Her organizational skills serve her well in this important activity.

During the year, the following major projects were completed.

- Sanctuary Ceiling Restoration

The sanctuary ceiling restoration was performed by ceiling and electrical contractors during July and August 2010.

The work required to prepare the sanctuary for this project - relocate twenty-five pews, install rosin paper over the carpet, install sixty sheets of masonite on the floor, and prepare six covers for the stained glass windows as well as the work required following the completion of the ceiling – remove the masonite and rosin paper, and reinstall the pew – was performed by a large number of church member volunteers. This effort reduced the overall cost of the project by \$10,000. Thanks to everyone who participated in this activity.

- Sanctuary Lighting

As part of the ceiling restoration project, four new off-the-ceiling lights, including automatic light fixture lift units, and new energy efficient balcony lighting were installed.

- Sanctuary Exterior Cleaning and Painting

The sanctuary exterior was power washed and siding wedge vents were installed in the areas of peeling paint. The back, older sides and front two columns were painted.

Additional Building and Grounds Committee members are always welcome. Please consider contributing your time and talents to this important function.

~Reed Feuster, Commissioner for Building and Grounds

ATLANTIC CEMETERY

The cemetery adjoining the church property, incorporated as the Atlantic Cemetery, was established on February 6, 1866. The Atlantic Cemetery continues to be a sacred place and plots continue to be sold and burials still occur.

There is a Board of Trustees which meets at least annually (the first Monday evening in May). Six trustees are plot holders (or immediate family members of those deceased) and six are members of the church's consistory. The senior minister serves as President of the cemetery association board. The board sets prices of graves, ensures that the cemetery is properly maintained, perpetual care is properly financed and attending policies are set.

Future improvements include 1) an entrance sign indicating the name of the cemetery and a reminder of established regulations, such as the rule that only live, seasonal flowers are permitted to be placed on graves; and 2) the establishment of a dedicated common area for ashes.

For the year ended December 31, 2010, the cemetery equity increased by \$8940.57 due to plot sales, interest and increases in investments. The cemetery's assets total \$260,467.08 as of 12/31/2010. Thanks to Eddie Janowski who is the cemetery's groundskeeper. Ron Bird serves as treasurer and Tom Russell as secretary and superintendent. If you have questions about purchasing a grave plot, you may contact Tom Russell at 732-741-8125.

ONGOING CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

Church School: Our Church School had a very successful year under the leadership of Superintendent Stacey Savage. The teachers and teenage assistants for the 2010-2011 school year were: **Preschool:** *Tessa Mariner and Alyssa Cantin* with assistants *Emily Burke, Lindsey Bosland, and Delaney Gray*; **Kindergarten:** *Kristen Saker and Karen Feeney* with assistants *Kelly Lynch and Sarah Irwin*; **First Grade:** *Dawn Potter, Richard Burke, and Nick Vota* with assistants *Mary Burke, Allison Vota, and Lauren Baghsarian*; **Second Grade:** *Karen Hager and Jane Rappleyea* with assistants *Jessica Beck, Jack Lenz, and Alys MacClellan*; **Third Grade:** *Claire Hall and Jeannine Contract* with assistants *Zack Petrie, Jackson Irwin, and Mike Potter*; **Fourth Grade:** *Scott Alia*; **Fifth Grade:** *Brenda Wishbow, Kathy Rodman, and Dave Cook*; **Sixth Grade:** *Margaret Carmeli, Sin-Kuen Hawkins, and Lisa Geissler*; and **Seventh Grade:** *Bruce Daudelin and Hans Harder*. We give great thanks to all of our Church School volunteers and look forward to having many of them back next year.

The Church School curriculum was *Walk With Me*, published by Faith Alive. The program this year also focused on the theme of *Make a Joyful Noise*. During the first Sunday of each month, all the church school children met to sing together in Fellowship Hall. Under the direction of *Jeff Brown and Allison Walter*, the children learned and sang many traditional church school songs. At Christmas, the children decorated the Sanctuary tree with hand-made ornaments. During Lent, they were given a Lenten devotional to encourage them to add daily prayer to their lives. Each church school family was also given a wooden bank to use for donations in support of *Family Promise* of Monmouth County's community project, *Houses for Change*. With donations from the children and the congregation, money was collected to help provide shelter for the homeless. Our Church School, with help from our entire congregation, collected over \$800. On June 12th, the Church School presented a special service where the students recited their memory work, wrote the prayers and confessions for the service, and challenged the congregation to join with them in singing some of the traditional church school songs they had learned.

Thanks again to *Stacey Savage* for serving as Superintendent this year. Stacey went above and beyond what was required by serving without an assistant. Thanks to *Kristen Saker and Ellen Vande Bunte* for helping Stacey during the year. We will be blessed to have Stacey return next year and be assisted by *Jennifer Mayrose*.

Thanks also to *Eileen Moore* for her many years of service in organizing and maintaining the Church School supplies in the resource room. This year, *Janice Anania* will be taking over from Eileen and we thank her for volunteering to serve the Church School in this important job.

Bible Studies: There are three Bible Studies which fall under Ongoing Ministries. The Woman's Bible Study meets on Thursday mornings and has been in existence since 1999. Barbara Tucker is the able and inspirational leader of this group. This year, they have studied the Book of James, and *To Live as Christ: The Life and Ministry of Paul*. The Thursday Evening Bible Study is led by Rev. Chris Vande Bunte. This program year, the group has studied the book of Revelation, *The Reason for God* by Rev. Timothy Keller, the book of Hebrews, and participated in a series of studies and discussion on passages of the Bible that have always puzzled us. The Senior Bible Study meets on Friday mornings and is led by Rev. Scott Brown, with occasional substitutions by Rev. Chris Vande Bunte or Debi Jensen. The group usually focuses on the scriptural message that is to be used in the upcoming Sunday sermon.

All of the Bible Study groups are well attended and sometimes even overflow the space in LaPenta Lounge. Each group works as an outreach ministry and has regular members from outside CNRC. Several people have started as Bible Study attendees and are now members of our church. All are welcome to join for as many sessions as they are able to attend.

Nursery School: Please refer to the report written by Tullis Savage for a complete description of the Nursery School year. The planned upgrade to the playground was completed and was available in September to the Nursery School. The children have enjoyed playing on their new, safe playground equipment. Our Nursery School program continues to grow and change to meet the needs of our community by including optional programs in the afternoon for an additional cost – Lunch Bunch for the 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds; Geography class for the 4-year-olds; and Pre-reading classes using award winning children's literature for the 4-year-olds. The Nursery School continues to be an effective and nurturing outreach program for our church. Many families are introduced to the caring ministry that we provide for children and, as a result, choose to attend and then to become members of our church.

~Debi Jensen, Commissioner for Discipleship – Ongoing Ministries

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

This year the congregation continued to enthusiastically support and attend all of our adult Christian education programs. This year saw the continuation and growth of Bible studies for seniors, women and the Thursday evening study.

We added a new Saturday morning men's Bible Study. The men's program met once a month for six months. The group combined time for breakfast and fellowship followed by Bible Study. The men's group studied Super Bowl Coach Tony Dungy's book "*Dare to Be Uncommon.*"

In addition to our ongoing programs, our Senior Choir director, Dr. David Tripold, presented a program on the history of choirs in the Reformed Church. David is also a Professor at Monmouth University and the presentation was based on a book he wrote.

~Art Peslak, Commissioner for Discipleship – Christian Education



ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Fund of the Colts Neck Reformed Church is different from the Memorial Fund, which the Church uses for current special projects.

The principal of the Endowment Fund is held in trust for the Church. As of June 24, 2011, the total contributions were \$22,500.00. The fund value was \$32,082.08. The net change from the prior year was \$3,996.84. The fund earnings are used to provide seed money for new Projects/Ministries and for Missions. The total distribution to date was \$1,700.00.

For additional information, please contact any of the committee members: *Ron Bird, Mark Bosland, Paula Caudiano, Karen Feeney, Reed Feuster*, and ex-officio member *Rev. Scott Brown* or access the church web site at www.coltsneckreformed.org and select the category *Church Programs*, than *Stewardship and Giving*, to review an Endowment Fund Overview, a Brochure, and Sample Language for a Will Codicil.

~Reed Feuster, Chairperson

FELLOWSHIP 2010– 2011

The Fellowship Committee has a very busy and encouraging year. We started the year off by organizing a fishing trip in August 2010 that left from the Atlantic Highlands Municipal Marina. The boat was full and everyone enjoyed themselves catching fish and some sun. The Fellowship committee organized the Church Picnic and moved the date to Rally Day. Although it rained, there were 125 people there to enjoy the start of the church year.

The Supper Club had their first dinner in September and continues to grow each and every year because of the hard work by Mary Iking. We offered theater tickets at Count Basie for "The King and I" and 40 people attended the show. The Fellowship Committee hosted coffee hour for Staff Appreciation Sunday in November.

The Petrie's organized a canoe trip in May in the Pine Barrens there were approximately 25 participants. They had great weather and a few got wet. Charlie Fox organized a striped bass outing during the 2011 Memorial Day weekend.

We also hosted our traditional events which include the Christmas Party/White Elephant Gift Exchange at the home of the Stoevers. There were over 100 people at their home and there were carolers that dropped by to help with the festive occasion. A Bowling Night was organized by Vera Santucci to help with the winter blues.

Our final event for the year was organizing a Blue Claws game in July 2011 and we knocked it out of the park by selling 50 tickets where the proceeds went to Family Promise. Everyone won that night!

Ongoing opportunities for fun and fellowship include coffee hour, bowling teams, book discussion groups, the quilting group, and the craft group.

We are grateful and give thanks to all the volunteers that make all the events very special in the life of the church.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.....All the believers were together and had everything in common.

Acts 2:42-44

~Audrey O. Ahn, Commissioner for Fellowship

LONG RANGE PLANNING

It has been an eventful and productive year for the Long Range Planning Committee. At the June 2, 2011 meeting of the Committee, lingering issues regarding fire code enforcement and several construction options for East House construction were resolved and the committee authorized Ned Gaunt of Kaplan, Gaunt, DeSantis Architects, to proceed with creation of detailed construction drawings on an expedited schedule. We now anticipate that a complete set of drawings will be available by the end of July. At this point all aspects of implementing the new East House construction will be transferred to the newly formed Implementation Committee. Members of the Implementation Committee are: *Ed Aras, Ron Bird, Reed Feuster, Bob Gassaway, Paul Horan, Frank Johansson, Ed Nyland, Bill Perkinson, Ron Shellock, and James Wishbow*. If all events proceed on schedule, a contractor will be selected by September or October of this year and a construction schedule provided shortly thereafter.

The Colts Neck Township Zoning Board of Adjustment approved our proposal to renovate and expand the East House on January 20, 2011. Since our current campus operates under a conditional-use variance, our proposal required five votes, and thankfully we received a unanimous, five-vote "yes" from the board members present. Our initial presentation to the board in December of 2010 was revised based on input received from the board. Both presentations to the board were led by Peter Sokol (church attorney, working pro bono), supported by Ned Gaunt (architect) and A.J. Garito of Two River Engineering. The board memorialized our plan approval at their following meeting in February.

The major delays we had experienced in the past began to resolve upon receipt of the approved T1 application from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection on August 9, 2010. This permit basically provides approval for our existing groundwater discharge when considering all the contiguous properties: Sanctuary, Education Building, three church-owned staff homes and the East House. Legal expertise and guidance for obtaining this key permit was provided pro-bono by attorney Margaret Carmeli.

With permitting and approvals behind us, look for plenty of fast breaking and exciting news on East House construction as we move from a longer than anticipated planning phase, to a period of more easily seen implementation. Thanks go to the hard work and persistence of the Long Range planning Committee members in bringing us to this point.

~Bill Perkinson, Commissioner for Long Range Planning

MISSION COMMISSION

Mission Shares:

- CNRC supports international mission projects through the Reformed Church in America "Partner In Mission" shares:
 - Sudan:** In the Sudan, we partner with a faith based agency (RECONCILE) who seeks to counsel and work with victims of the ongoing civil war in that country, and promote peace.
 - Croatia:** Our partner in Croatia is Eric Titus who works with the established Reformed Church in that country to strengthen their structure and communication. Eric teaches at a seminary to provide education for new leaders in the church.
 - Niger:** We partner with Thomas and Aichatou Johnson who work with the local church in this very poor and predominantly Muslim country, specifically in areas of agriculture and irrigation and building projects (Tom) and developing community health programs (Aichatou).
 - Alale, Kenya:** Here, we partner with Amos Limo Liangor who ministers to the Pokot people at the Alale clinic that serves many surrounding villages.
 - India:** Here, we partner with Linn Gann who works with the Church of South India among the poor and outcast of the country, primarily with women and job skill training and community organizing, including programs providing animals and income to families.
 - Bruce and Laurie Hawley** serve as Mutual Mission Facilitators, working with volunteers on domestic and international sites.

RCA Churches, Schools and Ministries:

- CNRC provided financial assistance or one time gifts to the following churches:
 - o North Reformed Church, Newark – Bessie Green Community – shelter and assistance programs
 - o Trinity Reformed Church, Newark – urban youth programs, children's summer camp
- CNRC provided financial support to the following RCA colleges and seminaries: Central College, Hope College, Northwestern College, New Brunswick Theological Seminary & Western Theological Seminary.
- The congregation provided New Brunswick seminarian, Dawn Alpaugh, with a monthly scholarship stipend, and supported Amy Lewis as she works with Athletes in Action, doing in-campus ministry at Texas A&M. Since Dawn has graduated NBTS, we will be supporting our fellow congregation member, Debi Jensen, as she continues her studies at New Brunswick.
- CNRC gave to the Reformed Church Home, the New Brunswick Theological Seminary Women's Auxiliary, the Warwick Conference Center, and provided funding for scholarships to Camp Warwick.
- This year, the Classis of New Brunswick, the regional church body to which CNRC belongs, began a Community Development Corporation which seeks to undertake projects that will enhance ministry within Central New Jersey. CNRC offered a benevolence gift for the Classis CDC start up.
- We support Words of Hope, an international radio ministry partner of the RCA, with an annual pledge.
- We support Reformed Church World Service through an annual pledge of \$6,000 which goes toward providing disaster relief.

Local Mission with Organizational Partners: (board membership refers to organizations with church members serving on the board of said organization – thank you to all of those who served!)

- We continue to actively support the local *Habitat for Humanity* through financial giving and participation through volunteerism and board membership. Bill Perkinson is the liaison for Western Monmouth Habitat for Humanity.
- We continue to work with *Open Door* through volunteerism, Thanksgiving, *Souper Bowl of Caring*, and *Spring into Summer* food drives, as well as an ongoing/year-round, food drive, and a yearly pledge of financial support. Brenda Wishbow is our church liaison to *Open Door*, and Chris Schott is our alternate. Many thanks to Jared and Marcia Reid who faithfully deliver our ongoing donations to *Open Door*.
- *Family Promise* (formerly Interfaith Hospitality Network) is a rotating shelter for homeless families: we provide financial support, continued participation as a "support church" staffing a location on a rotating basis, and board membership. Jill Niehaus coordinates our "support church" participation. Carol Barnett and Victa McKenzie serve on the Family Promise Executive Board. In addition, the children in our church school program contributed over \$800 dollars to this organization through their Lenten bank collections.
- *180: Turning Lives Around*: we provide meeting space, annual contributions and board membership. Cindi Westendorf works with "180", specifically in the *2nd Floor* and *Amanda's Easel* programs.
- We provide weekly meeting space for four *12-step program groups*.

- Other organizations supported through volunteerism and financial support: *Amistad* (ministry to Hispanic community of Freehold), *Aslan Youth Ministry* of Red Bank (Michael & Karen Laffey, liaisons), *Court Street School Education Community Center* in Freehold, *HABcore*, *Love INC* in Eatontown, *Lunch Break* of Red Bank, *The Center* in Asbury Park NJ, *CPC Behavioral Healthcare* (LiliAnn Paras, liaison), *The Colts Neck Fire Department*, *Colts Neck First Aid*, *Monmouth Cares* of Eatontown (Jan Applegate, liaison), and the *Mental Health Association of Monmouth County*.
- We hosted a group called *Someone Special Needs You* once a month. Teen volunteers connect with a child with special needs on a monthly basis for two hours. Vince Scanelli founded and continues to run this group.
- We served as a support organization, supplying meals and volunteers for the *St. Peter's Community Outreach Supper Program* in Freehold twice during the year.
- We supported several youth in collecting items for projects they organized: used video games/systems which were donated to *St. Vincent DePaul Society* and *Family Promise*; used cell phones which were used to help raise money for participation in a *People to People program*; and school supplies which were given to students at Park Avenue School in Freehold.

Regional and National Mission Partners:

- *Pedals for Progress*: CNRC supports this mission that sends bikes overseas for transportation with donations of bikes and financial support. This year's collection resulted in over 90 bikes, 4 sewing machines, and \$900 donated to the organization.
- *Bread for the World* and *Compassion Child* received financial support. Our church school classes contribute their weekly offerings to support our Compassion Child.
- We participated in a *Soles for Souls* shoe collection drive, sending over 1500 pairs of shoes to their Edison drop-off site.
- A clothing collection yielded six boxes of clothing and \$795 in monetary donations for *Operation Wounded Soldiers*.
- *CROP Walk*: 58 church members walked and the congregation raised \$10,000, after a match from an anonymous donor, for Church World Service to support hunger relief locally and around the world.
- We collected \$905 for the Reformed Church World Service for their Japan tsunami relief efforts.
- We supported *Rutgers Protestant Campus Ministries* through a gift from our benevolence budget as well as a portion of our Classis dues.
- Other organizations supported financially: *NJ Council of Churches* and *Project Hospitality*.

Christmas Gift Program:

- During Advent, our congregation adopted and purchased gifts for 121 families who are clients of Lunch Break in Red Bank.

Emergency Relief:

- Local support for displaced families with temporary housing, or emergency rent assistance.
- Support for elderly with oil purchase through Church Oil Co-op Inc. for heat over the winter.
- Miscellaneous food certificates and transportation for emergency relief.
- Worked in cooperation with the Colts Neck Primary School to house, clothe, and feed a family of five throughout the year.

Mission Trips:

- The congregation sent 22 teens and 7 adults to Noxen, Pennsylvania to help repair and improve homes and properties there for the second year. Chris Vande Bunte led the group.
- Thirteen women, led by Kay Brown, traveled to Paterson, NJ to help with repairs and renovations at Faith Chapel Reformed Church. Bruce and Laurie Hawley facilitated this trip.
- Nine college-age students went with Chris & Ellen Vande Bunte to various sites in Europe where they met with missionaries and learned about mission endeavors in those countries.

Summary:

- Along with the \$124,620.65 (*this number represents 21.2% of the staff and adjusted operating budget of the church*) donated in 2010/2011 through benevolent giving, the congregation gives generously of its time and talent. Members continue to volunteer through church organized activities and on their own at various organizations. Thank God for the resources we are able to share!

~Dottie Weidman, Commissioner for Mission

NURSERY SCHOOL

The Colts Neck Reformed Church Nursery School celebrated its fortieth year of educating young children during the 2010 -2011 school year. The highlight of the year was the installation of a new age-appropriate playground and the smiles and giggles of the children as they have played. Debi Jensen and I met with three different playground companies and chose to purchase the equipment from Game Time. Whirl Construction removed the old equipment and installed the new; Holmdel Nurseries leveled the area and provided the mandatory resilient surface material. The “mighty oak tree” was a major part of the planning. We consulted with Michael Friedauer of Holmdel Nurseries (a former student!) and the playground architect so there would be no stress to the oak and essentially the playground was built around the tree. Because of this, the oak tree will continue to provide us with many more years of shade, thousands of acorns to collect, a circumference to measure, a place to gather before returning inside and a place to sit and lean when we are tired. It has been a very satisfying year with many firsts and lasting memories. We culminated our celebratory year by holding a reception for all of our families following the Spring Music Program on May 25th. We provided an anniversary cake, a variety of refreshments and enjoyed the friendships that had developed

The Nursery School classes have always focused on providing the children with a warm and nurturing environment. We value friendships and encourage our children to be kind to one another. **The educational philosophy remains that children “learn through play” though we have evolved to meet the social and educational needs of our children in today’s world and the needs of their parents.** We sing for fun, to expand our listening skills, to rhyme and to learn rhythm; we count our friends for snack so we can share with everyone and we learn our numbers; we spell our name so we learn the “important” letters and then all of the rest of the letters, too. We subtract a friend when he is absent because we miss him; we hang up our own coat and pick up our toys so that we become independent and responsible for our own actions and belongings, and we do chores at home to raise money for others because we are learning outreach and empathy for those who are less fortunate. As a Nursery School family we have participated in the church’s Thanksgiving food drive to help to restock the shelves of Open Door; we have collected gently used clothing to share with others; we have purchased pajamas and books for the Pajama Program Reading Center/NJ to distribute to underprivileged children; we have ridden our bikes, trikes and scooters and learned bike safety to encourage our families to voluntarily and directly donate to St Jude Research Hospital for Children.

At present all of our classes are in the morning, Monday through Thursday. There are a variety of days to select for each age group - 2 ½ year old through 5 year olds. We continue to have self-contained classrooms so the children will become comfortable with their teacher and their classmates. This also provides “ownership” and “individualization” according to the teacher’s strengths. Each teacher “designs” her classroom and provides appropriate educational activities, games and toys to enhance the curriculum. Parents are welcome to participate in their child’s classroom on a rotating basis, if they are available, as well as be replaced by very capable staff members who work as teacher assistants – *Crissy Applegate, Trisha Guadagnino, Carol Link, and Tessa Mariner.*

The Nursery School is constantly working to provide programs that will keep our students busy, happy and challenged. In addition to the classroom offerings, we have been asked by our parents to provide after-school programming. The programs that we have designed are optional so only those who choose to have their children participate are enrolled in the programs. We have attempted to provide expanded social engagement through the Lunch Bunch program, Geography for 4’s lets the children “tour the world” in a fun, hands-on class and our Literature class is an “intense” class for the developmentally advanced four year old. The literature class is by teacher recommendation only because of the curriculum material and our belief that each child develops at their own rate and does not need “pushing” at age four.

Because of the increased cost of everything, an activity fee was instituted last year. With those additional funds, we were able to cover the cost of all field trips for the children, all special educational programs held at the school, hiring a bus to transport our 4's to Sandy Hook and providing an outside "gym" to come during the winter months to provide additional physical activity for every class. To thank the parents for their support we provided each family with a "Kid Stuff...and more" coupon savings book when we received their activity fee.

Our enrollment fluctuates each year and we expect to have two classes of four's, two classes of three's and only one class of Playgroup-aged children in 2011-2012. *Laura Tucker* will accept the challenge of teaching three's for two days a week and *Tessa Mariner* will become the playgroup teacher. With the increased request for 4 days a week and the limited enrollment in the 4 day four's because of mandatory student/teacher ratio, an optional "transitional day" has been resurrected which will allow some 4's to attend school an extra day in a more relaxed environment with individual attention to that child's specific needs and/or interests. *Chris Camilli*, a former four-year-old teacher here, will be returning to teach that day as her youngest child begins her Nursery School journey. Our present teachers – *Ingrid Christensen*, *Sharon Mazzucca*, *Stacey Savage* – will spend time "tweaking" their curriculum during the summer. It is always our goal to challenge the children with interesting opportunities and experiences.

Our Summer Program appeared to have been the program of choice this past May and several weeks were filled with thirty-five children each on the second day of registration! The parents have obviously heard wonderful things about the Colts Neck Reformed Church Nursery School summer program and how much fun it is. The lead teacher is *Katie Weh*, the outdoor coordinator is Greg Tripold and there are nine teenagers (*Lauren Bagsharian*, *Mary Burke*, *Tim Gassaway*, *Alys MacClellan*, *Matthew Paddock*, *Allison Vota*, *Taylor Vill* plus replacement counselors – *Daniel Paddock* & *Emma Tucker*) who assist with the close supervision of the children, ages 3 years – 6 years. The children play outside on the playground for at least 1-½ hours in the AM and then come inside for snack, arts and crafts and music. They leave tired, but happy, each day.

We are proud to have been an outreach program of the Colts Neck Reformed Church for the past 40 years and hope to continue to educate young children in a developmentally appropriate way in the future. Thank you to the Consistory, church staff and church family for your encouragement, support and prayers for our continued success.

~Tullis Savage, Director



CNRC OUTREACH 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Each month, information on upcoming CNRC worship services and other events was distributed to these publications:

- Asbury Park Press
- News Transcript (*Colts Neck, Englishtown, Freehold Boro, Freehold Township, Manalapan, Marlboro*)
- Colts Neck Journal
- Colts Neck Calendar
- Colts Neck & Holmdel Community magazine
- RCA Today
- Church Herald
- Two River Times
- The Independent (*Aberdeen/Hazlet/Holmdel/Keyport/Matawan/Middletown*)
- The Hub (*Fair Haven, Rumson, Little Silver, Oceanport, Red Bank, Sea Bright, Shrewsbury, Tinton Falls*)

In addition, info on various CNRC events has been posted to the Asbury Park Press and Freehold Chatter websites and to Facebook. We received great press (an article with photos) from the Asbury Park Press for the Election Day Luncheon, Dinner, and Bazaar. Thank you to all those who helped make this community tradition so successful.

Two outreach events were suspended recently, but may resurface if there is interest. The 5k walk/run was not held due to a schedule concern. There was also a sense that there were several other community runs, yet we did receive calls wondering if we'd be hosting a run again. The Colts Neck Fair date change (from August to July 4th weekend) meant a shortage of available chowder cooks and volunteers, thus necessitating our church not participating.

Our church's website continues to develop and be a source of contact to those inside as well as outside our congregation. In addition to providing details about who we are and what we believe, the website provides timely information about programming, including downloadable forms (e.g. registrations, youth permission forms, nursery school applications.) Over the past year we have also redesigned the home page and added (1) a blog, so that our ministers, staff, and others can share thoughts and messages to the congregation and beyond, (2) photographs and quotes from various members of the congregation, and (3) audio recordings of sermons that can be listened to "live" or saved for future listening.

The Good Samaritan Networking Group (GSNG) is an organization, sponsored by CNRC, helping people network to find jobs. The GSNG now has over 900 members. We have helped many people get interviews and gain employment, despite the poor economy and terrible job market. Each month we typically distributed information on roughly 40-60 job openings and 2-5 job hunters. Additional outreach took place on behalf of these and other job hunters. If you know of any job openings, or of anyone seeking employment, please have them contact us at goodsamnetgroup@gmail.com. Information on the GSNG was also distributed to the publications listed above.

Business cards with CNRC information were distributed to the Congregation before Sunday services on various dates. Their purpose is to be used by members as an aid to invite others to the church or tell them about us. Additional cards are available in the church office.

We continue to reach out to the community in a variety of ways in service as well as providing space for several non-profit groups to meet (they make a donation to defray utility costs). We hosted two blood drives this past program year, coordinated by Kathy Rodman and Cathy Della Fera through the Central Jersey Blood Bank. Our facilities are also used by the Someone Special Needs You program, providing socialization opportunities for children with autism, and the Monmouth County Camera Club. AA groups meet weekly on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings, with the Tuesday group meeting in Fellowship for over 90 people. Saturday mornings a court-supervised anger-management program gathers in the Sanctuary basement and that evening a support group for families dealing with addiction dynamics.

Any Facebook user can become a member of the CNRC Facebook Group. Just search for "CNRC" on Facebook and when you reach our page click the "Like" button. News regarding upcoming events is periodically posted to the group. A Facebook Group and a LinkedIn Group also exist for the Good Samaritan Networking Group. Announcements of new job openings and job hunters are posted at both locations and also tweeted on Twitter (@goodsamnetgroup). The Good Samaritan Networking Group also has a blog, located at <http://coltsneckreformed.org/GSNGblog/> where we post helpful tips on networking and job searching.

Additional planning for future Outreach initiatives is currently underway.

~Brian Allain, Commissioner for Outreach



PERSONNEL

Whether you're a newcomer or a long time member, when walking into our church on a Sunday morning it is obvious Colts Neck Reformed Church is not just a place of worship, but a church where faith, friendship, respect, thankfulness, compassion, and love abound. We can thank our terrific staff for this!

Senior Minister Scott Brown and *Associate Minister Chris VandeBunte* share their faith, knowledge of the Bible, wisdom, love, and compassion daily as they preach, visit church members, teach Bible studies, interact with members of the community, and help others in innumerable ways. Chris works with the youth groups and oversees mission programs.

The wonderful music we enjoy each Sunday is a tribute to *Dave and Maggie Tripold*. Dave is Organist and Senior Choir Director. Maggie, Director of Music and Worship Arts, plans programs, oversees choirs, directs hand bells, and arranges instrumental and solo performances, special programs and choir tours. Their love of God and music is obvious through the work they do. Their talent is reflected in the comments one hears every Sunday about the music!

The ministers are supported in their work by Office Administrator, *Betsy Aras*. Ask Betsy a question and she knows the answer or if she doesn't she finds out. Her exceptional organizational skills, combined with her positive nature and patience enable the church office to run efficiently, even if she's off for a day or a week.

Betsy is assisted by *Joy Lenz*, who helps with bulletins, mailings and the phones, is the secretary for the Nursery School, and ably does Betsy's work when she is out of the office.

Dianne O'Hara is Congregational Care coordinator. She spends hours on the phone arranging dinners for people who are sick or have had surgery, need rides, or just need someone with whom to talk.

Tullis Savage has been the director of the church Nursery School for many years. As children's and parents' needs have changed, she has adapted the program to include lunch-bunch and a summer program. We can thank her for the success of our pre-school program for many years.

As you enter the Sanctuary on a cold winter's day or hot summer morning, you can thank *Gary Fare* who's at church early each Sunday turning on the heat or air-conditioner in the Sanctuary and making sure rooms and tables are ready for church school and fellowship. In addition Gary does maintenance chores when he sees the need.

We are fortunate to have such an outstanding staff!

~Ginny Russell, Vice-President of Consistory

WORSHIP COMMISSION

Another year has come to a close at Colts Neck Reformed Church. We are so grateful for the many ways we as a church family are able to share our faith. This year's theme was "Make a Joyful Noise" which was carried out in many ways during the program year.

Ministry is ongoing in important ways in worship on a weekly basis with many people involved in different areas. We are blessed with many volunteers who assist with everything from set decorations, original bulletin covers, props and costumes to Sanctuary decorations for Advent and Easter. There are 60 ushers and greeters, 12 communion preparers, 47 communion servers, 11 sound and video operators and presently 7 nursery volunteers. Together with our Lay readers and Confirmands in worship leadership, our church continues to grow and thrive.

With over one hundred and forty members participating in varied ensembles throughout the year, below are many of the year's highlights:

- ❖ New this year was the Church School Music program. The children sang during Church School with combined grades joining voices and, in the June Church School Celebration, challenged adults in singing as well.
- ❖ There was a Christmas Concert which was new this year, and groups participating were *Alleluia Jazz*, *Celebration Ringers* and *Jubilation!*, who played, rang and sang to a full house.
- ❖ *The Senior Choir* celebrated Thanksgiving together with the choir from St. Mary's; Ash Wednesday's service was held at Old Brick Church in Marlboro, once again with combined choirs from Freehold Reformed Church, CNRC and Old Brick Church; February celebrated Black History Month with a collection of spirituals entitled *Singin' in the Spirit*. In April, Mozart's *Requiem* was performed with members of Monmouth University Chamber Choir and soloists at both CNRC and at the University. The Senior Choir continues to grow with several new members joining.
- ❖ *Jubilation!* presented the musical *Ready to Fly* in March. A weekend trip to churches in Manahawkin and Freehold with 45 teens was also joined by *Celebration Ringers*, as our teens led worship and presented concerts.
- ❖ *Alleluia Angels* and *Cherub Choir* presented the musical *Go, Go Jonah* in February. Together with *Jubilation!*, combined anthems were sung in December and on Palm Sunday. *Alleluia Angels* also sang combined anthems with both *Celebration Ringers* and the Senior Choir and assisted in worship leadership at the Reformed Church Home.
- ❖ Handbells saw the addition of four new ringers; *Exultation Ringers* rang at Monmouth University's Holiday Concert and attended the Ocean City Handbell Festival; *Joyful Ringers* rang at the Reformed Church Home and *Morning Bells* rang at local assisted living facilities in December and May. *An Alumni Bell Choir* rang in January with 16 ringers and the Eighth Annual Handbell concert in May showcased 75 ringers.
- ❖ *Alleluia Jazz* participated in the Christmas Concert at CNRC and also worship services during the year. Our Youth Praise Band played for the Church School celebration with 15 participants. Additionally, Christmas caroling was led by Scott Brown, there were Women's and Men's Ensembles and our summer hymn sing.
- ❖ In Worship Arts, the drama *I Am the Vine* was presented on Maundy Thursday with a cast of over 30 participants. We have enlisted the use of projection during worship, displaying hymns, scripture, video clips and pictures. We now have both sound available on CD and video available on DVD for each worship service. The copies are available for a nominal purchase. Sermons are now posted online at the church website. And through the generous donation of a church member we now have eight new solid brass offering plates. From Memorial Funds we have a new tambourine and were able to refurbish a 5-octave and 3-octave set of Malmark handbells.
- ❖ And let the people say, "Amen".

~Barbara L. Brown, Commissioner for Worship



YOUTH MINISTRIES

This year marked our third year of a weekly meeting format for our youth on Sunday nights from 6:00—8:00 (with regular exceptions for holidays and when other events were scheduled). Each week, youth in 7th – 12th grades joined in a time of gathering and heard a message about a biblical passage or character throughout the year. They participated in ice breakers and games after the opening message and group prayer. Depending on the week, activity and attendance the youth were broken into junior and senior high groups or combined together, especially during dinners and other special activities.

The success of the youth programs at CNRC is due in large part to wonderful adult volunteers. Each week one to three other volunteers helped to lead one group or the combined group. Deepest thanks go out to these youth leaders from the congregation who include: *Jan Applegate, Scott Brown, Cathy Della Fera, Ginne Hooper, Sharon Johansson, Lucy Lennox, Joy Lenz, Dianne Maxwell, Paul and Sherre MacClellan, Barbara and Randy Reitmeyer, Kathy Rodman, Dave and Maggie Tripold, and Ellen Vande Bunte.*

Special events once again included the annual *Super Bowl Sub Sale* and *Easter Continental Breakfast*, both supported by Saker ShopRite with generous donations. The youth also participated in, among other events, the *30-Hour Famine* in support of World Vision and hunger relief, a youth retreat, a planning retreat for youth Sunday, a water park trip, bowling, ice skating, a tubing trip, a Super Bowl Party, and a Christmas Party. A special thanks goes to *Emma, Jack, Kristen and Tom Saker* for hosting our youth overnight during many of these special activities.

The culmination of the year came with the Noxen, PA, mission trip where 22 of our youth were accompanied by seven adult volunteers. From June 26—July 2, 2011, this group helped to repair and fix up the homes of many seniors in a small northeastern PA town. We were ably led and accompanied by volunteers from the United Methodist Church of Noxen, PA. While there, the group also had fun swimming in a local river, tie-dyeing T-shirts, a movie outing, and canoeing on the Susquehanna River! Thank you to *Alicia Dimtsios, Reed Feuster, Ginne Hooper, Paul Horan, Clark Petrie and Bernadette Riehle* for spending an incredible week with our youth!

This year also featured an incredible college trip to meet RCA missionaries in Europe. Nine of our students ranging from those one year out of high school to just graduating college traveled to Berlin and Wittenberg Germany, Prague Czech Republic, Budapest Hungary, and Osijek Croatia. While in these countries we met with *missionaries Duncan Hanson, Carolyn and Dick Otterness, and Eric and Nancy Titus.* The group learned about the roots of Protestantism and local histories under Communism, Nazism, and during a civil war. In addition, we heard about different types of mission in which our missionaries are engaged. Special thanks to Ellen Vande Bunte for accompanying the group as a chaperone.

Young Youth Fellowship (YYF) for grades 1-6 also met for much of this year and had many successful events. This group continues to be well led by Sherre MacClellan and other parent volunteers including *Margaret Carmeli, Sharon Johansson, and Paul MacClellan.* *Fellowship Fridays*, for children ages 2-4, also continued this year and was led by *Kristi Stoever*, meeting on the final Friday afternoon of each month. These groups are invaluable to the youth programs of the church as they introduce children to one another outside of church school and help them to form ties with others in the church.

The coming year promises continued programs and activities with some significant changes. Scheduling for our junior and senior high youth will be shifted to a three meeting per month format with one meeting focused on an off campus fellowship event. New leaders for all of our groups are also being actively recruited. We look forward to high school and college focused mission opportunities for our youth and even more occasions for growth in faith, fellowship and witness to the world. It is a privilege to walk along side these teens in their week to week lives. It is a blessing to serve in Christ's name along side of the adult youth leaders as we join with the youth in their faith exploration and development devoting ourselves to education, mission and fellowship in our youth programs and ministries.

~Rev. Chris Vande Bunte, Associate Minister
On behalf of all of the wonderful youth volunteers

