

New Beginnings

The First Reformed
Church of Nyack

Late Summer Edition
August 31, 2012

Food for Thought

Summer has been, for me, a time of relaxing into a quieter pace than I'm used to.

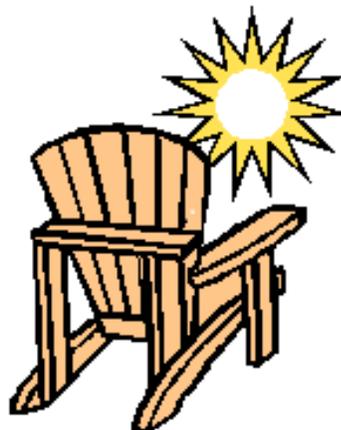
In early June, The Consistory and the Pastoral Search Committee, looking at the results of the Mission Study (in the middle of a service of worship), adopted the results of the ReVision Committee, starting the next phase of the wilderness journey.

In many different ways since my April 3, 2011 first official Sunday, we have been intentionally looking at possible futures of the First Reformed Church in Nyack.

Opportunities to provide more helpful insights will continue in the Consistory, the Pastoral Search Committee, and in the worshipping community. The more people offering time and perception, the better the results will be for all.

In the meantime, the wilderness journey continues.

Pastor Bill



Soup Angels Extends a Big Thank You for FRC's Support

Soup Angels would like to thank the church family and particularly Paul Wanamaker and Skip Russell for their help with obtaining some measure of air cooling for the Pitkin Room over the summer months. Every degree lower temperature really helps! Soup Angels has continued to serve steady numbers of guests, sometimes more, sometimes less, but the need is always there. This past week we served 81 people. We continue to have guest chefs to help us with the cooking from time to time and our 16 teams (with about 16 volunteers per team) to help us serve the meal. Thanks for allowing us to continue to use the Pitkin Room and to support our activities. We will be present at both of the last 2 Nyack Street Fairs of the season and hope to use some of those funds to help us with our annual Thanksgiving feast.

—Kathie Rife, Soup Angels
Co-founder

A Practical Application & Reflection From the Ladies' Bible Study



Last March, the FRC Ladies Bible Study, 'Forty Days in the Word' challenged us, as an assignment, to come up with a type of community service project

that we could do. It was based on the Micah 6:8 passage, "*He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*" At first I didn't really understand what that meant, which is nothing new with me. I have a difficult time sometimes figuring out what things mean when I read the Bible. Despite that, we came up with three assignments: the ongoing stamp collection, to be given to Margie (keep cutting those stamps off the envelopes!); increasing our participation in the Monday and Wednesday Soup Angels (yes!); and collecting old blankets and sheets for the Hudson Valley Humane Society, which is my topic for this newsletter. Around the beginning of June, after a few months of collecting, I was able to bring over to the HVHS about five large bags stuffed full of blankets, old towels, and sheets that people from our church had donated. WOW! I envisioned all the needy sweet little

animals being able to snuggle into something soft while they wait for someone to adopt them. I was hoping there would be someone around so that I could meander in to see what it was like in there. There was no one about so all I could do was drop the bags off on the porch with a note and a prayer that we helped in a small way to bring comfort to the homeless pets. It was probably for the best that I couldn't get in to the building, because I knew that if I had actually seen any of the animals, I would have brought home 5 or maybe even 10 new pets for Sandie. So in a way, I was glad there was not a soul around.

I always like to try and relate to something I am writing about and not just report on our project. This time it was difficult to think of something. Then, the next Saturday morning Erica and I were on our way to the gym when we spotted a large dog running down Midland Ave. She would playfully run up to anybody walking, whether they had a dog or not, but would be yelled at to go home. We had slowed down to make sure she didn't run out into the street. I hate to see any animal get yelled at (except sometimes I do yell at Sandie for barking at the mailman for the 3285th day in a row. Doesn't she get it?? The mailman comes

every day! So I yell.). But this was different and made us feel sorry for the dog, who was clearly lost. Erica and I, always trying to find a way to bring another animal into the house, stopped and looked at the dog's collar. Her name was Roxie and she lived 2 blocks from where we were. We coaxed her into the van (Paul still doesn't know we did this!). Roxie was wet, smelly, and slobbering, but that's okay. We delivered her back to her home and she was happy. The same was done for another loose friendly doggie running down our street in front of our house about a week later. Parker was her name. We brought her home too.

Where am I going with this? I am either secretly hoping that one of these rescues may actually end up as my new pet, or more likely, and more intelligently, help me to understand Micah 6:8, the basis for our community service assignment. I am learning to walk humbly with my God by providing, giving, helping, and even bringing a lost dog or two back to their home!

—Terri Wanamaker

Locks Installed on Kitchen Cabinets

Recently, locks were installed on the kitchen cabinets to secure our utensils and other kitchen items. The key is in the church office. Please talk to Sarah if you need to access items in the kitchen or want to help get the cabinets organized. Soup Angels has been providing regular and thorough cleaning of the kitchen by an experienced cleaning team every 6 weeks. Things are definitely looking better all the way around!



Sunday School News Summer 2012—Bonnie Williams



During the five Sundays in July the children joined the First Haitian Church young people and enjoyed Vacation Bible School celebrating the motto “Everything is possible with God” (Mark 10:27). The sessions focused on experiencing Bible stories about Jesus. Older students served as “Crew Leaders” and contributed sound effects, acting skill and guided the younger children. Erica Wanamaker, home for the summer from the University of Delaware, helped teach and served as official photographer. Machlie Bastien, of the First Haitian Church also served as an instructor. On the first Sunday we learned of the Roman officer with great faith. Our Bible memory verse was, “People judge by outward appearance, but the

Lord looks at the heart.” Caleigh Travers helped little Charlie Jennings move between activities. On the second Sunday we saw Jesus (Johnny Dedyo) raising Lazarus from the dead, Elise Graham was wrapped up in crepe paper and acted as Lazarus. Our memory verse was “Don’t let your heart be troubled. Trust in God.” Destiny Bossa helped the younger students with some of the outside activities. On the third Sunday, Daly Dedyo hid in our Garden of Gethsemane and startled many students when she made the sound of marching soldiers coming to arrest Jesus as we held battery candles in the darkened lounge. We followed Jesus’ path in the Pitkin Room and discovered a whip, the sword and shield of a soldier and the water bowl used by Pilot when he washed his hands. Our memory verse was “But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles.” On the fourth Sunday we took turns carrying the cross and placed it on the stairs. We thought about wrong things we have done and Jesus’ sacrifice for us when each student draped a strip of black plastic over the cross. We thought about the tomb and found light sticks inside helping us to remember that nothing can separate us from God’s love. On the final Sunday we fished with the disciples and “swam” ashore to have breakfast with Jesus. Our final verse was “Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”



In August and into early September we met informally and shared “God sightings” and Bible stories. As their project for the Girl Scout Silver Award, Elise Graham and Caleigh Travers dedicated time and hard work to restoring the Junior-Senior High room above the kitchen.

Don’t miss the September 16th worship service marking the opening day for the Sunday School fall program. First Haitian Church will again be invited to worship with us as we hear students sing some of the songs from vacation Bible school. The students will then kick off the year with a vacation Bible school program called “Babylon: Daniel’s Courage in Captivity.” A rain or shine picnic will take place immediately after the service.

Interfaith Event at Grace Episcopal Church in Nyack

Come and worship: Please join the clergy, choir and organist, worship leaders and members of Grace Episcopal Church (130 First Ave at the corner of Franklin Ave) for a service of Evensong on Sunday, October 14 at 4pm.

Evensong (or vespers) is a worship service in the Anglican tradition which traces its roots to the early church, monastic, Roman Catholic, and early Reformation communities. Through song, psalmody, readings from scripture and prayers (both said and sung), it is the work of the community gathered together at day's end for the formal lighting of candles and reflection back on the previous day. Throughout the service, there will be opportunities for silent reflection, prayers and signing of psalms and hymns. Worshipers are welcome to participate at whatever level they find comfortable.

This is the second of a series of interfaith events (following the initial introduction and reception at the Islamic Center last spring) designed for Christians, Jews, and Muslims to have an opportunity to gather as a community and to learn about our different faith and practices.

Our time together will begin with a brief lecture and introduction to our worship service and will conclude with an opportunity to comment and ask questions.

We will end with a reception and opportunity to meet with each other informally.



Tres Dias Women's Event: Oct 11-14

Margie Jennings is serving on the South Hudson Tres Dias Women's Team October 11th-14th. If you would like to deepen your walk with Jesus and experience His love and grace in a new way, Margie would love for you to join her. The weekend is a short course in Christianity, having great fellowship and eating lots of good food. :-)

Please see Margie Jennings for an application!



A Note From Our Worship Director



I look forward to the beginning of our somewhat more formal services in the sanctuary, coming soon. While I have enjoyed the intimacy of our lounge services (imagine how much closer to you I feel), I always love the majesty of our mighty pipe organ, the beginning of the choir year, the ability to use our wonderful piano (which facilitates amazing soloists), and my vista of you all! This year, I hope to be able to have a children's choir be a part of our services once (?) a month.

ITSS (in the sanctuary soon),

O' Jim

Church Rummage Sale October 6 & 7

Saturday, October 6, 10am—3pm

Sunday, October 7, Noon—3pm

Wanted: Helpers and Items

- Baked Goods & Toys
- Collectibles
- Housewares
- Christmas Items
- Handbags
- Shoes
- Books
- CDs & DVDs
- Jewelry
- Working Electronic Equipment
- Coats all sizes and children's clothing ONLY



Dates for dropping off items:

- Thursday, October 4th from noon—7pm
- Friday, October 5th from noon—2pm

Questions? Contact:

Bonnie Williams— 201-391-9183

bonniew34@optonline.net

Terri Wanamaker— 845-353-1986

momcat5179@aol.com

Carolyn Travers— 845-269-2068

Save the date: Church Family Outreach Event!!!

Get ready for the SLIME TIME/FRIGHT FEST!

Save Sunday night, October 28th from 5pm-7pm for a fun family time! Parents, kids and those that are kids at heart be ready for a time of games, slime, spooky experiences, and Bible memory buddy cards for a happy time together!



**The First Reformed Church
of Nyack**



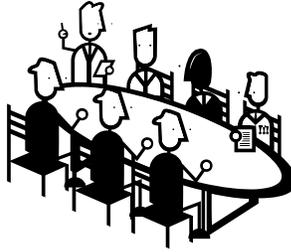
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Rev. Bill Doster, Interim Pastor
Pastor's study: 201-501-8951

We're on the web!
Check us out at
www.nyackreformed.org

An Update From The Pastoral Search Committee



We have reviewed many applications and have requested videos of sermons from several candidates. We ask for your prayers as we continue this process of finding a new pastor.

Margie Jennings, MSOL
Chairperson, Pastoral Search Committee



Keep In Prayer:

Maria Alessi



Calendar of Upcoming Events: Don't Miss Out!

Monday, September 3: Church office closed in observation of Labor Day.

Sunday, September 9: Nyack Street Fair. Be sure to pick up your parking pass for the worship service.

Sunday, September 16: Worship Service time changes back to 10:30am.

Sunday School starts back up with a picnic to follow the worship service.

Thursday, October 4, 12pm-7pm: Drop off items for rummage sale

Friday, October 5, 12pm-2pm: Drop off items for rummage sale

Saturday, October 6, 10am-3pm: FRC Rummage Sale

Sunday, October 7: World Communion Sunday.

Sunday, October 7, 12pm-3pm: FRC Rummage Sale

Sunday, October 7: Nyack Street Fair day. Be sure to pick up your parking pass for the worship service.

Monday, October 15: Columbus Day. Church office closed.