



New Beginnings

The First Reformed Church

Mid-Easter Edition
May 3, 2012

Food for Thought

Pentecost comes on May 27 this year by tradition, falling on the seventh Sunday after **Easter**. It is a piece of the drama set in motion by Easter—the natural flow of the season from the silence of an empty tomb to the wind and fire of Pentecost.



Pentecost answers the question, "When do we get onto the stage?" Am I only an observer, watching some holy drama far removed from my own life?

Pentecost brings us together around a table—in sharp contrast to the Tower of Babel which symbolized our "scatteredness," our loss of community, and our social alienation—disturbing signs of our age. The Table symbolizes the new possibility of community, in which those of us who have been scattered can once again hear one another speak.

The Spirit of Pentecost creates a new family and pulls in the stranger. The Spirit of Pentecost overcomes our differences with a new language of compassion and acceptance.

"Parthians, Medes, Elamites, visitors from Rome, and Arabs--all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?'" (Acts 2)

And what can this mean to us, this Spirit of the very first Christian Pentecost?

Love along the way--
from Tower to Table,

Pastor Bill

Ladies Bible Study



The Ladies Bible Study meets every other Thursday night at Margie Jenning's house. We have been going through Rick Warren's "Forty Days in the Word" and having a wonderful time learning how to meditate on scripture and put it into practice. Please join us at 7:30pm. All are welcome at anytime.

Dates in May:

3rd, 17th & 31st.



Reflecting On Participating in Our Easter Services

by Terri Wanamaker

Maundy Thursday was a new event to participate in for Paul and myself. I had always heard about it, but never really paid any attention to it. I only really knew that it was The Last Supper. When I was younger, Good Friday was for attending The Stations of the Cross and Holy Saturday was the 'end' of Lent, when at exactly at noon we were finally allowed to eat candy again! It was tough going forty days without any candy as kids! Then, finally Easter! New patent leather shoes, a new Easter dress and Easter coat, and off to church we went to celebrate Jesus' rising from the dead.

The idea of finally participating in a Holy Thursday celebration, called

Maundy Thursday, was something to look forward to. I had to look it up because I didn't know what Maundy meant. It commemorates the Maundy (washing of the feet) and the Last Supper of Jesus. The verse John 13: 34 says "*Mandatum novum do vobis ut diligatis invicem sicut dilexi vos*" or "a new Commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another as I have loved you." This is the statement by Jesus explaining the significance of his action of washing the disciples' feet. At church, it was very solemn that night. We had to actually remove items from the altar area and around the church that had anything to do with Jesus. The church was darkened and we left. It was very somber and meaningful.

We were not able to make it to the Good Friday and Holy Saturday ser

vice at the Clarkstown Reformed Church, but I heard it was nice.

Easter Sunday dawned clear and crisp, and Nyack Beach State Park was a beautiful spot to celebrate Easter! By the time the service began at 7 am, the sun had risen, and there was about forty or so people there. The service was led by Pastor Bill, music by Jim, and readings were done by various people scattered throughout the crowd. All in all, it was a very nice service.

Back to church we went to a yummy breakfast of Al Cann's famous eggs and kielbasa, followed by our regular Easter Sunday service at church and ending with a fun Easter egg hunt for Bonnie's Sunday school kids!



Monday Night Dinners a Success for Soup Angels

This past week, Soup Angels served 73 meals on Monday and 85 on Wednesday. The need for help with meals continues, even in our local community.

Street fairs continue to be a good source of volunteers and income for Soup Angels. At the April street fair, donations, comprised almost exclusively of folks dropping dollar bills in our soup pots, netted us over \$2,000. It is amazing what can happen when everyone gives just a little! Good weather helped. We also received a huge donation of food from Christ's Ambassadors of Charity— 6 shopping carts full of food. We restocked our shelves (a pantry we built in the church basement) with pasta and sauce as well as other

canned goods, and gave out the rest, 65 shopping bags full of food, to our guests this past Wednesday.

We hope to begin a new project shortly that may offer opportunities for the congregation to get involved. We want to provide bag lunches for the Nyack Consultation Center's day program clients (housed in our church building). At least one day a week very soon, patients will be able to remain in the building for the entire day and receive services instead of having to be bused home because the center can no longer provide meals. This is a wonderful outreach and there may be ways for the congregation to assist

in the future with making sandwiches or providing some components of the lunches. More information will follow.

Soup Angels has undertaken to do a thorough, professional cleaning of the church kitchen every 6-8 weeks. We have found this has made cleaning up in the kitchen on a weekly basis a lot more manageable. We hope it also provides a cleaner environment for the congregation for Sunday worship. Thank you for the opportunity to provide meals in the church's space and for the volunteer and financial support provided by members of the congregation.

—Kathie Rife, Soup Angels Co-founder



Sunday School Celebrates Easter



The Sunday School celebrated Easter by attending the worship service and hunting Easter eggs afterward. The picture shows Gail Miller helping Tyler Cruz, Destiny Bossa, and Marissa Bastien relax after the hunt.

The Second Sunday of Easter was celebrated with the annual Egg Bopping Contest and Breakfast. Contestants each selected a hard boiled Easter Egg and paired off declaring, "Christ is risen!" or "Risen indeed!" before bopping their eggs together. This year's winners (who successfully bopped without breaking their eggs) were Betty Doster in the adult category and Johnnie Dedyo for the children. Picture shows the participants including Barbara

Schild who traveled all the way from Rochester to compete! Special thanks go to Al Cann for cooking the kielbasa!

2012 Egg Bopping Contestants: Betty Doster*, Barbara Schild, Shannon Dedyo, Al Cann, Daly Dedyo, Dylan Lee, Johnnie Dedyo**, Elise Graham, John Dedyo, Stephanie Spear, Meredith Lee and Jeff Lee.

*Adult Champion **Children's Champion



The Sunday School is working more closely with the First Haitian Congregation in preparation for Children's Day on June 17. We plan to have both congregations celebrate Children's day by worshipping together. Mashley Bastien of the First Haitian congregation is teaching the students some songs and Bonnie and Mashley are sharing some of the Elementary Class lesson materials. On April 29th 7 children from the First Haitian Congregation attended either the Junior High Class or Elementary Class at First Reformed Church before returning to their own services.

Some interest has been expressed in bringing the older Sunday School students to the Godspell production now on Broadway. Godspell is the only play on Broadway that is sponsored by many individuals and churches. Discounted tickets are available for groups as small as 10 people. The production is scripturally based and is a moving portrayal of the ministry of Jesus. If you are interested in attending a matinee sometime in June or July please contact Bonnie Williams or Shannon Dedyo to give us an idea of how many might be interested. It would be a wonderful shared experience if many adults and older children could attend together.

—Bonnie Williams



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

The Pastoral Search Committee Has Been Formed!

Every night when I put Charlie to bed we pray together. We pray for our family, our friends and for our church. We pray that God would be preparing a man or woman after His own heart, to come to be our pastor. But more importantly, we pray that God would prepare us, as a congregation for this new pastor.

As Esther in the Old Testament was placed in an unique position and given the opportunity to save the entire Jewish race, I believe that the Search Committee has each been chosen for "such a time as this" (Esther 4:14) in the life of the First Reformed Church of Nyack.

Assignment for the whole Congregation: **Pray, Pray, Pray!** Please keep the committee and this process in prayer. We need God to clearly direct us as we embrace this journey.



Margie Jennings, MSOL
Chairperson, Pastoral Search Committee

Calendar of Upcoming Events: Don't Miss Out!

Sunday, May 6, following the worship service: Revision Team meets.

Sunday, May 13, 10:30am: Mother's Day worship service

Thursday, May 17, 7:30pm: Ladies' Bible Study at Margie Jennings' home.

Sunday, May 20: Nyack Street Fair day. Be sure to pick up your parking pass for the worship service.

Tuesday, May 22, 5pm: We host the Rockland-Westchester classis meeting and dinner.

Thursday, May 24, 7:30pm: ArtsRock will be presenting *The Eroica Duo: A Season End Celebration* here at the church. For tickets or more info check out www.artsrock.org or by calling 1-866-811-4111.

Sunday, May 27, 10:30am: Pentacost. Join us as we participate in the Lord's Supper.

Thursday, May 31, 7:30pm: Ladies' Bible Study at Margie Jennings' home.

