

# New Beginnings

The First Reformed  
Church of Nyack

Pre-Easter Edition  
March 28, 2012

## *Food for Thought*

Avery and Marsh wrote an Easter hymn that goes, "Every Sunday is Easter Sunday from Now On."

I would go one step further and suggest that Easter is not reserved for Sundays. One of my teachers once spoke of a moment-by-moment Sabbath. His point: that every day and every moment of every day is given to be lived in the spirit of Easter.

So often we let our mood or present feeling determine the way we see the world around us. When our mood is bright and sunny, this is no problem. But our moods are fickle--they change. When we are feeling sad or gloomy, the world loses color. We become less aware of things going on around us--or if we are aware of our surroundings, we may tend to see the dark colors but not the bright.

In the passages from the Gospels that have been help us to appreciate Easter, we sense that the resurrection is more than a past memory. It is active within us. The Spirit that we are given is the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of the resurrection. This Spirit helps us to see the world touched by Easter. This Spirit helps us (in spite of our fickle moods) to let Easter touch us and hold us.

This may happen through the simple act of praying; it can happen when we gather because the risen Christ can come to us through others.

God wants us to experience the joy of Easter moment by moment, surrounding ourselves with it. This is God's Easter gift to us, no matter what our problems. It is ours for the asking. Claim it every day, every hour, every minute.

Love in the Season of Easter,

*Pastor Bill*

### **FRC Ladies' Brunch**

There will be a Ladies' Brunch on Saturday, March 31st at 10am. It will be held on the Nyack College Campus in Shuman Hall. There will be a devotional shared and time for prayer. All are welcome, feel free to bring a friend.

Please sign up to bring food and RSVP to Margie Jennings: 845-548-0593 or [mrsjennings22@gmail.com](mailto:mrsjennings22@gmail.com).



### **Easter Flower Memorials**

Every Easter season we have fragrant Easter lilies decorating our sanctuary in memory or honor of our loved ones. If you haven't placed your memorial request, you may still do so until Monday, April 1st. The suggested donation is \$20 per plant. You can call the church office (845-358-5518) or email your request to [frchurch@optonline.net](mailto:frchurch@optonline.net) and mail in your donation. Please be sure to include who the flowers are in memory or honor of as well as your name.

## The Opportunities of Holy Week, 2012

**Palm Sunday**, April 1, begins Holy Week with praise and the distribution of palms at 10:30am. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper.

**Maundy Thursday**, April 5, we will gather in the Lounge for an upper room remembering at 7pm in preparation for Good Friday.



The next two opportunities are offered at the Clarkstown Reformed Church on Strawtown Road in West Nyack. Pastors Richard Hasselbach of Clarkstown Reformed Church and Don Hoover of Tappan Reformed Church hope that we will join with these two congregations for part of Holy Week.

**Good Friday** at 7pm offers a Tenebrae service of light and darkness at Clarkstown Reformed Church.

**Holy Saturday** at 7pm, we are invited to join a traditional Easter Resurrection Service with its roots in the early church. This is the traditional time for Christians to renew their baptismal vows.



**Easter Sunday Morning**, April 8 at 7am at the Nyack Beach State Park we will have an Easter Sunrise service. We invited you to come with friends and join us as we begin our celebration of Christ's resurrection from the dead. Following refreshments at the church, we will continue our celebration and draw Holy Week to a meaningful summit with the story of the Resurrection of our Lord at 10:30am.

## Monday Night Dinners a Success for Soup Angels

Monday evening dinners have become a successful second meal offering at Soup Angels. Remarkably, the first week of operation we had 52 guests for Monday's dinner and the numbers have increased slowly but steadily since its debut the first week of February. A team of people has prepared fresh soups each week accompanied by hearty sandwiches. Eight new teams have been formed with 16 volunteers on each team, including some members of the First Reformed congregation.

At Wednesday dinners we continue to serve over 80 guests and upwards of 120 portions of food at each meal. We welcomed members of the First Reformed Church who dined with volunteers and some guests on Ash Wednesday. There was meaningful conversation and good interaction at that event.

Street fairs will begin soon and Soup Angels will be a presence in front of the church to welcome new volunteers and take donations. As always, we thank the members of the congregation for their on-going support of our organization.

—Kathie Rife, Soup Angels Co-founder

## Sunday School Looks Forward to Easter Celebrations



The Sunday School Elementary Class and Junior High Class have been meeting regularly and are looking forward to Palm Sunday, Easter and Egg Bopping Sunday. There will be Sunday School on Palm Sunday and family worship with just a nursery for Easter. An **Easter Egg Hunt** will follow the Easter service. The **Annual Egg Bopping Breakfast** will be held the Sunday after Easter on April 11th at 9:30am. The Egg Bopping Contest will take place at 10am. There will be a trophy for the winning adult and a trophy for the winning child. Bring a dyed egg or choose one from the many extra Easter eggs we will have there!

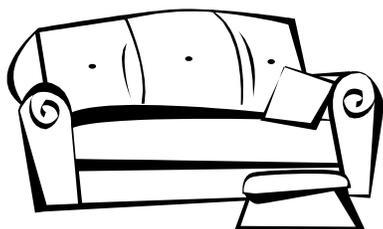
The Elementary Class has been learning about the disciple Peter. The stories about Peter help us remember that God can use imperfect people. Our memory Bible verse for several weeks has been: "Anyone who belongs in Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new (2 Corinthians 5:17)." The Junior High Class has been planning some future service projects and recently completed "Love God Above Everything" posters that are hanging in the nursery.

Skip Russell continues to share wonderful Children's messages in church and recently, Caileigh and Elise helped us think about observing the 10 Commandments when they read a children's version of the commandments in church.

—Bonnie Williams



## Youth Girls Want to Give the Youth Room a Face-Lift



We need your help! We want to give the youth room a face-lift and make it a warm and inviting place to learn about God and grow in our faith. If you have, or know anyone who might have, a love seat, small couch, or any other comfortable small piece of furniture to sit on and would like to donate it to the teen room, we would greatly appreciate it! We hope to get rid of what is in there now and start with fresh stuff. We are talking to the consistory

about painting the room and also budgeting it into the church's budget for supplies. Any questions, contact me by email: [cmg313@verizon.net](mailto:cmg313@verizon.net) or phone: 845-267-5919.

—Cindy Graham





## The First Interfaith Symposium—Reflections from Carol Russell

The Islamic Center of Rockland in Valley Cottage hosted an interfaith symposium on March 11. Skip and I joined Pastor Bill and Betty as well as many of our Nyack and Valley Cottage friends of all faiths at this unique event. Azeem Farooki, a trustee of the Center, welcomed us warmly and gave a brief explanation of Islam, highlighting the beliefs that are common to the Muslim, Christian and Jewish faiths. The standing-room only crowd listened attentively to Farooki and then asked questions about the rights of women in Arab states and about Islamic law.

It was exciting to be in a room filled with Jews, Muslims, and Christians who were treating each other kindly, behaving like friends. Following the question and answer session, we were treated to some delicious homemade samosas and other delights. Having passed the Islamic Center with curiosity for years, our visit provided a hopeful moment of communication and understanding.

This was just the first in a series of such meetings. The location and date of the next will be announced when determined. Try to attend. You'll be glad you did.

## Women's Ministries Update by Terri Wanamaker

The First Reformed Church Ladies' Bible Study is continuing to study Rick Warren's *40 Days in the Word* devotional Bible study. We continued our discussion of the Micah 6:8 assignment:

*"He has shown 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."* (Micah 6:8 NIV)

It challenges us to select, plan and initiate a group outreach project. We discussed it and came up with three ideas, two of which we are already participating in. The first one is helping more with Soup Angels. There is a group or two of First Reformed Church people already assigned to the new Monday night meal, as well as the Wednesday night meal. The second one is the ongoing collection of used stamps from mail that we receive, cut out, and give to Margie. The third one calls on the pet lover in us:

*"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground*

*outside your Father's care."* (Matthew 10:29 NIV)

The third one is to donate items for the Hudson Valley Humane Society's "Wish List." The Humane Society is a "no-kill" animal welfare organization. They currently are feeding more than 230 animals! This is a simple list and can be any kind of dog or cat food (or bunny food!), bedding, towels, cat litter, pet friendly cleaners and disinfectants, and even animal-oriented books for their reference library.

Our group decided to try and have an ongoing collection every third Sunday of the month. You can bring it to the church on that Sunday or just drop it off at my house anytime. I will be glad to bring our items there and hopefully not come home with a dog or cat every time I go!

Our Bible Study group meets every two weeks at Margie's house at 7:30pm, with the next meeting's date to be announced. See Margie for more info.



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**We're on the web!**  
**Check us out at**  
**[www.nyackreformed.org](http://www.nyackreformed.org)**

## ***Treasurer's Update—Kevin Graham***

Our church recently received a very generous donation. While there were no restrictions given to the church on its use, the Consistory was able to evaluate the needs and wants of the church. In January, the Pitkin Room heater simply failed. It was old and many parts were unable to be sourced. Several members jumped to action to source the heater and evaluate bids. We were able to quickly purchase the heater and it was paid for entirely from a portion of the donation.

The church will also be purchasing NEW tables for the Pitkin Room. The current tables are big and heavy and require 2 people to set up and take down. The new tables are lightweight and easily moved around. This donation (plus additional support from Soup Angels) paid for 16 new tables and 2 racks to hold them.

The music program has been very exciting of late! Not only have 2 world class musicians joined us, Krista Feeney, concertmaster of the orchestra of St. Lukes, and Sheryl Staples, co-concertmaster of the NY Philharmonic, but we have enjoyed debut church performances by John Dedyo and Michael Centanni. Several Rensink boys have passed through town sharing their talents as well.

As we look forward to Easter, there will be more special music, featuring our own church choir and others. Don't forget the Sunrise Service at 7am Easter morning on the beach below Hook Mountain. Bill and I will be there with Easter eggs and electric keyboard to worship in word and song.

—Jim Rensink, Music Director

## **Calendar of Upcoming Events: Don't Miss Out!**

**Saturday, March 31, 10am:** FRC Ladies' Brunch held at Nyack College's Shuman Hall.

**Wednesday, April 4, 7pm:** Consistory Meeting

**Maundy Thursday, April 5, 7pm:** we will gather in the Lounge for an upper room remembering in preparation for Good Friday.

**Good Friday, April 6, 7pm:** a Tenebrae service of light and darkness at Clarkstown Reformed Church on Strawtown Road in West Nyack. We will join the Clarkstown Reformed Church and Tappan Reformed Church for this service.

**Holy Saturday, April 7, 7pm:** we are invited to join a traditional Easter Resurrection Service with its roots in the early church. This will be held at the Clarkstown Reformed Church in West Nyack.

**Easter Sunday, April 8, 7am:** Easter Sunrise Service at Nyack Beach State Park.

**Easter Sunday, 10:30am:** Join us for our Easter Sunday Worship Service. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt following the service.

**Sunday, April 11, 9:30am:** Annual Egg Bopping Breakfast and Contest with trophies for the winning adult and winning child. Don't forget to bring a dyed Easter egg or choose one from the many extras we will have there!

**Sunday, April 22, following the worship service:** Revision Team meets.

**Sunday, May 6 and May 20 following the worship service:** Revision Team meets