

First Things



A Newsletter of the First Reformed Church, Schenectady, New York

March 1,



3/20 - Maundy Thursday Service

7:30 pm, Sanctuary

3/21 - Good Friday Service

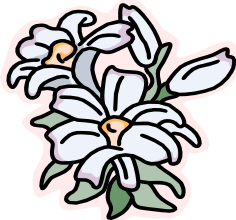
12:00 pm, Poling Chapel

3/24 - Easter Sunrise Service

6:54 a.m. - 1st Reformed of Scotia

3/24 - Easter Worship 10:00 am

Sanctuary



Easter Memorial Flowers

Each year the Chancel Guild vests the church for the Easter Service. Those wishing to have a part in the memorial flowers are invited to telephone the church office by Monday, March 17, 2008, so that the names of loved ones who are remembered can be printed in the Easter bulletin. The contributions average about \$20.00, with some giving more, some less. The Guild welcomes whatever you feel you can give. Please send your checks, payable to The Chancel Guild, to Marlene Risseuw, Guild Treasurer, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, Schenectady, NY 12309. Remember, those who donated plants in previous years must still call the church office this year, as we cannot assume your annual participation.



This Easter's special offering will support two local programs; the Community Health Care Access Program (CHAP) at Bethesda House and Better Neighborhoods' Homeowner Education and Foreclosure Prevention Project.

Bethesda House provides services to the homeless, individuals with physical and/or mental disabilities, individuals with substance abuse issues, and the working poor. The Free Health Clinic at Bethesda House provides free medical services and assistance to medically uninsured/underinsured children and adults. A portion of the Easter offering will be used to support the Clinic's free prescription medication program.

Better Neighborhoods, Inc. (BNI) is a community-based housing organization that strives to improve housing opportunities for low and moderate-income persons. The Easter offering will help support Better Neighborhoods' Homeowner Education and Foreclosure Prevention Project at a time when mounting foreclosures are affecting both homeowners and renters in BNI's core service area.

If you are a GE employee or retiree, your gift of \$25 or more is eligible for matching funds when you make your check payable to Bethesda House or Better Neighborhoods, Inc. Others should make their check payable to First Reformed Church and indicate "Easter Offering" in the memo line.



Spring Ahead

Daylight Saving Time begins on March 9th, don't forget to set your clocks ahead an hour.



Hockey Night

The Youth Education Committee is organizing an outing to watch the Albany River Rats play the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins on March 15 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for children and \$12 for adults. Everyone is encouraged to invite friends and family to the game. It should be a fun time for everyone. If you would like to come, please contact the Church Office (377-2201) or Eric Evans (372-1888) for tickets. Please contact Eric Evans if you need a ride to the game.



Winter Hike

An ambitious trek is planned in the Lake George area following worship on March 2. Food, drink, warm clothes, snow shoes or winter boots with good traction will be needed. Transportation will be provided. Bill Clock may be contacted (641-2858) for further details.

New Member Profiles

Each month, we will try to feature a newish member of our congregation so that you can get to know folks.



This month, we introduce to you **Linda Malgieri**. Linda lives in Schenectady with her husband John. She has two grown daughters and is the sister of another one of our new members, Crystal Mongillo. Linda works for the Department of Transportation. She is a history buff and was attracted to the astonishing history of our congregation. She knits and quilts and has already shown great kindness and graciousness to us.



Interfaith Community of Schenectady

The Interfaith Community of Schenectady will have its March dinner meeting on Thursday, March 6, at the Islamic Center of the Capital District located at 21 Lansing Road. The dinner at 6:30 p.m. will be followed by a program "Prayer from Three Different Faith Perspectives." Call 370-2150 before Tuesday for reservations.

Legacies

Everyone would like to think that the world is a little better because of them. Contributing to the church is one way of acting on that desire in a broader context. First Reformed Church is one of the oldest continuing institutions in the world. It has outlived countless governments, companies, banks, movements and ventures. It's current economic security insures that it will be around for the foreseeable future. What better place could you trust to manage the continuing impact of your benevolence? Remember the church in your will.



Catch-As-Catch-Can Book Group

We are very excited to be hosting a showing of the movie **Andrew Jenks: Room 335** on Tuesday March 4, at 7:00 PM, right here at church. This moving documentary was created by 19 year-old Andrew Jenks, the grandson of Barbara and Bill Piper, together with two of his friends, and it explores the issues of aging in America from a young person's perspective. It has been shown on HBO and at many international film festivals, where it has won awards and great critical acclaim.

Here's how Andrew summarizes the film: "This past summer I moved into a senior residence in Florida. I moved into room 335. For one summer I did all of the things that old people do. I wanted to find the answer to the question: how do they feel now that they face the end of their lives

All are welcome at this screening, so invite your friends! Refreshments will be provided. Contact Abby Norton-Levering or Ginny Laumeister with any questions.

Jazz Vespers Adds a Sunday

Because of the positive feedback from our Jazz Vespers, we will be moving to having it TWO Sundays a month: on the first and third Sunday. This month's line-up:

March 2 – Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums.

March 16 – Peg (piano) and Bill (bass) Delaney; Mike Canonico, trumpet; Tim Coakley, drums.



Lenten Retreat Days at Fowler

Private rooms and shared meals at Chi Rho Lodge will be available March 10-14 (\$35/day inclusive) for anyone seeking to come away and rest for a day or longer near the end of Lent. In addition to the beauty of the trails and lake, a fire will be kept in the hearth, quiet conversation will be available, and morning, mid-day, and evening prayer will be led by Synod pastors, including Daniel Carlson, on March 13 and 14. Call the Fowler office at 374-4573 to register.

Fowler Retreat for Young Adults

In May, young adults 18 to 30 years old, have an opportunity at Camp Fowler for a time of reflection on their spiritual journey. Beginning Sunday, May 18 with dinner, that week will be a time of worship, reflection, quiet time, and work around the camp. Pilgrimage costs \$100 for meals and lodging. The purpose of this time is not a traditional "camp" experience, but is intentionally contemplative. Go to the Fowler website, www.campfowler.org, or call the Fowler office (374-4573) to register or find out more information.

Your Money Matters

THANK YOU! Our church had a good financial year in 2007, ending the year with a surplus of just over \$36,000. While most of this can be attributed to Justin's departure at midyear, the real story is that we came within a whisker of meeting our revenue goal for the year. In fact, two pieces of the revenue story are worth noting: first, many of you actually gave more than you had pledged to give, so that our pledged income total exceeded its target; and, second, our plate collection (miscellaneous cash collected each Sunday) exceeded the 2007 target by 70%. WOW! To me, these are the testaments of a church that is experiencing God's grace.

Our 2008 Asking Budget was approved by the Consistory in December. The pledge goal was reached, which suggests that our congregation felt the program, as described during the small group meetings in the fall, was worthy of support. Many people were moved to generously increase their annual pledge. Again, THANK YOU! So far our 2008 fiscal year is on track, with revenues and expenses in line, and so we are off to a new and great start. In the next Your Money Matters article I will detail our 2008 financial results to date (once a few accounting periods are under our belt). God bless you all for your commitment to our church, our congregation, and our missions in the world.

Fred Daniels, Treasurer

Interfaith Youth Storytelling

A "Children at the Well" performance will be held on March 16, at 2:00 p.m. at the beautiful new Cultural Center of the Hindu Temple Society of the Capital District, located at 450 Albany-Shaker Road, Albany. For more information see the flyer posted on the Refrigerator Door, or you may contact Paula Weiss (785-7842) or email (pbethweiss@aol.com).

Actions from January Consistory

- Jazz Vespers was increased to twice monthly.
- Dutch provincial flags gradually to be taken down for lent, back up after.
- Easter Offering recipients approved (see article).
- Sara Erickson was appointed chair of Tercentenary Fund.
- \$3,000 approved from Tercentenary Fund for Mission trip.
- Local missioner proposal from Covenant Fund was approved in principle.
- Two specific local missioner projects were approved for "Third Way" at City Mission and Damien Center at SICM.

Faith Bookshop



The Faith Bookshop has something for everyone...

- Gift Givers: Pop-up books for young children and colorful, small wall plaques, including Noah's ark and decorative crosses.
- Travelers to China: [Jesus in Beijing and China, Inc.](#)
- Students of Afghan Culture: [The Kite Runner](#), [One Thousand Splendid Suns](#), and [Three Cups of Tea](#).
- Knitters: Pattern and other books by Debbie Macomber.
- Seekers of Religious Thought and Spirituality: Numerous books. Come in and browse the shelves.

Answer to last month's "Do you know why the bookshop is named Faith Bookshop?"

If you thought "Faith" in our bookshop name was a religious reference, there's more. *Faith Yin* was the much-loved wife of Stanley Yin, a former associate minister at FRC, and the shop is named in her memory.

Capital Region Theological Center

"Going Beyond Church Walls: Becoming Agents of Peace & Justice," Saturday, April 5, 2008 at 9 a.m. Cost is \$75 if registered by March 7, 2008; \$85 thereafter, with **deadline March 19, 2008**. Lunch is included. Presenters: Rev. Dr. Dana Horrell, Director of the Center for the Congregation in Public Life at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. Rev. Roderic Froham, Chair of the Board of the Center for the Congregation Public Life.

Living Now!

Come to the Cancer Support Group and let us help you to live for today. Anyone with a present or past cancer issue is welcome. The group is for family members also. Maria Greskovich leads this group with the help of Diane Ontkush. We talk about positive actions to take. We cover emotional, nutritional, and medical issues and anything else. We meet the 2nd & 4th Mondays in the Dirck Romeyn Room at 11 a.m. Our group is very small. We have invited the members of Scotia and Niskayuna to join us. If you know anyone in those congregations please invite them to participate. Questions: Call Maria at 372-9522.

Church School News

We all need to extend a great big THANK YOU to the following people for their volunteer efforts as Church School teachers during our winter session, which ends March 2nd:

K-1st grades – Stacey Schultes;
2nd-5th grades – Jennifer Evans;
6th-8th grades – Sandy Merten.

Beginning March 9th, please welcome to our spring session Church School teachers:

K-1st grades – Shannon Kerwin;
2nd-5th grades – Jennifer Brown;
6th-8th grades – Eric Evans.

March Birthdays

2 Tom Burgoyne
3 Irma Moynihan
3 Jodi Rickard
4 Audrey Bain
5 Joe Gotwals
5 Anders Ipsen
7 Karlyne Drimalas
9 Kevin Richards
10 Constance Blair
11 Fredrick White
11 Alexis Wisniewski
12 Emily Lnenicka
13 Joanne Arnold
14 Phil Falconer
15 Mary Jewett
16 Melissa Coad
16 Linnea D'Andrea
17 Janet Gardner
17 Bill Rochelle, Jr.
18 Chris Van Oort
19 Greg Burgoyne
20 Anna Ipsen
22 Jack Draffen
23 Heather Kumta
24 Nancy Passer
25 Jeff Merten
26 Lindsey Beals
26 Elyne Schulte
27 Janet Crandell
27 Jessica Rimany
27 Kristen Rimany
28 Pete Ipsen
28 Hope Neikirk
30 Caleb Paine
30 Carol Schweizer
30 Jayne Steubing
30 Linda Ward
31 Alesha Breitenbach
31 Charles Greskovich, Jr.

Senior Moments

Easter is Early This Year

Easter will come in the midst of snow,
Easter is early this year.
It's not as if we are ready, no.
Easter is early this year.

Before spring cleaning, just after St.
Pat's,
Easter is early this year.
Sunrise with mittens, sunrise with hats
Easter is early this year.

God's time is time beyond our ken.
Easter is early this year.
God will surprise us again and again.
Easter is early this year.

Bill Levering

Ellis Workshop on Visitation

The Pastoral Care Department of Ellis Hospital is offering a one-day workshop on making effective visits to those who are hospitalized, homebound, or residing in a nursing home. The workshop will be held on Saturday, April 19, 2008, 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Ellis Hospital, and is open to all who have an interest in visitation ministry. There is no charge to attend. Please register for this workshop by calling the Pastoral Care Office at Ellis Hospital – 243-4158.

Calendar

Every Sunday

Youth Orchestra - 8:30 am
Bible Study, Church School and
Parents Group - 9 am
Choir- 9:15 am
Worship - 10 am
Adult Forum & Kirk Singers – 11 am
Sr. High Fellowship - 7 pm

Weekly

Mon.: Men's News Group - 9 am
Klokken Ringers - 7 pm
Tues.: Tuesday Morning Mom's
Group – 9 am
Wed.: Kerygma - 9:30 am
Wednesday Dialogue - 12 pm
Lenten Dinner & Classes:
6 pm – Dinner
7 pm – Classes
8 pm – Prayer

Thurs.: Chancel Choir - 7:30 pm

March

3 Membership Comm. – 7 pm
10 Cancer Support Group – 11 am
10 Concerned for Hungry–7:30 pm
11 Standing Committees – 7 pm
11 Consistory – 8 pm
13 Sch'dy. Art. Society – 7 pm
15 Pastoral Care – 11 am
16 Palm Sunday
16 Jazz Vespers – 5 pm
18 Pastoral Care – 11 am
20 Maundy Thursday – 7:30 pm
21 Good Friday – 12:00 pm
23 Easter Sunrise Service –
23 Easter Sunday
24 Cancer Support Group – 11 am

First Reformed Church

Organization

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Non-Profit

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Schenectady, NY