

First Things

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

July 1, 2008



July 6 – Bill Levering
July 13 – Daniel Carlson
July 20 – Stacey Midge
July 27 – Daniel Carlson



Morning Worship Music Schedule

July

6 – Leah Kidwell-Fernandes,
harpist
13 – Johnny Willis & Jennifer Evans
20 – Andrew & Heather Chestnut
27 – Saxophone Quartet – Terrence
Martin

August

3 – Daniel Ertel
10 – Chancel Choir Ensemble
17 – Paige Griggs-Janower
24 – Christine Walthers
31 – John Norton, pianist

Your Money Matters

As the summer blissfully arrives, I am writing to encourage us all to stay current with our pledge payments for this fiscal year. Right now many of our planned programs are coming on line, and our budgeted activities are fully engaged. Please consider making a catch-up payment before you head off to your "happy place" for the summer. Regular pledge payments are critical to our cash flow and enable us to fulfill our commitments to God, our church and our community. Many thanks.



Sax Quartet to be Featured at July 27th Service

People worshipping at the 10:00 am service on Sunday, July 27 will be treated to musical works arranged by Terence Martin for saxophone quartet. Terence is the son of longtime FRC members Ken and Marilyn Martin, and the grandson of Isabel Buell. Terence credits former Children's Music Director Madelyn Young with conveying her enthusiasm and love for music to him and for introducing him to music of faith, ranging from traditional hymns to contemporary musicals.

Pieces to be played on the 27th are "Lyons in the Ash Grove" and "This is My Father's World." The first piece uses the two tunes for the hymns "O Worship the King" and "Let All Things Now Living." The second piece combines the tunes for "This is My Father's World" (Terra Beata) with "For the Beauty of the Earth" (Dix) in rhythmic variations.

Sunday Mornings in the Fall

10:00 Families come to worship together.
10:20 All kids leave for Church School after their message.
11:00 Adults go to Coffee Hour after worship.
11:20 Church School over, Forum and Kid's Activity Time.
12:00 Programs conclude.



Jazz Vespers is the first and third Sundays of July at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. This month's line-up includes:

July 6 – Nat Phips, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums.

July 20 – Skip Parsons, clarinet; Randy Crain, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums.

Vespers Every Sunday Starts in August

Every Sunday at 5 p.m. a musical worship experience will be held in our sanctuary. Capitalizing on our Jazz Vespers, we will be offering other types of music for folks.

1st Sunday – Jazz
2nd Sunday – Chamber Music with small classical ensembles
3rd Sunday – Jazz again.
4th Sunday – Celtic Sunday with instrumentals from the British Isles and Stacey Midge.
5th Sunday – Folk

So, EVERY Sunday you can come down to the church and bring your friends of all types for a relaxing end to a busy week. Every week will feature about 40 minutes of music and about 20 minutes of poetry, scripture, prayer and talk.

Youth Activities

We're off of our normal schedule for the summer months, but we're still having a few youth events! The Senior High Youth Group will be going to Boston on Tuesday, July 1. Meet at the church at 8 a.m., and bring money for lunch and dinner and comfortable walking shoes. We will be returning to the church around 10 p.m. Please let Stacey know ASAP if you are planning to go and have not already signed up.

Labor Day Weekend Retreat

Registrations keep rolling in for this wonderful time away with the church family at Fowler, so we've decided to do away with the previous deadline. A Sunday Only Option is also available. Registration forms for both Weekender and Sunday Only can be found in the worship bulletins or from the church office. Questions and requests for assistance may be directed to Daniel.

Dr. Levering on Mission Tour

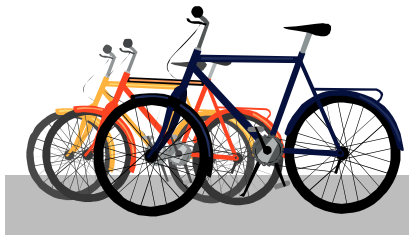
Bill Levering will be going with 10 other RCA ministers on a tour of Eastern European mission sites in August. From August 24 to September 4 he will be visiting missionaries including our own Rev. Dick Otterness from Schenectady.

Dirck Romeyn Renovations

The beloved Dirck Romeyn lounge, which is just off the sanctuary is in need of sprucing up. The decorating committee of Building and Grounds is meeting to focus the room on a traditional classic style and put in some comfortable furniture.

Church Hike Rescheduled

On July 13 we will hike in the Catskills. We will be returning to the North Lake area to do a hike of 4 to 8 miles. We will begin at South Lake hiking the Old Palenville Road to a trail that will take us to the Palenville Overlook with its two huge bluestone chairs and Indianhead Overlook. We will then return to the North Lake area crossing under the Otis Elevating Railroad right-of-way to the picnic area at the Lake (about 4-5 miles of easy hiking). We can then return to the van or elect to continue on to North Point. This area of the Catskills is rich in history of the mid 1800's when the Catskill Mountain House was attracting many guests. Our hike is sure to be an interesting time in the Catskills.



Fourth Sunday Frolic

We will be cycling on the bikepath on July 27th. Leaving from FRC we will cross over the Scotia and Freeman's Bridges and join the bike path south past the GE Research and Development Center and KAPL, lunch at the Colonie train station, and continue under the Northway through Cohoes, Watervliet (on the roads in this section), and rejoin the path just past the Arsenal to Corning Park in Albany; a trip of about 30-35 miles of mostly level biking. Vehicle transportation will return us to FRC. For questions and/or more information, contact Bill Clock at 280-6189 (evenings).

A Thank You

I wanted to take this opportunity to let everyone know how much I have enjoyed serving as the Director of Children's Ministries. I want to thank everyone who continues to put forth the effort and time to be volunteers in Children & Worship, Kinderwyk and Church School. Without your support and efforts my job would have been very difficult indeed. It has been a pleasure getting to know you and your children. I have loved serving you all.

I'm not going anywhere and look forward to Mrs. Ipsen taking over and molding new horizons for our youth. I will continue to support these programs in any way shape or form. I trust that our youth are important to this church and its leaders.

From the bottom of my heart, thanks for entrusting these past years to me and our children's programs.

In God's grace and peace as we all travel forward.

Tani Breitenbach

RCWS Responds to Midwest Flooding

Following the devastating floods that have wiped out parts of Iowa, Reformed Church World Service is partnering with local churches – some of which no longer have church buildings – to provide disaster response services. Numerous clean-up teams were sent to the areas hardest hit by the floods along with donations to help those who have lost homes and belongings. No more clean-up teams are needed now, but it is anticipated that more volunteers will be welcomed in the coming months as these communities seek to rebuild. You can learn more about the disaster and the RCWS response, donate funds, and explore volunteer opportunities by following the RCWS link at www.rca.org.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Boys and Girls Club is looking for caring adults willing to invest a little time each week to make a difference in the lives of Schenectady's youth. If you are interested in being a mentor for a child in need, please contact Stacey for an application.

The Covenant Fund recently gave a significant grant to Habitat for Humanity for the building of a handicapped-accessible home at 41 Verona Ave. for Audrey Wagner and her son, Steve. Now we'd like to put our muscle behind our money! Don't worry if you can't swing a hammer; they will teach you to do any number of basic things, and Habitat also needs volunteers for a variety of tasks, including:

- Office and administration work
 - Lunch preparation and delivery
 - Family support
 - House dedication
 - Public speaking
 - Painting
 - Work in the ReStore
 - And of course, construction.
- Please talk to Stacey for more information and a volunteer application!

Summer Lunch is coming up soon! We will be working two weeks this year. The first will be from August 4-8 at the New Creation site on Howard St. The second will be from August 18-22 at the Albany St. site. Stacey will be carrying a volunteer schedule around after church soon, so catch her when she has a clipboard in hand, or let her know via email if you are interested in helping us serve lunches to Schenectady children.

Do you notice a theme here? Stacey is coordinating volunteer efforts at a variety of agencies this summer. If you have time and talents to give, please contact her by calling the church or emailing her at revstacey@gmail.com.



In the good old days at our church, few people came to worship in the summer. They were either at their lake houses or wanted people to think they were. Things are changing. Not so many folks have vacation spots. The price of gas is making all of us rethink our trips. Because of this, things look different at church in the summer.

We will have Jazz Vespers right through the summer and in August, vespers starts **every week** with chamber and Celtic additions (see the first page).

We will be having a week-long VBS for the kids about the time they are bored of vacation.

Summer music will be fabulous this year and lemonade in the garden after church will be charming. Join us. It's an exciting time here, even in the summer.

After much discussion, the consistory voted last month to **move Church School** back to a time during worship. All kids will leave after the children's message for education except on communion Sundays, when older kids will stay for the whole service.

After worship, parents will be able to chat over coffee until the education hour is over. At that time, all may stay until noon for the Forum and youth activities. We hope this will enable more parents to enjoy after church activities and to get more kids to come to Church School.

- Bill Levering

Consistory Committees

The consistory broke up the large Congregational Care Committee a bit so that now the organization of the work of the congregation looks like this:

Worship - services, sacraments, music, ushers, chancel guild

Building and Grounds - building, grounds, insurance, columbarium, van, recycling

Fellowship - meals, coffee hour, events, dialog, trips and hikes, advent festival

Mission and Benevolence - mission education and support, Crop, agency reps, environmental advocacy, special offerings, on site service

Adult Education and Nurture- Lenten classes, Wednesday classes, lectures, Kerygma, forum, library, book store

Finance - budget development and control, fund oversight, stewardship, memorials

Membership - visitors, prospects, evangelism, new members, community outreach, nametags

Support and Care- Stephen ministry, support groups, transportation, flower delivery, meals, funeral

Communication - ads, publications, website, archives, facility hospitality, signage, pr, walkabout

Youth Education and Nurture - church school, VBS, teacher recruitment, youth trips, fellowships, nativity

All of these committees are seeking new members at this time of the year and you are invited to serve on one of your choice. Please just call the church office to indicate your desire and you will be a part of things.

First Reformed Church
 8 North Church Street
 Schenectady, NY 12305
 (518) 377-2201
 email: 1streformed@gmail.com

Address Correction Requested

July Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 – Vernetta Thuener | 23 – Lisa Bzdell |
| 2 – Marlene Risseeuw | 24 – Stan Mathes |
| 3 – Kevin Shultes | 26 – Olivia Baackes |
| 5 – Madison Adams | 26 – Carolyn Jones-Assini |
| 5 – Eric Burgoyne | 26 – Kaitlyn Hjelmar |
| 6 – Samantha Erickson | 27 – Eleanor Brown |
| 6 – Samantha Hjelmar | 27 – Elizabeth Gilson |
| 7 – Luke Carlson | 28 – Gaela Schweizer |
| 7 – Therese Mc Carty | 29 – Alexandra Phillips |
| 7 – Hannah Valachovic | 30 – Ginny Laumeister |
| 8 – Fran Shuey | 31 – Marie Pletenik |
| 9 – Gini Mc Dermott | |
| 12 – Richard Van Wie | |
| 13 – Griffin Laycock | |
| 14 – Carol De La Marter | |
| 15 – Nate Carlson | |
| 15 – Jim Tillma | |
| 16 – Dorothy Linder-Mitchell | |
| 16 – Maurice Robbins | |
| 19 – Owen Evans | |
| 19 – Carlos Grande Moran | |
| 19 – Jennifer Magruder | |
| 20 – Ruth George | |
| 20 – Emile Walraven | |
| 21 – Bradley Hjelmar | |



JULY 2008

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Events for July

- | | |
|----|--|
| 4 | July 4 th Holiday – Office Closed |
| 6 | Jazz Vespers – 5 pm |
| 10 | Schenectady Art Society – 7 pm |
| 20 | Jazz Vespers – 5 pm |