

# First Things

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

Mid-September, 2009



## Frolic on the Mohawk

Join us for a First Frolic on the river following worship and First Forum on **September 20**. Every frolicker should pack a lunch and anticipate an pleasant afternoon on the water--including restoring a bit of creation. BYO boat or plan on renting one; we'll put in by church or just downstream. Stay tuned for further details Sunday's announcements.

## Wednesday Night Program (WE @ FRC) Resumes September 30

Wednesday Evenings at First Reformed Church starts again on September 30. This multi-dimensional program happens every week and always includes a delicious dinner; several stimulating studies (i.e., Bill's Preachers Preview; Daniel's Journaling our Journeys; Sharing our Stories); and a contemplative communion service. Dinner begins at 6:00 in Assembly Hall, the studies at 7:30 in various locations, and a worship at 8:30 concluding by 9:00 in the sanctuary chancel. All are welcome; come whenever you can and stay for whichever dimension(s) of WE @ FRC that appeals to thee!



We celebrate the love God has for all of creation, and desire to be a church family where the peace and justice between God, people, and all creation is sought and celebrated. In that spirit, we will recognize the special place our animal companions hold in our lives with a Blessing of the Animals on **Saturday, October 3 at 4 p.m.**, on the church lawn. Last year we blessed dogs, cats, a ferret, and a snake - all are welcome! Refreshments for God's creatures, human and otherwise, will be available after the service.

## A Shameless Appeal. Support AIDSWalk 2009 – September 27

We've come to that time of year again! I am writing to ask for your help! New York's Capital District is hosting their 13<sup>th</sup> annual community AIDSWalk on September 27th, and I am looking for sponsors and walkers to help support the Schenectady Damien Center.

As you know, there is not yet a cure for HIV/AIDS, and although medical care and HIV prevention information have improved greatly, more people are contracting HIV every year. In New York State, more people are living with HIV/AIDS than in any other state in the country -- as many as 140,000 people! 5,000 more will be diagnosed in 2009, disproportionately affecting youth and minorities.

For the past two years, I have been working at the Schenectady Damien Center to provide support to individuals infected and directly affected by HIV/AIDS. Providing nutritious meals, support groups, empowerment programming, prevention education, and recreational activities, the Schenectady Damien Center is one of the few places in the Capital Region where people living with HIV/AIDS can talk about their diagnosis openly and safely.

Please help support the Schenectady Damien Center and its programs by participating in AIDSWalk 2009. All donations are tax deductible and go to support the Damien Center and other AIDS service organizations in the Capital District of New York.

You can help by visiting [www.firstgiving.com/schenectadydamiencenter](http://www.firstgiving.com/schenectadydamiencenter) and making a donation. Thank you so much for supporting our efforts! If you would like more information, email or call me (201-213-1222) anytime.

Dan Butterworth



## Summer Interns

This summer, we funded intern

positions for

five of our youth. Samantha Brooks, Rachael Cox, Brian Kimmey, and Luke Carlson served at SICM, working with the Damien Center, Food Pantry, Computers for Kids, Safe Parks and Edible Playgrounds, and Summer Lunch programs. Kayla Herrington worked at Bethesda House, taking on greater responsibilities than her prior years there, including organizing a mission project for our Junior High Youth Group to buy school supplies and pack backpacks for children in need. Both agencies report that our interns were a wonderful asset to their programs, and our interns send their thanks to you, the church, for supporting them in this opportunity to serve and learn from some of Schenectady's poorest people.

Here are a few comments some of our interns made in their end-of-summer reports:

"Overall my summer at SICM was wonderful and one that I hope I can experience again! It was such a fulfilling job and one that I actually looked forward to in the mornings. I'm so happy I was given this opportunity to participate in an organization that is really making a tremendous difference in the community!" ~ Rachael Cox  
"I spent most of my time at Hillhurst Park bagging and distributing lunches to youth. I also worked on SICM's newest program: Safe Parks, Edible Playgrounds, which aims to get kids interested about working in gardens and provides a basic education for organic gardening...I am very grateful to the church for sponsoring me and I do think that the should continue to sponsor kids to work at SICM." ~ Luke Carlson

"After only one night of working at the Damien Center I saw the special family-like attitudes toward each other...I was happy to know I was surrounded by people who cared for each other. We constantly cooked in the kitchen, we were always telling jokes, there was never a pause in our conversations...I was blessed to spend my summer with such wonderful and caring people." ~ Samantha Brooks

Thanks to FRC for giving our interns such a meaningful experience!

## True Believer



Tom and Joan Lindsay's daughter took their grandson Andrew, age 13, to Ellis Hospital for his pre-surgery paper work. During the questioning, the secretary asked what religion to put down. Their daughter Susan said, "Non- practicing Catholic." Andrew piped up, "But Mom, we go to all the fish suppers."

## Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Knitting Group will meet at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, September 24, at the home of Ronnie Bartholic, 2305 Almeria Road, Niskayuna.

## "Are you new here, or is it me?"

The Membership Committee would like to invite everyone to make a renewed effort to wear your name tags Sunday mornings. Even if you have been a member for 50 years and feel certain everyone knows you, there are new folks visiting every week that may not know anyone! Please contact the church office 377-2201 if you need a new or replacement name tag.

## Stockade Walkabout Sept 26

Our church will be open for the FIFTIETH Annual Stockade Walkabout from 10 to 5. We still need volunteers to stand around and look helpful.

## Banket Bakers

If you'd like to help bake (and taste test) *banket* on Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 7-9 p.m. in Assembly Hall kitchen (for distribution at the Stockade Walkabout the next day) then contact Daniel (377-2201) or Gay Doolittle (399-0499).

## A Peace Corps Mama

I taught my daughter to walk  
And she showed me how to walk in the dark  
I taught my daughter how to talk  
And she spoke for me in French and Bamoun  
I taught my daughter to eat with utensils  
And she showed me how to eat with my fingers  
I taught my daughter how to bathe  
And she showed me how to take a bucket bath  
I taught my daughter how to vacuum a carpet  
And she showed me how to squeegee cement  
I taught my daughter first-world greed  
She showed me third-world need  
I taught my daughter how to love her family  
She showed me how to embrace the world.

....Cherly Reece Meyers

## Memorial Service

There will be a memorial service for Charlotte Ramsey on September 27<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. in the sanctuary. A reception will follow in Assembly Hall.

## Support & Care Committee

To serve our church members, the following are available:

Medical Transportation:

Ronnie Bartholic – 393-7679  
Inge-Lise Pangburn – 399-1027  
Ann Walraven – 374-4646

Prayer Chain:

Ann Gotwals – 372-5089  
Vernetta Thuener – 355-2543

Meal Assistance:

Kim Burgoyne – 399-1337

Stephen Ministry:

Daniel Carlson – 377-2201  
Linnea D'Andrea – 371-8313

The coordinators listed above have names of members eager to help. Feel free to call them, or speak to Daniel if you know of a need. (Of course, it's always helpful to give as much notice as possible to ensure we can accommodate your schedule.) If you would like to offer a little of your time to be involved with providing any of these services, please call Linda Ward at 377-2377, or Joan Lindsay at 399-3153, or speak to one of the coordinators above

## Tuesday Evening Ladies

The Tuesday Evening Ladies Group will hold their first meeting on October 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Connie Young, 1400 Keyes Avenue, Niskayuna. If you are unable to attend, please call Connie at 393-7061.

## Wednesday Kerygma

A new 13-session Bible study and discussion begins on September 23. We'll meet each Wednesday this fall, 9:30-11 a.m. to discuss the Gospel according to Luke. No previous Bible study experience is necessary. Both new comers and old timers are welcome to this dynamic group of adult learners. The required resource book is available for purchase in Faith Bookshop, additional copies will be available at the first session held in Polling Conference room. Contact Daniel at the church office if you have any questions regarding this study.

## Habitat Sale

*Habitat for Humanity of Schenectady* County's ReStore will be holding a Second Anniversary Sale September 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> and again the 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>. The Restore is open to the general public from 10am – 5pm on Thursday and Friday and from 10 am – 2pm on Saturday. The store is located at 1957 Foster Ave. in Schenectady (previously Reali's Camera). The store raises money for Habitat for Humanity's home building projects through the sale of donated items. Furniture, household items, appliances, lighting fixtures and building supplies comprise just part of what the ReStore sells at greatly reduced prices. A terrific way to save money while benefiting this local organization!

## Group V Begins Oct. 5

Group V will meet October 5 at 1 p.m. in the Dirck Romeyn Room. Bring your ideas for programs and/or books that the group may want to read and discuss.

## Church Archives

Anyone interested in helping with church archives is invited to come the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month from 1-3 p.m. Learn about our Church history. For more information call Laura Linder at 882-6866.

## Alternative Gift Fair - Sunday December 6th from 11am-4pm

What is an alternative gift? A gift that makes a difference, a chance to buy once and give twice. Purchasing products from a large retailer probably will not provide the opportunity to make the impact you can make by purchasing fair trade and locally produced goods. Fair trade programs throughout the world have changed lives, giving people the means to make a living to support themselves and their families. Be part of the movement and find some truly unique treasures for your loved ones; organic herbs grown in Schenectady, hand woven creations from Guatemala, or one of a kind earrings from Africa. Please mark your calendars and contact Jeanne Shoulder, 372-8647 or [jmshoulder@hotmail.com](mailto:jmshoulder@hotmail.com), with your ideas or if you can volunteer.

## Missing Casserole Dishes

Are you missing your casserole dishes? The Hubbards have two casserole dishes from meals that were so graciously prepared for them but have not yet been returned. No name(s) were on the dishes, so it remains a mystery as to who they belong to. If yours is missing, please contact Bill Hubbard at 372-8085.

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Non-Profit Organization  
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<b>Sunday Schedule</b>				
<b>Sept.</b>	<b>Preacher</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Forum</b>	<b>Vespers at 5</b>
20	Bill Levering	Jacob Etkin	Plaque Rededication	Jazz: Delaneys and D'Andrea,
27	Bill Levering	Anne Putnam	So. Africa Mission Trip	Celtic:
<b>Oct.</b>				
4	Bill Levering	Chris Fernandes	Paul Sorum, Health Care	Jazz: Phipps, Toigo, D'Andrea

Address Service Requested

**Calendar of Weekly & Monthly Events**

**Every Sunday**

Youth Orchestra, 9 am  
 Chancel Choir, 9:15 am  
 Worship, 10 am  
 Church School, 10:20 am  
 Fellowship, 11 am  
 Vespers, 5 pm

**Weekly**

**Monday:**

Men's News Group, 9 am  
 Klokken Ringers, 7 pm

**Tuesday:**

Women's Group, 9 am  
 Morning Prayer, 10 am

**Wednesday:**

Kerygma, 9 am  
 WE @ FRC:  
 Dinner, 6 p.m.  
 Studies, 7:30 p.m.  
 Worship, 8:30 p.m.

**Thursday:**

Stitch in Time, 10 am  
 Chancel Choir, 7:30 pm

**Monthly**

Concern for Hungry, 1<sup>st</sup> Mon.  
 Group 5, 1<sup>st</sup> Mon.  
 Committees, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues., 7 pm  
 Consistory, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues., 8 pm  
 Archiving, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed., 1 pm  
 Stephen Ministry, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed.  
 Wednesday Dialog, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed.  
 Frolics, Various Sundays

**Fall 2009**  
**Upcoming Events**

**September 19:**

Harvest Party

**September 20:**

Church School Begins  
 Historic Plaque Dedication  
 Room for All Meeting  
 Frolic on the Mohawk  
 Jr./Sr. High Youth Group Picnic  
 Nijkerk Celebration

**September 23:**

Kerygma Program Begins

**September 24:**

Shawl Ministry

**September 26:**

Stockade Walkabout

**September 27:**

AIDS Walk 2009  
 Memorial Service

**September 30:**

WE @ FRC Begins

**October 3:**

Blessing of the Pets

**October 5:**

Group V Begins

**October 14:**

Archives Group

**October 18:**

Used Book Sale

**October 21:**

Wednesday Dialogue Begins