

First Things

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

May,



Our 330th Birthday Celebrated May 23

This year, First Reformed Church is 330 years old! Following our Pentecost Sunday Service and Annual Meeting May 23, we will walk across North Church Street for our Birthday Brunch Buffet at the Stockade Inn. Special birthday cake and wishes are planned for this event. This family event needs sponsors, children to sing songs, and cake makers. Tickets are available through the church office and from Laura Linder at 882-6866. The cost is \$18 ages 12 and up, \$10 ages 5-11, and children 4 and under are free.

Annual Meeting May 23

Immediately following worship, there will be a meeting of the congregation for the purposes of receiving annual reports and the election of officers.

Regional Synod Annual Meeting

The Regional Synod of Albany will hold its annual meeting on May 2-3 at Christ Community Reformed Church in Clifton Park. Delegates from across the synod will gather to worship, reflect on our work in the last year, and make decisions for the future. All members of Albany Synod congregations are welcome to attend the opening worship service at 7pm.

Youth Sunday May 16

The youth will plan and lead the service, we'll have special musicians for the occasion, and our graduating seniors will reflect on their time at FRC. We will also recognize our Sunday School teachers. Please come and support our youth!

Church 'Luau' Picnic May 16 After Worship

Sunday, May 16, come and join the fun at the annual spring picnic sponsored by the Youth Education and Nurturing Committee. This year the picnic will have a luau theme, so break out those Hawaiian print shirts and straw hats! We will provide burgers, veggie burgers, hotdogs, and beverages for all. Please bring a side dish, dessert, or snack to share. In addition to food and conversation, games will be available for the children. Bring a friend to share in the fun! See you there!

CROP Walk May 2

The annual CROP Walk to raise money for local food pantries will be on Sunday, May 2. "Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty" is a celebration where people from all walks of life join in common cause to fight hunger here and overseas. "We walk because they walk" is a living symbol that we walk one day a year because too many people here and overseas walk every day for the basics of life: water, food, shelter. Registration begins at 12:30pm at Emmanuel Friedens Church, and the

walk begins after a short opening ceremony at 1:30pm. There is a 5k course and a Golden Mile for those who do not wish to walk the whole course. Walker packets and more information on donating are available from Stacey Midge or from Cathy Lewis.

Communion Schedule

The Worship committee reported to Consistory during their April meeting with chosen Sundays for Communion to be served in the pews: October 3, 2010 (World Wide Communion Sunday), and for the year 2011; January 2, March 6, and May 1.

Community Musical Presentations

Julie Panke's Capital Community Voices to Sing Love Songs May 1 at 7:30pm at Columbia High School, 962 Luther Road, East Greenbush. John Norton will be accompanying the chorus on piano.

Union College Music Department Presents 'Ensemble Pastourelle'

At 3pm, on Sunday, May 2, at Memorial Chapel, Union College featuring our own Leah Kidwell on the harp. Free.

'A Notorious Woman' premiers May 1. This musical storytelling event is about the 'True Story of Grace O'Malley the Irish Pirate Queen. First Reformed Church, 7:30pm in the Sanctuary, Tickets: \$15

WE @ FRC in Eastertide

Every Wednesday evening during the fifty days of Easter we gather for fellowship, education, and worship. A delicious dinner at 6pm of homemade soups, salad, bread, and desert starts the night. At 7:15pm Bill Levering will lead his popular *Preacher's Preview*; Daniel Carlson will facilitate a DVD-based study of N.T. Wright's Surprised By Hope: A brief, festive communion service in our candlelit chancel begins at 8:30pm for those who wish to conclude the evening with song, prayer, and the Lord's Supper. Registration is never required. Come participate in any part of the evening.

Church and Synagogue Librarians' Association

On May 4 at 1pm all interested persons are invited to attend the program of the Church and Synagogue Librarians' Association held at our church. The topic under discussion is the increasing realization that the mistreatment and second-class status of women in many parts of the world is affecting not only their lives, but the political, economic, and educational health of the nations where they reside. The program on May 4 will be a discussion of the book Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide by New York Times columnist, Nicholas Kristof and his wife, Sheryl WuDunn. The discussion will be followed by a showing of the film, *A Walk to Beautiful*. Call Ginny Laumeister at 381-4201 for more information.

Greening Team

We will meet on Monday, May 17 at 6:30pm in the Church Office. All are welcome to attend.

New Member Class May 20
7:30 pm

Kerygma Class Has Started

This season of Easter, Daniel Carlson will facilitate a DVD based study of Surprised By Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church by noted Biblical scholar N.T. Wright. The class meets each Wednesday morning from 9:30-11am in the Polling Conference room beginning April 21 - May 26. Registration is not required, but a participant's booklet is recommended; these will be available for purchase in the Faith Bookshop or the Church Office.

Group V

If you are interested in a firsthand account of conditions in Haiti, come to Group V on Monday, May 3, at 11am in the Dirck Romeyn Room. We will have a speaker who has recently returned from Haiti and will give us all the information. Our business meeting will follow; members should bring a brown bag lunch. Dessert and beverages will be provided. All are welcome.

Wednesday Dialog

Wednesday, May 19 at noon, Ken Welles, PhD, will discuss "The future of transportation." As we know, the time of Peak Oil is really imminent, and very soon we will need to develop new energy sources for transportation that replace gasoline as our primary source...and this could become the largest and most challenging project of the 21st Century.

Our energy analysts tell us that the path ahead is not yet clear. There are still arguments for CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) vehicles. Our speaker Ken Welles will sort through these different possibilities for us.

Sunday Driver Needed

Increasing numbers of our members need assistance in getting to church on Sunday. We are looking for volunteers to do church pick-up runs on Sunday mornings, either in your own vehicle or in the church van. Prospective volunteers should have:

- Clean driving records and valid driver's licenses
- Enough physical strength to assist elderly or injured people in and out of a car or van.

Those interested in participating in this crucial ministry should contact Randy Sparrow at randy.sparrow@gmail.com or by leaving a message at the church office (377-2201).



Your local chapter of Habitat for Humanity has five building projects slated for 2010. The Habitat website www.hfnscny.org has descriptions of the new projects planned along with information on upcoming Habitat for Humanity fund-raising events like the 5K Run/Walk on Sunday May 9th or the Golf Tournament on Fri. June 18. Habitat's website also includes information about the ReStore's hours of operation and how to donate. Please keep Habitat in mind this spring as you sort through your unneeded items. Good used items can be recycled and reused by donating them to Habitat's ReStore. Your donation is put to use by others, raises money for building projects, decreases tonnage going to landfills, and provides you with a tax-deductible receipt. Every donation helps to put a family in a home. HFHSCNY held a house dedication ceremony April 21st to welcome the Almodovar family into their newly completed home at 333 Schenectady St.

Faith in Action Care Team

At the invitation of the Support and Care Committee, Sandy Monahan of the Eddy Alzheimer's Services will be presenting at our May 2 First Forum. She will speak about establishing an Alzheimer Care Team within our congregation to provide non-medical support and friendship to those afflicted by this disease and/or their family. Belonging to a Care Team, you only give the time you can when you can because there are several members of each team. The average volunteer offers 2-3 hours per month. All volunteers are offered training and continued support from the staff at Eddy Alzheimer's Services. We hope you will attend this informational session on this new ministry venture of our congregation.



Capital Region Theological Centers' Offerings

Come Alive and Thrive conference with Rev. Dr. Tony Campolo May 21-22 Hear Dr. Campolo's unique perspective on what the church may look like in the coming decade.

Faith Seeking Understanding with Rev. Dr. Gregg Mast July 12-15, 6-9:30pm and Saturday July 17, 9am-3pm. The course will explore biblical themes - suffering and sin, creation and the cross, hope and the end times, the foundation for a faithful life, and death- to name just a few.

Details on registration deadlines and fees are at www.capitalrtc.org or by phone at 462-2470.

Fowler Retreat: Leading Churches in Green Pastures

This conference sponsored by our denomination and Regional Synod will be held May 23 to 25, 2010 at Fowler Camp and Retreat Center and will explore how faith informs our stewardship of the earth. Presenters include:

Steven Bouma-Prediger, professor of religion at Hope College, author of the book For the Beauty of the Earth and Michael Schut, author and editor of Simpler Living, Compassionate Life: A Christian Perspective. The three-day event will cost \$100 to \$150 per participant, depending on accommodations. Participants may choose to attend only on Monday, May 23, for \$50. To register visit campfowler.org or call Fowler's main office 631-6789.



Faith Bookshop

With Mother's Day approaching, the

Bookshop has a special display of books selected with women in mind. There's something for women and girls of all ages and interests: historical, religious, romantic, inspirational, and challenging. These books sell at the shop's usual 30% discount.

There's a new opportunity at the Bookshop: help a grieving child by purchasing a piece of very pretty, handmade jewelry. All proceeds go to support Camp Erin, a program held at Camp Fowler for kids who have experienced a significant loss. Camp Erin is sponsored by our Community Hospice and the Moyer Foundation. Your contributions help support the programs and make it possible for kids to attend at no charge. Necklaces are \$10; bracelets, \$5.

Scholarships Available

Apply for an Albert Smith scholarship for the 2010-2011 academic year. Applications are available at the church office. Completed applications are due to the church office by June 15th. Questions? Contact Sara Erickson (ericksonhs@aol.com or 374-4161).

Entered Into Eternal Rest

Barbara Weber
April 16, 2010

Iris Reed
April 17, 2010

Mary Louise Martin-Stern
January 25, 2010

On Saturday, May 8 at 10am there will be an Interment Service here at FRC for Mary Louise Martin-Stern. Her family invites all that knew her to attend.

Senior Moments

-Bill Levering

About thirteen generations have gathered to find meaning and direction for their lives in the words and actions of this congregation. We will gather on Sunday, May 23rd to celebrate our rich heritage with a meeting and a party. Our party will be on the Christian holiday of Pentecost, which is the celebration of the beginning, the birthday, of the church. Please join us.

Your officers will be gathering in June to talk about future directions for the congregation. Three years ago we posted on the walls many dreams and made most of them realities. It's time to look to the future again. If you have an idea or a vision for our congregation, please share it with one of the ministers or with your friendly local consistory member.

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Sunday Schedule

May	Preach	Reader	Forum	Vespers at 5
2	Bill Levering	Rob Dickson	Eddy Alzheimer Care by Sandy Monahan	Jazz - Nat Phipps, Pete Toigo, Tom D'Andrea
9	Bill Levering	Chris Fernandes	Coffee & Conversation	Chamber – David Ciucevich
16	Youth Sunday	Youth	Spring Luau Picnic	Jazz – Peg & Bill Delaney, Tim Coakley
23	Bill Levering	Therese McCarty	Annual Congrega- tional meeting	Organ – Susan Lohnas, Organist
30	Daniel Carlson	Richard Van Wie	Stacey Speaks	Something Wonderful

Address Correction Requested

May Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 – Trevor Falconer | 18 – Brenda Spencer |
| Virginia Moore | Gail Blinckmann |
| 3 – Benjamin Crair | 19 – John Chequer |
| Kelsey Mc Dermott | Dave Schweizer |
| Nancy Teichner | Stacey Shultes |
| 5 – David Hamm | 25 – Erica Kuntz |
| 6 – Eleanor Brudos | 27 – Nancy Hershey |
| Elinor Herman | Kirby Vosburgh |
| 7 – Jamie Ipsen | 28 – Linda Richards |
| 8 – Donald Flom | 29 – David Mitsche |
| 11 – Matthew Mc Dermott | 30 – Nathaniel Foote Phillips |
| 12 – Joseph Little | Ashley Kerwin |
| 13 – Dee Gravink | 31 – Madison Hewitt |
| 17 - Shealyn Rice | |



May, 2010

Every Sunday

HS/College Singers, 9:15am
 Choir, 9:15am
 Worship, 10am
 Church School, 10:20am
 Coffee & Conversation, 11am
 First Forum, 11:15am
 Kirk Ringers/Singers, 11:30am
 Youth Orchestra, 3:30pm
 Vespers, 5pm

Weekly

Monday:

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

Tuesday:

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

Wednesday:

Kerygma, 9:30am
 WE @ FRC: 6, 7:15, 8:30pm

Thursday:

Stitch Group, 10am
 Chancel Choir, 7:30pm

Monthly Meetings

Concern for Hungry, 1st Mon.
 Group 5, 1st Mon.
 Committees, 2nd Tues., 7pm
 Consistory, 2nd Tues., 8pm
 Support & Care, 3rd Tues., 11
 Archiving, 2nd Wed., 1pm
 Stephen Ministry, 3rd Wed.
 Wednesday Dialog, 3rd Wed.
 JHYG & SHYG, 1st & 3rd Sun.
 Frolics, Various Sundays

Event

1 – CC Voices, 7:30pm
 2 – Crop Walk, 1:30pm
 2 – Reg. Synod Meeting, 7pm
 3 – Group V, 11am
 4 – Librarian's Assoc., 1pm
 9 – Mother's Day
 11 – Committee Mtgs., 7pm
 11 – Consistory, 8pm
 16 – Youth Sunday
 16 – Teacher Appreciation
 16 – Spring Picnic, 11am
 17 – Greening Team, 6:30pm
 18 – Support & Care, 10am
 19 – Stephen Ministry, 7pm
 20 – New Member class
 23 – Pentecost! Confirmation!
 23 – Annual Cong. Meeting
 23 – 330th Birthday Celebration!