

Welcome to First Reformed Church

Absolutely everyone is invited to our worship, activities, and service.

If you are a first time visitor we hope you feel at home here. Please fill out a little white pew card and place it in the offering plate. After service join us in the Dirck Romeyn Room, to the left of the front of the sanctuary, for coffee and refreshments.

Parking

You may park in **any** of the lots around the church or the Stockade Inn on Sunday mornings.

Need Help?

Large print bulletins and audio receivers are available to assist you. Please ask an usher. Special bulletins for children are also available. Restrooms are located out the front right doorway of the sanctuary.

Child Care on Sunday

Childcare for babies through age four is available from 10am and noon in Kinderwyk, which is located in the building near the church office entry.

Church School

On Communion Sundays (the first Sunday of the month) youth in grades 3-8 remain in the service to participate in Communion while those in grades K-2 gather in the library immediately following the Children's Message for a story. There will be time to check out books and then they will return to room 20 to meet parents after the service.

Other Sunday's all children are welcome to join in our Church School activities by leaving

immediately after the Children's Message. Parents can pick up their children at 11:15am on the 2nd floor at the top of the stairs.

Elders in Worship

Past and current leaders we call 'elders' walk in together at the beginning of worship and sit in the front pew. This is to identify them as servants of the mission of the church and make it easy to see who you might talk to about the life of our congregation.

Communion

Our congregation celebrates the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of the month. All followers of Christ are invited to share this meal.

After Worship

Typically after worship, people stop for a chat and refreshments in Assembly Hall. Visitors are welcomed and are particularly encouraged to visit the Dirck Romeyn Room to the left of the sanctuary for five or ten minutes.

Joining the Congregation

To become a member of the congregation, there is a one-time orientation, a meeting with the governing board, and a reception in worship. If you are interested in the next orientation please fill out a white pew card.

Service Online

A recording of each of our worship services is at 1stReformed.com one or two days following the service.

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

January 29, 2012

9:40 a.m.

VOLUNTARY

Trumpet Tune and Air (2002)

Frederick White

10:00 a.m.

+ + + **The Approach to God** + + +

GREETING

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Stacey Midge

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WORSHIP ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Levering

INTROIT

This is the Day

Lansom Demmings

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #423 *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun*

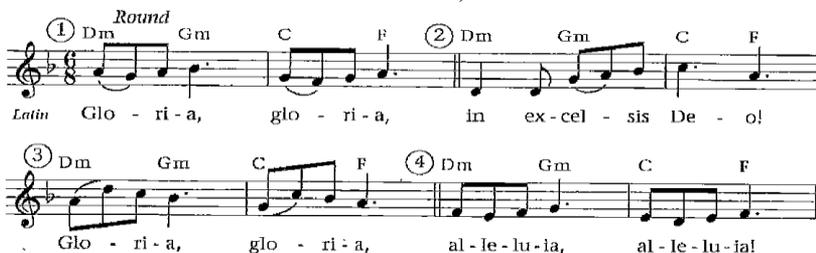
*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

O God, you have searched us and known us. You have called us and we have not listened. You have called us and we have walked away. You have beckoned us and we have been afraid. Forgive us, almighty Lord. Open our ears and strengthen our hearts to hear and follow you. Amen.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE *Gloria, Gloria*

Round



Latin Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Luke 2:14

Music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994) All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-700700

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*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(from Our Song of Hope)*

**We sing to our Lord a new song; we sing in our world a sure
Hope. Our God loves this world, God called it into being,
God renews it through Jesus Christ, God governs it by the Spirit.
God is the world's true Hope.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

SOLO *The Lord is My Shepherd* Frederick White (2002)
Christine Walthers, soprano

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
He leadeth me beside the still, still waters.
He restoreth my soul:
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil for though art with me;
thy rod and thy staff comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over;
Goodness and mercy shall follow me all my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forevermore.

Psalm 23

+ + + **The Word of God** + + +

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION Bradley Lewis
Guide us, O Lord, by your Word and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON *Psalm 108:1-3 (page 560)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Daniel Carlson

SECOND LESSON *Colossians 3:15-16 (page 201)*

¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

SERMON *Highway to Our God* Bill Levering

+ + + **The Response to the Word** + + +

*HYMN #142 *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!* Coronation

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *How Firm a Foundation* Frederick White (2006)
Christine Walthers, soloist

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

"The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

*DOXOLOGY #592 *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*RECESSIONAL HYMN #464 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Twofold Amen* Rob Landes

*POSTLUDE *Fidelis Servus (1953)* Dom Paul Benoit

*The congregation may stand

Prayers of the People

Requests for prayer may be noted on a pew card and placed in the offering plate. We pray regularly for those who are ill, those who serve their country, those who hunger, and those who are our enemies. As part of our prayers this morning, we remember with thanksgiving members of this congregation who entered eternal rest in previous years about this time:

Rev. Bertram D. Atwood, Herbert Stare, George Stroebel, Herbert Strong, and William Tucker

If you are aware of a departed member, whose name has not been noted near the anniversary of their death, please speak with one of our ministers or contact the church office.

Chancel Flowers

If you would like to order celebratory or memorial flowers for the chancel, please call the church office. You may send your check for \$30 payable to Chancel Guild, c/o Marlene Risseuw, 2140 Niskayuna Drive, Niskayuna, NY 12309-4126.

Post Service Refreshments

We are in need of volunteers to bring in food! It can be cookies, cheese and crackers, fruit, or anything you want. There is a sign-up sheet in Assembly Hall. Please bring your food around 9:30am, unless it is already set up on a platter.

Faith Bookshop

The Bookshop has restocked the delightful products from Kenya; jewelry, salad servers, carved animals and more. Also, four new CDs are available through the *Talents for Talents* program. The artists are familiar to

most at FRC, and the proceeds go to worthy causes.

Books can be ordered through the Bookshop at anytime at a 30% discount. Order forms are available in the shop.

To date, sales of donated Christmas ornaments have raised \$110 for the Sr. Minister's Discretionary Fund. The donated items will be available for purchase through January.

New Members Class Today

Today, Jan. 29 from 2-4pm there will be a new member class. We will meet in Assembly Hall. The session should last an hour and a half. We will go over the basics of church membership and beliefs. Folks who attend this meeting are not assumed to be joining, so people can come just to check things out. To complete the process of joining, there is a meeting with consistory and a welcome in worship on Sunday, Feb. 19.

First Forum

Feb. 5 - Colonial Festival/Heritage Sunday: Introducing John F. Gearing- the researcher and author working for the Colonial Schenectady Project to complete Volume 2 *Schenectady Genesis: How a Dutch Colonial Village Became an American City, Ca. 1661-1800*. John will share anecdotes and results of his research on early Schenectady and. speak about the Themes and Highlights from the period 1771-1800.

Feb. 12 - Open Consistory Roundtable

Feb. 19 - Coffee & Conversation

Feb. 26 - Justice Action Council Topic –Challenges of Public Education Reformed, Mary Alice Jewett & Cathy Lewis

Any ideas or recommendations for Speakers please contact Joe Doolittle at aldenjoe@nycap.rr.com

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday, 5pm

Today – Peg Delaney, piano

Feb. 5 – Nat Phipps, piano; Pete Toigo, bass; tom D'Andrea, drums

Feb. 12 – 'Azzaam Hameed, piano

Feb. 19 – Peg Delaney, piano; Bill Delaney, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

Kinderwyck

We are looking for helping hands and arms to play with toddlers and rock babies from 9:50-noon (usually only until 11). Please call the church office if you are willing and able. Thank you!

Junior & Senior High Youth Groups

JHYG will meet at 5pm on Sundays (unless otherwise noted) for dinner, games, discussion, and other fun activities. Youth in grades 6-8 are welcome.

SHYG will meet on Sundays at 7pm. All youth in grades 9-12 are welcome, and snacks will be provided.

Today – Chili Cook-off and Auction at 6pm. Senior High youth should be at church by 4:30pm to help set up. Junior High youth are welcome to attend the event; there will be no regular Junior High meeting.

Friday, Feb. 3 - Midnight Run. This year we will leave church at 7pm, do the run through Manhattan, stay at a local church, and return on Saturday afternoon. There are a limited number of seats available, so please let Stacey Midge know ASAP if you'd like to attend.

Feb. 5 – No Meetings

Feb. 12 – Regular Meetings.

Chili Cook-off and Auction, Tonight!

Taste and judge different chili recipes; bid on gifts in our silent auction; and go head to head in the live auction. Join us at 6pm in Friendship Hall. All proceeds from the auction and a free-will offering for dinner go toward the Senior High Youth Group Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic.

Youth Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic

Please pray for our youth and adult chaperones who will be traveling to the Dominican Republic from February 20-26 on our annual mission trip. They will be staying at a ministry center in Santo Domingo and doing construction and improvements at the ministry center, a school, and homes of people in need.

This is an important opportunity for our youth that enables them to experience another culture, learn about the dynamics of poverty, and do valuable service in another community - which equips them to better see and address needs in their own communities. **You can support this trip by purchasing a mission share for \$25** from any member of the Senior High Youth Group, or from Stacey Midge. All mission shareholders are invited to attend a dinner on Sunday, March 25 to eat food inspired by the Dominican Republic, see pictures of our time there, and hear the youth tell stories about what they experienced and how they have been impacted.

Contemplative Communion

Continuing mid-week, in a new format and location is this evening service of meditative communion. We gather in the Poling Chapel at 8:30pm each Wednesday during the season of Epiphany. A quiet, simple song will

begin our worship. Participants will be invited to assume bodily postures of prayer (seated in chairs or on the floor) intended to foster quiet awareness of God's presence within and beyond us. As usual, communion (bread and wine or juice) are shared around the Lord's Table, followed by spoken prayers, a blessing, and Christ's peace. The service concludes at about 9. All are welcome. Questions may be directed to Daniel or Mary Carlson.

Purls of Wisdom

Join us in the Mezzanine from 6-8pm every Thursday evening. Come when you can and stay as long as you like. This group is for those that work during the day, or just want another group to join! Bring your crafts of all types (knitting, crocheting, cross-stitching, quilting and anything else you can dream of) and have fun chatting with others. Coffee and tea will be provided, and you can bring snacks to share. Contact Alida Rice at 280-3903 or rice.alida@yahoo.com for more information or if you have any questions.

Prayer Shawl Knitting Group

We will be meeting at 9:30am on Thursday, Feb. 23 at the home of Ronnie Bartholic. We welcome anyone interested in joining us. Please contact Ronnie (393-7679) with any questions.

Midnight Run

Back by popular demand! On Friday, Feb. 3, we will be taking a van load of people, clothes, food, and hygiene items to Manhattan to distribute to homeless people. This has been a very powerful experience for those who have gone in the past. If you want to go on the run, please talk to Stacey

Midge. We are also collecting donations of socks, blankets, hygiene items, and sweatshirts and hoodies, especially in larger men's sizes. Please drop off your donations in Stacey's office.

Adult Winterfest February 4

Doug Todd has again graciously offered his farmstead (Fox Hill Farm, 6003 Parkis Mills Rd., Galway) as the location for our annual winter outing for adults in the church. Those wishing to cross country ski and snowshoe should plan to arrive at 3pm to prepare for a 3:30 departure. The nourishment, fellowship and laughter indoors begins at 5:30 with appetizers and drinks; a dinner of hearty soups, sides, salads, and desserts will follow. We are also happy to announce that *Live From Geneva* will play music for the event. To offset the costs of this event there will be a \$5 charge per person. Please also bring something edible to share: appetizer, side dish, salad, or dessert. A signup sheet is posted in Assembly Hall or the church office may be called to let us know you're coming. Those in need of assistance with childcare for young ones during this event are urged to call Fellowship Committee chair, Bill Brooks (399-3717). Carpooling is encouraged to ease our pollution of the planet and parking at the party. We hope to see you there!

Colonial Festival Dinner

On Sat. Feb. 4 from 6-9pm at the new Education Center at the Mabee Farm. Enjoy 18th Century Music, 1st plate (hors d'oeuvres), cash bar, 2nd plate (dinner). Hear stories of 18th century lives and travels along the Mohawk River. Light on New Netherland will be a feature of the dinner. Seating is

limited so order your tickets now at (518) 374-0263 (ext. 5), or www.mabeefarm.org. Also view further information on church bulletin boards.

Colonial Festival/Heritage Sunday

This year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Covenant of our Congregation. The worship service on Sunday morning will feature many of its parts.

At the forum following the service we will hear from John F. Gearing, who is a Schenectady Genesis researcher and author. The community is invited to the Sunday's worship service, Forum hour, and evening Vespers as part of Schenectady's annual wintertime Colonial Festival. Tune in to other events sponsored by the Historical Society, especially the dinner on February 4.

Communion Class

Next Sunday, Feb 5th, the third graders will attend their final Communion Class. Participants should meet in room 20 following the Children's Message.

Group V

We will meet Monday, Feb. 6 in the Dirck Romeyn Room at 11am. Program: Kitty Trimarco, Adult Education. Hostesses are Sandy Moynihan and Cindy Hamilton.

Group VII

We will not be meeting in February, but will resume on Friday, March 16 at 10am in the Dirck Romeyn Room.

Scout Sunday February 12

Scouts will be participating in the worship service and scouts of all types, Girl Scouts, Cubs, Explorers, are invited to wear their uniforms.

Wednesday Dialog

On February 15 at noon in Assembly Hall, the Community Theater in Schenectady will feature an overview of both the Schenectady Light Opera Company (musicals) and the Schenectady Civic Players (mostly dramas,) presented by Joseph Fava.

Their histories, seasons, and future building plans among other topics will be presented and discussed. Since Mr. Fava has directed and acted at both theaters and has been on both their Boards, he is particularly suited for this subject. Schenectady's community theaters are a strong and healthy contributor to the City as an entertainment center.

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers meet at 7pm Wednesday, Feb. 15, in Assembly Hall for refreshments, devotions, community building, and small group peer supervision. All Stephen Ministers in confidential one-to-one care-giving relationships should bring their updated contact record sheet(s) and monthly check-in form to the meeting.

Faith with a Twist February 16

This group, geared toward young adults in their 20s and 30s, meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7pm at the Van Dyck Restaurant for casual, open-minded conversation about faith, spirituality, God, and life. Participants need not be church members; we encourage people from a variety of backgrounds to attend and enliven our discussion! Please contact Stacey Midge if you have questions.

Tuesday Ladies

We will meet at Inge-Lise Pangburn's home on Feb. 21 at 7:30pm. All ladies are welcome. Please call Inge-Lise (399-1027) if any questions.

Justice Action Council

We will present 30-minute post-service forums in Poling Chapel on the fourth Sunday of the month, on issues of social, economic and environmental fairness. After each forum, we will offer further opportunities for discussion and action on the topic presented. Tentative topics for upcoming forums are:

Feb. 26 - Justice in Education

March 25 - Hydrofracking

April 22 - LGBT inclusion/
Room For All

May 27 - Income Inequality

June 24 - Health Insurance/
Health Reform

Please join us for what are sure to be lively conversations. And let us know if you have other ideas you'd like us to address, or perhaps even a justice issue on which you'd like to make a presentation. Contact Claire Hughes at eclair@nycap.rr.com or 381-9241.

Israel: A Biblical Journey

Travel to the Holy Land on an inspirational journey that visits some of the most ancient sites in the world. From Oct. 17-25, we will visit Tel Aviv, Nazareth, Cana, the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, the site of the Transfiguration at Mount Tabor, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and more. The cost of the trip if booked before April 17 is \$3,299 per person (double occupancy,) which includes round trip airfare from Albany, air taxes and fees, hotel transfers, 9-day tour, 6 dinners, 1 lunch, and 7 breakfasts. An optional 5-

day/4-night post-tour extension to Jordan is also available for \$1,299.00 per person. Contact Stacey Midge for a tour brochure or other information about this opportunity.

\$100 Covenant Prize Established

In honor of the 50th anniversary of the Covenant of our Congregation, a \$100 prize is established for anyone under the age of 21 who can recite the Covenant from memory by the end of February, 2012. Rules and information can be viewed at www.is.gd/covenant.

Offering Envelopes

If you didn't sign up for envelopes and would like a box, please come to the church office or contact Heather Scribner in the church office.

Bulletin Pictures

We have been featuring inspirational pictures on the cover of our bulletins. If you have one that you would like to suggest, send it to blevering@gmail.com.

	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Counting Deacons	Therese McCarty, Jeanne Shoulder	Bill Martin, Kimberly Burgoyne
Faith Bookshop	Bill Clock	Nancy Wainwright
First Forum	Coffee & Conversation	Colonial Festival/Heritage Sunday: Introducing John F. Gearing- the researcher and author
Flower Delivery	Ann & Emile Walraven, Veronica Bartholic	Vickie McGowan & Michael Horn, Richard & Judy Arthur
Kinderwyck	Sarah Bachorik, Cathy Wisniewski	Sarah Bachorik, Linda Stanhope
Liturgist	Stacey Midge	Daniel Carlson
Preacher	Bill Levering	Bill Levering
Procession Elders	Veronica Bartholic, Darwin Brudos, Peggy King, Catherine Lewis, William Rochelle, Linda Witkowski	Caroline Brooks, William Brooks, Keith Muse, Darwin Brudos, Christine Daniels, Gay Doolittle, Eric Evans, Tom Lindsay
Reader	Bradley Lewis	Nancy Wainwright
Refreshments		Tracie Shaw, Gerry Myers
Ushers/ Offertory Deacons	Del Pierce (head usher), Carol Troost, Karen Dickson, Rob Dickson, Doug Todd	Tom Burgoyne, Joan Lindsay, Bill Martin, Kimberly Burgoyne, Joe Gallagher, Rebecca Grande, Therese McCarty, David Bundy

Calendar for the Week of January 29, 2011

Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Chancel Choir, Choir Room
Jan. 29	9:15 a.m.	High School Choir, Room 20
	10:00 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Coffee & Refreshments, Assembly Hall
	11:15 a.m.	Kirk Ringers, Room 20
	2:00 p.m.	New Members Class, Assembly Hall
	4:00 p.m.	Youth Orchestra, Sanctuary
	5:00 p.m.	Jazz Vespers, Poling Chapel
	4:30 p.m.	SHYG to set up for Chili Cook-Off, Friendship Hall
	6:00 p.m.	Chili Cook-off, Friendship Hall
Monday	9:00 a.m.	Mens Newsgroup, Poling Conference Room
Jan. 30	7:15 p.m.	Tower Ringers, Poling Conference Room
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer, Dykstra Chapel
Jan. 31		
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Kerygma, Poling Conference Room
Feb. 1	12:30 p.m.	Thursday Belles, Poling Conference Room
	7:00 p.m.	Seeking Spirituality, Dirck Romeyn Room
	8:30 p.m.	Contemplative Communion Service, Poling Chapel
Thursday	7:30 a.m.	Breakfast Bible Bunch, Walton Conference Room
Feb. 2	10:00 a.m.	Stitch Group, Poling Conference Room
	6:00 p.m.	Purls of Wisdom, Mezzanine
	7:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts, Assembly Hall
	7:00 p.m.	District Boy Scouts, Walton Conference Room
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir, Choir Room
Friday	7:00 p.m.	Midnight Run, Meet at the Church
Feb. 3		
Saturday	5:30 p.m.	Winter Fest, Todd Farm
Feb. 4		
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Chancel Choir, Choir Room
Feb. 5	9:15 a.m.	High School Choir, Room 20
	10:00 a.m.	Worship with Communion, Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Coffee & Refreshments, Assembly Hall
	11:15 a.m.	Forum, Poling Chapel
	11:15 a.m.	Kirk Ringers, Room 20
	12:00 p.m.	Justice Action Council, Walton Conference Room
	4:00 p.m.	Youth Orchestra, Sanctuary
	5:00 p.m.	Jazz Vespers, Poling Chapel

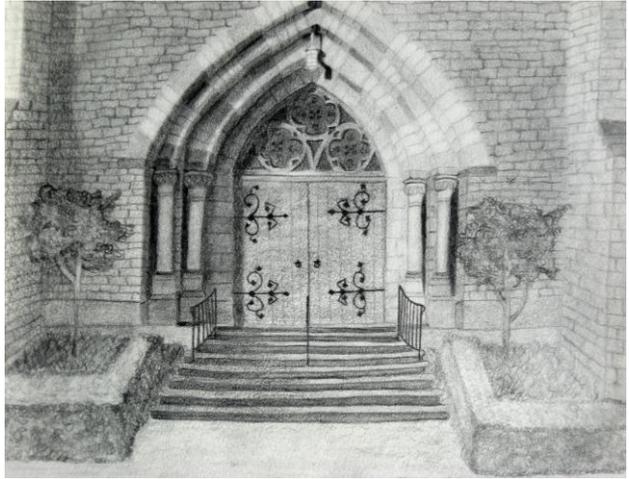
***The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962***

We do hereby set forth the principles of the Christian faith as commonly held among us, believing that no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

It shall be our aim to bring joy to little children, instruction and high ideals to youth, inspiration to men and women in the midst of life, and comfort to those in life's later years; and to labor together for the betterment of humankind.

Our fellowship shall not be dependent upon identity of theological opinion, or of outward circumstance, or of denominational concern, but shall grow from a common loyalty to Jesus, a common commitment to serve the world we touch, and a common purpose to do justly, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.

Our ideal is a church of the open mind, the warm heart, the hopeful spirit, and the social vision which ever seeks to express, in all walks of life, the mind of Jesus.



By Nichole Creehan, when in high-school. Nicole is currently a third year architectural student at the University of Notre Dame.

January 29, 2012

Old doors
New openings
God is waiting
inside

First Reformed Church

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Schenectady, New York 12305
(518) 377-2201 www.1stReformed.com