

# Hopewell Happenings

HOPEWELL REFORMED CHURCH

February 2009



## HRC JOURNEY - SHARING GOD'S LOVE

### Text and picture submitted by Linda Zieres

When I first heard Taylor speak from the pulpit about plans for HRC journey I was on the balcony manning the video camera at The Gathering. The multi-site concept seemed like the ideal way to expand the HRC community to the underserved areas, to reach out to the un-churched. I, however, was quite at home at HRC Beekman campus, ensconced on the balcony as part of the video & sound teams. Still, I wanted to help out with the start-up for this new HRC venture.

As many of you know from past HRC events, Tymor Park is a beautiful setting to spend time with our Lord.

HRC journey is like a big ChristCare group with a contemporary style of worship led by Lynn and Wayne Morrison or Tony Congi. Pastors Mark Mast

and Steve Dambra speak in their own special styles. In comparison to HRC at Beekman, it seems easier to get really involved in the scripture and sermon and to interact with the group during the service.

We are getting to know each other so well, in part, I believe, through a dynamic Bible Study group lead by Jan Bushey. We completed Luke before Christmas; I have read it before but never like that, to really understand it.



Last year we set up camp in two local Community Day events passing out water, painting faces and throwing bean bags. We are excited about our mission to people with special needs. We are planning one Sunday service per month to

bring Christ's love to the residents of 5 local group homes...and maybe their families.

### Submitted by Mark Mast; picture by Linda Zieres

There are two wonderful things at HRCjourney that you need to know.

First, people's lives are being changed. Each week people share with me how God is using HRCjourney to grow deeper. People, both new to this journey with Christ and others who have been on it for decades, are experiencing a relationship with God they never thought possible. We celebrate our next efforts to be Christ in the world and provide a place of Hope, Reconciliation and Community. Second, our missional service is taking off. We have

seven of our community heading to the Dominican Republic to serve in February with others exploring this Katrina "thing." We have started a worship



ministry to people with special needs and know God has great things in store for this one (PRAY FOR US!). Finally, we are looking into being the new Dial-a-Ride for Union Vale. There are four wonderful women who use the service weekly, but the town can no longer supply the service. When Pastor Steve and Pastor Mark went to see the town supervisor to ask what HRCjourney can do for Union Vale, she smiled

and said she just had to cancel Dial-a-Ride and was looking for an alternative way to care for these women.

# LETTERS AND NOTES

*Just a quick hello and a Merry Christmas from The Hamilton's in Forest, Virginia. Every Christmas we remember HRC, the beautiful, peaceful music, and how much George loved being in the choir.*

*Both George and Betty treasured Christmas time, and they enjoyed being able to worship at HRC very much. We just wanted to let you know that we are thinking of you all, and wishing you joy.*

*Peace,  
Jay, Stephanie, Patrick and  
Daniel Hamilton  
1888 Matthew Talbot Rd*



Dear Readers,

Pastor Holbrook's sermon series on Radical Love prepared us for God's ultimate gift of love – his Son, our Savior and Redeemer. As we move into 2009, we strive to share God's love with everyone in our lives.

In this issue, we see love being shared at worship services, during fellowship events, on mission trips, through ChristCare groups, by helping those less fortunate and by improving our facilities right here at Hopewell. The beginning of a new year is a great time to make some changes in your life. We invite you to participate in the life of Hopewell by joining a ChristCare group, participating in a church ministry, and/or getting involved in missions.

Make 2009 the year you truly become a part of the family of God at Hopewell!

*The Newsletter Team*

*Dear Friends of HRC*

*It was wonderful of you people to send me fond wishes on my 97th birthday. I appreciate it more than you know and I thank you. Happy New Year*

*Sincerely, Edith Travis*



# LETTERS AND NOTES

*To Dear HRC Family,*

*We want to say thank you to all of you who participated in our Christmas Cookie Fundraiser for the "Operation Love Moldova" summer mission trip. Thanks to all of you who baked and to all of you who bought, we were able to raise over \$700. God bless you for sharing your resources with what He is doing around the world.*

*In Christian love,  
Mauricio and Shauna La Borde*



*Congratulations to  
Kyle Hansen, son  
of Pam and Chris,  
who graduated  
from Plattsburgh  
SUNY on December  
13th with a double  
major in Accounting  
and Business  
Management, and a  
minor in Economics.*





# CHRISTIAN KIDS' CORNER

Submitted by Sheryle Silvern

## DID YOU HEAR WHAT I HEARD?

Did you hear what I heard? I heard fifty-five children singing to the glory of the newborn king! I heard angels proclaim, shepherds wonder and wise men worship. The children did a wonderful job telling us again the story of God's love at our Christmas pageant.

Thanks to everyone who made the pageant a holy part of the Advent season at Hopewell!

Our thanks to:

Ann Hack and Meghan Chisholm for directing the pageant

Rachel McClellan for being our accompanist

Lisa Starr, Kathy Praino, Sue Geary and Shelley Stensrud for designing costumes

Lisa Starr, Barbara Jennings and Yvonne Bantin for coordinating the reception

Maryann Quimby for designing the bulletin

Dave Schuster and Jeff Gerlach for technical support

All the parents who chaperoned

And to the children who worked so hard



# CHRISTIAN KIDS' CORNER

## SANDWICH SUNDAY

Sandwich Sunday is coming! **On February 15th**, the children will be making bagged lunches for the "Lunch Box". The "Lunch Box" provides food for needy people in Poughkeepsie.

The children always enjoy this hands-on mission project. Every year, they carefully make sandwiches and fill each bag with juice, fruit and cookies. Please sign up to bring in an item that we need for this project. You'll see a child walking around with a "sandwich" board on which to sign up. Thank you for your support!

## WINTER FESTIVAL

Come join us for our first Winter Festival on Saturday **February 28th at 4:00pm!** There will be games and fun for the whole family. We'll enjoy pizza together at 5:30. Please sign up at the "Get in the Game" kiosk. If you'd like to help prepare for this family event, please call Sheryle Silvern at 227-1965.

## CHILDREN AT THE TABLE

Children who have expressed faith in Jesus Christ and would like to share in communion are invited to attend "Children at the Table". There will be a class on Thursday, **March 26th at 4:30** in the Community Room to discuss the sacrament. On **April 2nd**, the children will meet with Pastor Holbrook and an elder in the sanctuary at 4:30 to learn more. The children will receive communion for the first time during the Maundy Thursday Service on **April 9th**. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Sheryle Silvern at 227-1965. There is a sign-up sheet at the "Get in the Game" kiosk.



## Vacation Bible School 2009 August 10th - 14th

Save the week of August 10th-14th for fun, fellowship and learning at SonRock Kids Camp VBS! Registration for children entering kindergarten through the 6th grade starts on May 3rd. We are beginning to get ready for VBS already and could use your help. If you are interested in helping to plan, prepare props, decorations or crafts, please call Sheryle Silvern at 227-1965. Thanks!

# **YOUTH MINISTRY**

## **YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR**

Submitted by Lourdes Kleid

### **February**

**8th Sunday-** Jr High Youth Group- 6:00-8:00 meet in Youth House

- Sr High Youth Group- 6:00-8:00 meet in Youth House

**13th – 15th (Fri-Sun)** - HRC Youth Spiritual Retreat - Sharpe Reservation- 6-12th grade

Speaker: Dr. Matt Browning, Associate Vice President for missions, Azusa Pacific University, California

Worship Band: back again for a third year- Matt, Bob, and Iceman from California

No School Monday!

Fliers available soon on our website- [hrcyouth.org](http://hrcyouth.org)

**22nd Sunday-** Jr High Bowling- 5:30-7:00 meet at Fishkill Bowl- Bring \$10

- Sr High Youth Group- 6:00-8:00 meet in Youth House

### **March**

**1st Sunday-** High School Sunday School Worship- 10:30-11:30- Community Room

**6th-8th (Fri-Sun)-** High School Lake Champion Work Crew Weekend

ask a leader about signing up

**8th Sunday-** Jr High Community Service trip

Mid Hudson Animal Aid Shelter

12:00-4:00 meet in Youth House after church

Bring money for fast food lunch

Sign up with Jennifer Nieves- (845) 490-0492

[Jenuine783@yahoo.com](mailto:Jenuine783@yahoo.com)

Spots for 15 people- first come, first serve

**15th Sunday-** Jr High Youth Group- 6:00-8:00 meet in Youth House

- Sr High Youth Group- 6:00-8:00 meet in Youth House

**22nd Sunday-** BIG Worship- 6:00-7:15

**29th Sunday-** John Jay Proscenium Presents West Side Story

Starring some of our HRC kids!!!!!!!!!!

HRC Youth has limited tickets

Talk to a leader to buy a ticket and see it with us

- Jr High Youth Group- 6:00-8:00 meet in Youth House

- Sr High Youth Group- 6:00-8:00 meet in Youth House

# **YOUTH MISSIONS**

Submitted by Lourdes Kleid

## **YOUTH MISSIONS 2009**

MOUNTAIN T.O.P.

TENNESSEE

**July 10-19, 2009**

MEXICO OUTREACH

ENSENADA

**July 25-August 7, 2009**

FUGE

PHILADELPHIA

**July 27 - Aug 1, 2009**

STUDENTS INTERNATIONAL

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

**June 29 - July 11, 2009**



## SQUARE DANCE

Submitted by Linda Smith; pictures by Mike Reynolds



“Swing your partner and Do Si Do”!! That’s what a group of HRC members enjoyed doing in November of 2008. Even though it was a rainy and stormy night, over 50 people came to Tymor Hall to have a great time in fellowship and fun.

Groups of eight followed the directions of a professional square dance caller and had a great time learning how to promenade their partners and allamande left and right. Beginners and experts alike had a wonderful time changing up partners and laughing when things got all mixed up. With plenty of goodies and fellowship during breaks, the evening was a great success for all.



## LOCAL MISSIONS

### FOOD PANTRY

Submitted by Patty Coppola

The Fishkill Food Pantry has seen a 50% increase in needs from November 2007 through November 2008. They are always so grateful when we drop off all the food items that our congregation has donated. We know times are tough right now but we hope that you continue to support the food pantry. Every donation, small or large, makes a difference in someone’s life.



Thanks again for all your support and donations to the food pantry.

Any questions or needs please contact Patty Coppola (227-8277) or Lee Ann O’Connor (223-6750).

***The food pantry is in need of the following items:***

- complete pancake mix
- pancake syrup
- jelly
- macaroni and cheese
- crackers
- boxed cookies
- individual small bags of chips
- individual snacks
- soups
- tuna
- dry mixes that can be used with meat
- Ramen noodle soups
- peanut butter
- cans of whole potatoes
- juice boxes
- boxed complete meals
- canned vegetables
- canned meats

***Please remember that all food items need to have a date that has not expired.*** The food pantry continues to need empty egg cartons and paper bags. Please leave all donations in the food pantry basket.

# BRIGHT BEGINNINGS

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

Submitted by Faye Lotze

Bright Beginnings Preschool is ready to start a new year of fun, growth, and learning! We celebrated Jesus' birthday at our Christmas shows in December and were so pleased to have so many parents and grandparents attend. Santa Claus also made a special visit to our school; he led us (with his melodic tenor voice-guess who?) in singing and listened to our Christmas wish lists. We've all enjoyed our vacation but are excited to be back in school with our friends and teachers.

Registration has begun for enrollment in classes for 2009-2010. Parents who may be considering placing their children in our school are invited to stop by the Bright Beginnings office on Tuesdays or Fridays

or call 227-8671 to request a brochure or to make an appointment for a school tour.

The morning sessions for 3's and 4's are filling up quickly.

As part of their New Year's party, the 4 year-olds were asked if they had made any resolutions. Their answers follow, and some are good suggestions for all of us!



### Four Year Old Classes' New Year's Resolutions



- Amanda - Help my Mom clean my room.
- Andrew - Run faster
- Anthony - Learn how to ride a bike
- Austin - Clean my Mom's room
- Bobbi - Ride my bike better
- Brooke - Learn how to jump rope
- Bryanna - Learn how to tie my shoes
- Ciaran - Be nicer to my friends
- Claire - Learn to make a snowman
- Emily - Be a happy helper for my Mom
- Eric - Play more with my sister
- Frankie - Learn to jump and grind with my skateboard
- Greg - Ride my bike with only two wheels
- Hayley - Help people, too
- Jadon - Play Star Wars with my brother
- Jaycee - I will take care of my dog
- Joey - Make the biggest snowman
- Julia P. - Help my family feel better
- Julia T. - Learn more in school this year
- Kathryn - Learn to ride a bike
- Kevin - Work out with the gorillas
- Lilly - Learn to read
- Morgan - I will take care of my dog
- Nico B. - Help people more
- Nico D. - I will take care of my cat
- Nicole - Help my Mommy
- Robert - Learn how to wrestle better
- Ryan - Make a better snowman
- Shannon - Help people
- Stephen - Help my Mom more
- Tyler - Go ice fishing



# LOCAL MISSIONS

Submitted by David Bushey; pictures by Anne Jackson

Those of you who sit in the balcony already know that there have recently been some physical changes made. For some time now there has been a need for improvement in the technology equipment and facility. Technology first infiltrated the sanctuary with the cassette tape recording of our worship services. Wires were added. Next we installed a video tape capability. More wires were added. Then we got a sound board. More wires were added. New speakers were installed. More wires were added. Our electronic carillon chime equipment was recently installed. Oh yes, and more wires were added.

By now it has become clear that technology has invaded our historic 19th century sanctuary. With it, the dilemma arises: how do you integrate something technological into the traditional architectural persona of our worship space? Technology is here to stay. Nobody would argue that it does not have a legitimate place in our ministry. By now it is clear that peace must be made between two visually incompatible entities.

To accomplish this task, an informal, ad hoc group representing technology, structural and aesthetic concerns was formed. Members of this group included Dave Schuster, Bruce Smith, Tippi Stensrud, David Bushey,

Paul Varanouskas, Karen Gomba, Kevin Warren and occasional others. In discussion, a little-known old historical renovation provided an opportunity to lower the visibility of the new technology station. When the church was originally built, the balcony featured step-down seating. Early in the last century when the Sunday school needed more space, the balcony floor was leveled out to facilitate the use of tables and chairs, eliminating the step-down feature. By restoring the technology station to the original balcony level, it was possible to reduce its visibility.



Construction began in December. During the renovation, a six by twelve foot opening was made in the flooring, bringing the floor to its original level.

Within one day the structural work was completed, Tippi being assisted by Dave O'Malley, Norm Bell and David Bushey. Using memorial funds, a new architectural paneling surround was designed and constructed in the Bushey's woodworking shop. Anne Jackson lent her painting skills and the paneling was installed the following week by the two Davids and Don Doney. In the future work will continue to make this a designated space suitable for our technology needs while remaining consistent with the ambiance of our historic structure.



# MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

## NEW MEMBERS

Submitted by Arlene Surprenant; pictures by Dave Pratt

### ABBY HOFFMAN

When Abby Hoffman heard Pastor Holbrook recite Bruce Springsteen lyrics, she knew HRC “was the church for me.”

“The people associated with HRC are amazing; everyone has been so welcoming,” says Abby, a stay-at-home mom to five year old daughter Delia.

Abby and husband Mike, a conductor for Metro North, have been married over 10 years and live in Wappingers Falls. Rounding out the family is cat Daizy, “king of the house.”

Though Delia has a condition known as Imperfecta (brittle bones), Abby feels this is really “a blessing in disguise.” As Delia grows older, religion has become more of a priority in Abby’s life.

The family enjoys nature, the outdoors, and traveling. Mike loves to hike while Abby is an avid scrapbooker.

As for the future, Abby says, “I would love to help make this world a better place; a place my child could grow up free from harm and pain.”



### NORMA RODDY

Norma Roddy believes strongly in the power of prayer.

“Prayer is most important in my life. I pray for everyone and anyone,” most often in the prayer room in her own

home. Two of the people on her prayer list are her son, who has Menieres Disease, and her husband, who suffered a stroke 20 years ago.

Norma loves to read and has put together “a small library” of Christian books. She was brought up Roman Catholic then attended the Valley Christian Church, where she was a member for 15 years. Norma was a hairdresser then worked for IBM but was forced to retire because of her husband’s illness.

Her son led her to HRC. “From the first time I entered this church I felt a certain peace in my heart. I hadn’t felt that in a very long time,” she adds.



## VICKI GALLAGHER

Vicki Gallagher has come to HRC following a spiritual path, which took her from St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Yonkers to St. James in Dover Plains and St. Uriels in New Jersey (where she was married to her husband of 31 years).



Vicki is originally from Yonkers but has been living in Unionvale for almost 21 years. Her daughter Megan is married and lives in Florida.

For pleasure, Vicki likes to “stamp and scrapbook.” She was formerly an executive secretary in a pharmaceutical company until Megan was born.

A friend brought her to HRC where she “was happy to have felt such fellowship and warmth.” Today she is involved with the newly formed B.A.N.K. team helping church youth and their leaders.

## SHOLA OLORITUN

From the very first day, Shola enjoyed the reception she received at Hopewell Reformed Church.

“HRC feels like home,” she says, adding she would like to get involved with the choir and “wherever there is a need.”

Shola, a dentist with an office in Poughkeepsie, hails from Nigeria. She has been in the United States from age 13. She was educated in Washington D.C. and is now married with three children.

Shola has attended various church denominations over the years, the last being a Pentecostal church in Brooklyn. In her spare time, Shola enjoys reading and spending time with her family.



## JOHN AND MICHELE RYAN

Michele Ryan learned about HRC and its youth program through some students in her classes at Gayhead and their parents.

“They sort of planted the seeds,” she says

Michele and her husband John, a project manager at Verizon, have four children: Nicole (19), Julia (17), Caroline (15), and Ben (12). In their free time, they most enjoy spending time with their family.

But a good part of their life they are involved at HRC. They came to the church seven years ago. Michele and John are in Several ChristCare groups and John is also active in the Community Maintenance Program.

“It’s great” says Michele, adding that one of their ChristCare groups even adopted one of the families to help.

“We also love mission work. That’s how you spread God’s love,” explains Michele. During spring break this busy lady will be leading an intergenerational mission trip to Mississippi. The trip will be April 4-11; any one interested in going should contact Michele.



## Staff & Teams

### PASTORAL CARE

Taylor Holbrook  
Pam Hansen  
Nance Williford  
Karen Nuesse  
Sara Irvin  
Carol O'Malley

### OPERATIONS

Karen Gomba  
John Barach  
Birgit Chisholm  
Lisa Ruvo  
Cyndy Warren  
David Schuster  
Anne Jackson  
David Bushey  
Paula Engel  
Jack Hoenig  
Gerry Richardson  
Kevin Warren  
Diane Morey  
Ben Roosa  
Sarah Phillips  
Duncan Chisholm  
Ron Abramowitz  
Jeff Gerlach

### WORSHIP & ARTS

Sherri Hondorp  
Lorraine Wolf  
Julie Cordisco  
Ellen Pearson  
Rich Lotze

### OUTREACH

Mark Mast  
Kevin Warren  
Patty Coppola  
Toni Viau  
Barbie Richardson  
Bruce Pearson

### SPIRITUAL

Randy Prentiss  
Lourdes Kleid  
Sheryle Silvern  
Carl Nuesse  
Mike Boyd  
Jan Bushey  
Lucia Eckhardt

### BRIGHT BEGINNINGS PRESCHOOL

Faye Lotze  
Sue Nieves

## Next Issue MARCH

All articles must be received in the church office or by e-mail no later than **FEBRUARY 10, 2009, NO EXCEPTIONS.** When submitting an article, please be sure to provide the name and phone number of the person submitting the information in case there are any questions. Either drop the article and any other support documentation in the newsletter mailbox, or use e-mail. When using e-mail, please provide all requested information in your mail and ATTACH any other support documentation to: **HRCnewsletter@HRCRCA.org**

### ELDERS

Steve Dambra

### DEACONS

Amy Barton  
Jack Hoenig  
Henry Mikhail  
Tina Smith  
Paul Varanouskas

### OFFICERS

Taylor Holbrook  
John Young  
Shelley Keane  
Amy Barton

### President

Vice-President

### Treasurer

Clerk

## Phone Numbers

Office (845) 221.9542

Fax (845) 227.1908

## Youth House

Rev. Mark Mast-

(845) 226.3514

Rev. Randy Prentiss -

(845) 226.3514

## Bright Beginnings

(845) 227.8671

# Birthdays - February

|                   |       |                    |       |
|-------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|
| Reece Lavacca     | 02/02 | Logan Jackson      | 02/13 |
| Alli Moyer        | 02/02 | Ryan Coppola       | 02/14 |
| Landon Seipp      | 02/02 | Lisa Friedemann    | 02/15 |
| Brian Wrye        | 02/02 | Chris DeVries      | 02/16 |
| Don Grudee        | 02/03 | Becky Lazaro       | 02/16 |
| Amanda Kleid      | 02/03 | Hakon DeVries      | 02/17 |
| Bruce Pearson     | 02/03 | Anna DiFede        | 02/17 |
| Amanda Sawyer     | 02/03 | Jordan Hondorp     | 02/17 |
| Dawn Zindler      | 02/03 | Molly Langone      | 02/18 |
| Lyndsay Arocho    | 02/04 | Daniel Maune       | 02/18 |
| Julie Burt        | 02/04 | Hakeem Oloritun    | 02/19 |
| Marion Chrisville | 02/04 | Jill Feehan        | 02/20 |
| Lou Ann Martin    | 02/04 | Kyle DiFrancia     | 02/21 |
| Lorraine Nelson   | 02/04 | Nicole Moore       | 02/21 |
| Wolf              |       | Tina Smith         | 02/21 |
| Darius Taylor     | 02/04 | Avery Williams     | 02/21 |
| Amy Liang         | 02/05 | Michael Berretta   | 02/22 |
| Carol Burt        | 02/06 | George Blasch      | 02/22 |
| Mark              | 02/06 | Matt Johnson       | 02/23 |
| MacConnell        |       | Adam Kleid         | 02/24 |
| Kerry Mowbray     | 02/06 | Jordan LaBorde     | 02/24 |
| Mike Boyd         | 02/07 | Dana Volk          | 02/24 |
| Michele Comoli    | 02/07 | Alyssa Gates       | 02/26 |
| Lauren Hondorp    | 02/07 | Geraldine Berry    | 02/27 |
| Lauren O'Connor   | 02/07 | Amy Denison        | 02/27 |
| Rachael Quimby    | 02/08 | Gabrielle Hondorp  | 02/27 |
| James Flanagan    | 02/10 | Kelly Ann Mekeel   | 02/27 |
| Andrew            | 02/11 | Mildred Pearson    | 02/27 |
| Gulbrandsen       |       | Dave Smalley       | 02/27 |
| Abby Hoffman      | 02/12 | Colleen Chrisville | 02/28 |
| Maria Berretta    | 02/13 | Ernie Finley       | 02/28 |
| Thomas Groen      | 02/13 |                    |       |

# February 2009

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday  |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| <b>1</b><br>08:45 AM-The Gathering<br>09:50 AM-Cherubs Rehearsal<br>09:59 AM-HRCJourney<br>10:30 AM-H-Foundations<br>12:00 PM-<br>Congregational Meeting<br>03:59 PM-Common Ground<br>07:00 PM-Troop 48<br>Committee Mtg     | <b>2</b><br>10:00 AM-Loving Stitches<br>10:00 AM-AI-Anon Serenity Group<br>07:00 PM-Stephen Ministry - PS<br>07:00 PM-Deacons<br>07:00 PM-Bells of Praise<br>07:15 PM-A.A. | <b>3</b><br>03:45 PM-G.S. Troop 357<br>07:00 PM-Crossroads Rehearsal<br>07:00 PM-B.S. Jamoree Troop<br>07:00 PM-Bible Study<br>07:30 PM-AA - Carry the Message<br>07:30 PM-CMP   | <b>4</b><br>09:30 AM-BB Chapel<br>10:00 AM-Director's Meeting<br>10:00 AM-Yoga<br>01:00 PM-BB Chapel<br>04:30 PM-Brownie Troop<br>10026<br>07:00 PM-Boy Scout Troop 48<br>07:30 PM-Discussion Time  | <b>5</b><br>10:00 AM-Grounds Crew<br>07:00 PM-Power Hour Prayer Team<br>07:00 PM-Chancel Choir<br>07:00 PM-Support Group<br>07:00 PM-YF Prayer Meeting<br>07:15 PM-A.A.<br>08:00 PM-AI-Anon-Hpwell Friendship                             | <b>6</b><br>09:30 AM-DCPoMS<br>03:45 PM-G.S. Troop 10553<br>07:30 PM-AA - Carry the Message   | <b>7</b><br>06:30 PM-4/5th Grade Event  |
| <b>8</b><br>08:45 AM-The Gathering<br>09:50 AM-Cherubs Rehearsal<br>09:59 AM-HRCJourney<br>10:30 AM-H-Foundations<br>12:45 PM-BANK meeting<br>01:30 PM-G.S. Troop 442<br>03:59 PM-Common Ground<br>06:00 PM-Youth Group      | <b>9</b><br>10:00 AM-AI-Anon Serenity Group<br>07:00 PM-Bells of Praise<br>07:15 PM-A.A.   | <b>10</b><br>09:30 AM-CBS Leadership<br>11:30 AM-SEA Group<br>12:00 PM-Eastiders<br>06:45 PM-uTurn Rehearsal<br>07:00 PM-SEA Group<br>07:00 PM-HOPE<br>07:00 PM-Missions Sub-Teams<br>07:30 PM-AA - Carry the Message                | <b>11</b><br>09:30 AM-BB Chapel<br>10:00 AM-Director's Meeting<br>10:00 AM-Yoga<br>01:00 PM-BB Chapel<br>07:00 PM-Boy Scout Troop 48<br>07:30 PM-Discussion Time  | <b>12</b><br>10:00 AM-Grounds Crew<br>12:00 PM-EF Pastors<br>07:00 PM-Power Hour Prayer Team<br>07:00 PM-Chancel Choir<br>07:00 PM-Support Group<br>07:00 PM-YF Prayer Meeting<br>07:15 PM-A.A.<br>08:00 PM-AI-Anon-Hpwell Friendship     | <b>13</b><br>08:00 AM-YG Sharpe Retreat<br>03:45 PM-Daisy Troop<br>07:15 PM-Valentine Murder Mystery<br>07:30 PM-AA - Carry the Message | <b>14</b><br>08:00 AM-YG Sharpe Retreat<br>07:57 AM-Men's Breakfast                         |
| <b>15</b><br>08:00 AM-YG Sharpe Retreat<br>08:45 AM-The Gathering<br>09:50 AM-Cherubs Rehearsal<br>09:59 AM-HRCJourney<br>10:30 AM-H-Foundations<br>03:59 PM-Common Ground   | <b>16</b><br>08:00 AM-OFFICE CLOSED<br>10:00 AM-AI-Anon Serenity Group<br>07:00 PM-Stephen Ministry - PS<br>07:00 PM-Bells of Praise<br>07:15 PM-A.A.                      | <b>17</b><br>09:30 AM-DCPoMS<br>01:00 PM-Alzheimer's Support Group<br>03:45 PM-G.S. Troop 357<br>06:45 PM-uTurn Rehearsal<br>07:00 PM-Consistory<br>07:00 PM-DC PoMS<br>07:30 PM-AA - Carry the Message<br>07:30 PM-CMP Site Leaders | <b>18</b><br>09:30 AM-BB Chapel<br>10:00 AM-Director's Meeting<br>10:00 AM-Yoga<br>01:00 PM-BB Chapel<br>04:30 PM-Brownie Troop<br>10026<br>07:00 PM-B.S. Court of Honor<br>07:00 PM-Boy Scout Troop 48<br>07:00 PM-DC PoMS<br>07:30 PM-Discussion Time | <b>19</b><br>10:00 AM-Grounds Crew<br>03:45 PM-G.S. Troop 357<br>07:00 PM-Power Hour Prayer Team<br>07:00 PM-Chancel Choir<br>07:00 PM-Support Group<br>07:00 PM-YF Prayer Meeting<br>07:15 PM-A.A.<br>08:00 PM-AI-Anon-Hpwell Friendship | <b>20</b><br>03:45 PM-G.S. Troop 10553<br>07:15 PM-Murder Mystery SNOW DATE<br>07:30 PM-AA - Carry the Message                          | <b>21</b><br>06:00 PM-Pot Luck Dinner   |
| <b>22</b><br>08:45 AM-The Gathering<br>09:50 AM-Cherubs Rehearsal<br>09:59 AM-HRCJourney<br>10:30 AM-Foundations<br>12:00 PM-Seminar<br>12:15 PM-Mission Trip - Moldova<br>01:30 PM-G.S. Troop 442<br>03:59 PM-Common Ground | <b>23</b><br>10:00 AM-AI-Anon Serenity Group<br>07:00 PM-Bells of Praise<br>07:15 PM-A.A.  | <b>24</b><br>06:45 PM-uTurn Rehearsal<br>07:00 PM-HOPE<br>07:00 PM-Missions Team<br>07:00 PM-Communications Team<br>07:30 PM-AA - Carry the Message  | <b>25</b><br>09:30 AM-BB Chapel<br>10:00 AM-Yoga<br>01:00 PM-BB Chapel<br>07:00 PM-Boy Scout Troop 48<br>07:30 PM-Worship   | <b>26</b><br>10:00 AM-Grounds Crew<br>01:30 PM-Staff meeting<br>07:00 PM-Power Hour Prayer Team<br>07:00 PM-Chancel Choir<br>07:00 PM-Support Group<br>07:00 PM-YF Prayer Meeting<br>07:15 PM-A.A.<br>08:00 PM-AI-Anon-Hpwell Friendship  | <b>27</b><br>03:45 PM-Daisy Troop<br>06:30 PM-Stamping Fundraiser<br>07:30 PM-AA - Carry the Message                                    | <b>28</b><br>08:00 AM-CPR Class<br>09:00 AM-Scrapbooking<br>04:00 PM-Family Winter Festival |

# MEN'S MINISTRY

## SWEETHEART BREAKFAST

Submitted by Doug Archer; pictures by Perry Lambeth

**HRC Men's Club invites everyone to our  
Sweetheart Breakfast in honor of  
women of the church  
whether they are single or married, young, old,  
or older.. and oh.. please do come guys. You're  
welcome too!  
It's Valentine's Day..  
hence a day for Sweethearts and Faith!**



You may not know it, but the men of the Hopewell Reformed Church meet quarterly to share a simple breakfast and hear someone talk about their faith journey.



Last November, Bernard Neufville shared his life in a very matter of fact way. He spoke about growing up in Jamaica and growing in faith there. He also shared about coming to America. There were experiences which helped him grow spiritually and he has continued his growth after coming to HRC a couple of years ago. He looks to God in his life. As St. Augustine puts it, "Thou has formed us for thyself, and our hearts are restless till they find rest in Thee."



In February, we'll meet for a simple breakfast of OJ, coffee and tea, bagels and fixin's, donuts and anything people would like to share. Our guest couple on February 14 do not attend HRC, but some may know them, as the owners of the Wheel and Heel bike shop in Wappingers Falls. Debbie and Phil Lewis will share their life together in faith. It's been quite a life. Phil was a gym teacher with a passion for bikes who eventually opened several bike stores. Debbie is a mom who now runs the store while Phil fixes things. They are from the Poughkeepsie area originally and have moved across the river to be closer to their grown kids. Oh yes, they have been following their faith through life's ups and downs which include a bad bike accident which left Phil paralyzed and in traction for almost a year and there was Debbie's recent healing from breast cancer. You'll want to hear them because they are warm and loving and very caring.

Come one.. come all..  
we'll be glad to make a second pot of coffee!





### **CHILD CARE:**

Child care needed beginning January '09 for three children in their Hopewell Junction home.  
10 hours/day, 3 days/week  
Call Nancy Herrmann for details, 226-7824

### **COMPUTERS:**

YOUR COMPUTER SLOW? Does it not work at all? Upgrades, Repairs, and Custom Tailored Machines. Ron's Computer Service, Ron Abramowitz 845-546-6445 Rpabramowitz@prodigy.net or www.ronscomputerservice.com

### **COUNSELING:**

AT THE CROSSROADS, INC. – Christian counseling– Louise D. Nielsen, M.A. 1-877-478-7828

### **CRAFTS:**

CREATIVE MEMORY SCRAPBOOKING: I teach young to old to Scrapbook - call Barbara Dailey at 226-6266.

### **FOR SALE:**

USED CAR: 2002 Toyota RAV4 red. Has 46,300 miles. Excellent condition. Asking price is \$9,500. For information, call Lorraine Valk @ 221-2177.

HISTORICAL PLATES: Picturing HRC. These new, recently-discovered plates were originally offered in 1974 for a fundraiser at our church. They are dinner plate size with a gold banded edge and a black line drawing depicting the front view of the sanctuary as seen from Beekman Road. There are 11 plates available, first come, first served at \$25.00 ea. A great Christmas gift! Call or see David Bushey (221-6123)

### **TIRES**

(2) P205/75-14 BF Goodrich--Advantage Plus Tires on GM Rims, (1) P205/75-14 Uniroyal Tiger Paw X-TM Tire Only (never on vehicle) All for less than two rims would cost. \$50.00 for the whole lot or if you want to haggle, we'll start at \$75.00 and you'll still get the lot for \$50.00 Call Jim Irvin @ 221-9075

### **HOME IMPROVEMENT:**

COLORWORKS, INC.—Painting, Faux Finishing, Wallpapering, Staining, Hardwood Flooring (Installation & Refinishing), All types of General Contracting & Remodeling. Call Kevin Mulligan 845-702-8532.

### **HOUSEHOLD:**

NEPTUNE PLUMBING: Stephen Maus--Repairs-Renovations-New Construction -- Licensed and Insured, 20+ Years Experience. Tele #845-226-7050, E-mail: NeptunePandH@aol.com.

SMALL ENGINE REPAIR: Need your snow blower, chain saw, lawn mower or other small engines repaired - call John Dailey at 226-6266

### **MEDICAL:**

NURSING CARE - Barbara Oniffrey, Registered Nurse, Medicaid Provider. Call 226-6495.

MEDIQUIP LOAN CLOSET—medical equipment available to borrow; located at the Poughkeepsie Reformed Church on Hooker Ave. - only open Wednesdays from 9:30 – noon. Phone: 452-0968

### **NOTARY PUBLIC:**

Notary Services Call Duncan Chisholm at 845-518-0518.

### **RENTALS:**

VACATION HOME: Charming Cape Cod vacation home for rent. Ocean view. Located in Eastham, MA. Reasonable rate. Call Heather @ 592-1992

VACATION RENTAL PROPERTY-Lake George: Spacious log home at Huletts Landing on Lake George available for weekly vacation rental. Three bedrooms, two full baths, full kitchen, living room w/ stone fireplace, dining area, family room w/ ping pong table, wrap around deck. Canoe and kayak on premises. Lake access, one block from lake, incredible views. Golf, beach, basketball, tennis, ice cream shop all within one mile. Excellent NY and VT skiing within an hour. Rural setting, quiet getaway. Pictures available. Call Chris and Pam Hansen. (845-226-1046) for more details.

### **THRIFT SHOPS/FOOD CLOSETS:**

THE BARN THRIFT SHOP – accepting donations. Proceeds support almost 40 different ministries in the Mid-Hudson Valley. Call for information and hours 845-635-9630

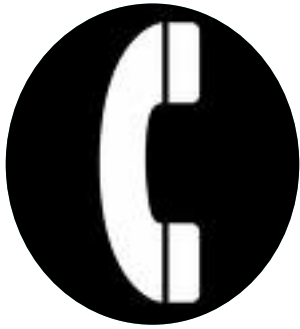
THRIFT SHOP– at St. Paul's Episcopal Church 845-635-2854

FOOD CLOSET - HRC has food available for anyone in need. If you or someone you know could use our help please call Patty Coppola at 227-8277 or Anne Jackson at 226-5243.

# OUTREACH

## SMALL GROUP TELEPHONE FELLOWSHIP

Submitted by Stephanie Reynolds



Tuesdays at 7:41a.m., don't be late hitting the speed dial button on your cell phone because the call only lasts 19 minutes. What kind of church meeting only lasts 19 minutes? A prayer meeting

conference call organized by Tom Tuzzolino back in March of 2008. The early morning time was intended to give Christian working professionals an opportunity to start their workday sharing and praying with fellow believers. We all dial into a conference call number and one by one announce ourselves. An average Tuesday has about 7 individuals on the call. There is Patrick joining us from Spain, Mapule dialing in from South Africa, several people from Texas and then a few HRC folk, including Taylor.

The call usually begins with Taylor reading us a scripture verse, which he then shares about. After that the call is open for anyone to pray about something that either pertains to the reading or about something completely unrelated that they may need to ask us to pray for. In the beginning we did not know how to start or begin as we were on the phone and could not "see" if someone else was about to start talking, so there was a bit of hesitating and then alternately people starting to share at the same time. But we seem to have gotten past that and have now adopted a "led by the spirit" approach to sharing.

Over the past 10 months this small group has really bonded, even though we have never met many of the callers. There have been several times that I have received an email from someone on the call; the person may have felt moved to reach out even further. This has been particularly meaningful to me on each of those occasions. It is amazing to see God at work in my life when someone I don't even know reaches out to comfort me. The hands and feet of Christ are very real for me at those times. I can now recognize the sound of each person's voice, and when they share about a family member or a situation, I know some of the history.

**It is amazing to see God at work in my life when someone I don't even know reaches out to comfort me.**

I look forward to this call very much on Tuesday mornings as I am driving to work. It may only last for a few minutes but the fellowship with this small group of believers has become a real comfort to me and provides me with a great way to start the day at work.

I would like to extend an invitation to others in the work place who might want to join the call and begin their workday in prayer and fellowship. If you are interested, please send Tom Tuzzolino a note or call his cell ([tuzzi@us.ibm.com](mailto:tuzzi@us.ibm.com) ; cell (914) 474-8273).



Thanks to Nance Williford for sharing this picture of our pastors on Christmas Eve, 2008 (left to right: Pastor Randy Prentiss, Pastor Mark Mast, Pastor Taylor Holbrook and Pastor Steve Dambra).

# CHRISTCARE

Submitted by Stephanie Patton

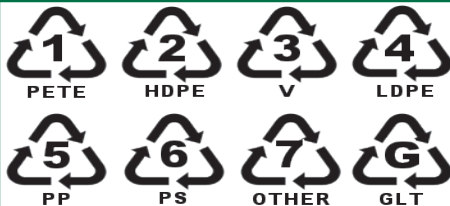


## WHAT MATERIALS CAN BE RECYCLED

Today Royal Carting, which services the church, will accept for recycling practically all plastic items. Look for numbers **1, 2, 3, 5, 7, or 9** inside the recycle triangle mark. And you can toss out together in the recycle bin the following paper products: office paper, newspaper, glossy junk mail, phone books, and cardboard. Formerly

cardboard was picked up separately, and it used to cost Royal only \$7/ton to dispose of it themselves at a recycler. Today they would have to pay \$40/ton to get rid of it, so it's no longer cost effective for them to collect it separately. They suggest we simply add cardboard to the other paper material that we recycle.

[www.greenlivingtips.com/articles/187/1/Recycling-by-the-numbers.html](http://www.greenlivingtips.com/articles/187/1/Recycling-by-the-numbers.html)



**1 - PETE - Polyethylene Terephthalate**  
The easiest of plastics to recycle. Often used for soda bottles, water bottles and many common food packages. Is recycled into bottles and polyester fibers

**2 - HDPE - High density Polyethylene**  
Also readily recyclable - Mostly used

for packaging detergents, bleach, milk containers, hair care products and motor oil. Is recycled into more bottles or bags.

**3 - PVC - Polyvinyl Chloride**  
This stuff is everywhere - pipes, toys, furniture, packaging - you name it. Difficult to recycle and PVC is a major environmental and health threat.

**4 - LDPE Low-density Polyethylene**  
Used for many different kinds of wrapping, grocery bags and sandwich bags and can be recycled into more of the same.

**5 - PP - Polypropylene**

Clothing, bottles, tubs. Can be recycled into fibers.

**6 - PS - Polystyrene**  
Cups, foam food trays, packing peanuts. Polystyrene is a real problem as it's bulky yet very lightweight and isn't really worth recycling.

**7 - Other**  
Could be a mixture of any and all of the above. Or plastics not readily recyclable such as polyurethane. Avoid it if you can - recyclers generally speaking don't want it.

**G - GLT - Green Living Tips**



Submitted By Mark Mast

As Common Ground prepares to celebrate her first birthday in February, there is much to celebrate and much to look forward to with great anticipation.

This has been a year, as is the case with new Christian communities, of ups and downs. We have had three waves of people come and go until we settled on a great core group of people. We are celebrating "Communion" every month formally and at local restaurants.

We are having a wonderful time practicing a Worship OF Service as we spend the second Sunday of every month serving the community. We are now moving, knowing who we are and what God has called us to be, into a new year ready to explode with ministry.

We are looking at alternative space for this alternative church. We are looking for creative ways to reach out to people who might like Jesus but not the church and provide a place to belong before they believe. We are also praying for our special place of service where we can do what no other can. Continue to pray. Continue to send your seeking friends our way.

Come see what we are up to, but check the web site ([commongroundx.com](http://commongroundx.com)) to make sure you know where we are. We are a wandering group of nomads keeping in touch online!



# SPIRITUAL GROWTH

## FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Submitted by Pam Hansen



Several weeks into January the credit card bills begin to roll in. We wish we could avoid going to our mailboxes. Too many people want money we ran out of while Christmas shopping. Not to mention the regular bills! When Sunday comes and the offering plate is passed, we feel guilty once again because there is nothing left to give.

About the same time, the kids outgrew all their clothes and shoes. The car broke down again, the faucet is leaking and we need to call a plumber. The kids have birthday parties to go to and need to take a gift with them. Compelled to return to the gym after too many holiday cookies, the membership fee must be renewed. The dog ate pine needles from the Christmas tree and needs to go to the vet.

Does any of this sound familiar?

This past September HRC sponsored Financial Peace University, a 13-week long workshop designed to help participants learn how to beat debt and build wealth. Dave Ramsey, a man of wealth who years ago lost everything he owned, is the backbone of Financial Peace. A motivating and dynamic speaker, his teachings are based on biblical principles and his own experience.

### Here are some of the comments of those who attended the Financial Peace University workshop:

"I feel we can now communicate better about money as well as other subjects."

"This study has really brought us together. It gives us a framework for our money discussions based on a common approach, a plan for reaching a common goal. Now that we've taken spur-of-the-moment emotions out of our money discussions, we feel so much better about the decisions we make. But the best part is that we make the decisions together. We NEVER argue about money anymore!"

"The Financial Peace University course has been a blessing on every level. The material covered has challenged us and freed us from thinking we were in this alone. The partners at our table have been brave and courageous to be honest and open with their lives and their finances – the fellowship has been priceless! I thank HRC for bringing this course to our church."

"Our lack of knowledge and wrong approach toward money brought us here. But regardless of our current situation and poor decisions in the past, these lessons are

putting us on the right track."

"Debt snowballing is a simple concept but much more effective and satisfying than what we were doing."

"We've gained reassurance that we are doing some things right; other things (that fortunately did not break the bank) we have learned to do differently that are helpful and positive changes."

"We've learned that we can get more out of life without spending all our money on non-essential things."

"This class has definitely helped to re-focus our financial affairs and to take a proactive approach to managing our money. The online tools and resources available are included in the price of the membership kit.....they are invaluable. Thank you HRC and Dave Ramsey!"

"This course has opened our eyes to look at our finances in a more realistic way. The education has been very helpful in understanding our options and the investment tools available."

"We have been able to sit down and discuss issues that we never dealt with before. Learning exactly how much money we need for what and then living within that budget has been helpful. And now we avoid charging ANYTHING!"

"We've learned to pay cash for everything and to live within our means."

"We have been given very basic, easy-to-handle tools for managing our money PROPERLY. WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN HOPE that we are entirely capable of handling our money, reducing debt, and developing better habits to ensure a secure, comfortable future."

"This class has been inspirational in that it has gotten both of us to look at our financial situation and take control of our current habits. We now work as a team with more defined goals for the future."

"We learned exactly what kinds of insurance and investments we need. In the past we relied on 'salesmen' to tell us what we needed and it was not always in our best interests. This stuff is rock solid financial advice."

"I've been able to spend some great time with my wife!"

Sound good? HRC plans to present another Financial Peace seminar in the future. Make a commitment now to attend.....and learn how to beat debt and build wealth!

**For more information,  
go to the Dave Ramsey/  
Financial Peace web site at:  
[daveramsey.com](http://daveramsey.com).**

# "GOD MOMENTS"

## A NEW CHURCH MISSION

Submitted by Lourdes Kleid

I want to share a mission story which I think is a great God moment, of God guiding us to be an apostolic church. Not a God moment involving a personal encounter rather an encounter affecting many.

Ephesians 4:11-12," It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."

Lauren Peters, age 16, went to Mexico on our youth mission trip last summer. She is from Connecticut, and attends the Fairfield Grace United Methodist Church. She is actually my husband's cousin's daughter. She has grown up seeing me and my own kids do mission work and has always longed to go on a trip. Her church doesn't do any mission trips. She called me last year and asked if it would be possible for her to come on a trip. We had one spot left so I said yes. So she came to Mexico in '08.

All of us on this mission felt God had sent Lauren with us for a specific reason. And by the end of the trip we realized it was to impact her church and youth group. She shared with us that she had never experienced God before; that she had faith and believed in God but had never "met" Him before. She cried a lot during her two weeks in Mexico. But these were tears of rejoicing and of pure joy in experiencing the Holy Spirit for the first time. She is one of the hardest working kids I have ever met. In fact, she won a Barnabas team award from us. To watch her transform was a true reward. To see her passionately want to share the experience with others was inspiring.

She has not come down off the mountain top. This past November, Lauren brought her youth group to HRC for the monthly evening worship. Afterwards, I did a Mexico Outreach presentation for her group. Most of the students that had gone on the trip from HRC were there as well, eager to answer any questions and encourage the group to go on the trip.

Lauren has since been working very hard to get her church to approve the trip. After months of discussion, her church said yes to Mexico 09! Lauren is so excited to share this powerful experience with her friends. So, Grace United Methodist Church from Fairfield, Ct will be working with the Hopewell group side by side in the summer of 2009 in Ensenada, Mexico.



It will be just like in the year 2000, when HRC embarked on its first mission trip to Mexico with Kevin and Sarah Phillips leading a small team of 5. The Yosemite church from Merced, California, Mexico missions' veterans, "adopted" HRC and allowed us to work and learn along side them. Their help was of huge value to us and we worked the next few years along side them until our own group grew to nearly the size of theirs and we separated. It's a privilege to be able to do the same for others. To multiply in this way is to follow Ephesians 4:11-12.

I am sharing an email I recently received from Lauren as well as a picture from our first Mexico mission in 2000 and one from our 2008 trip with Lauren.

Dear Lourdes,

My church has approved the trip! Thanks for all your help, materials, time and encouragement. One of the kids coming to Mexico this summer, I feel, will be in for quite an awakening, and that makes me so excited. I think it will really change her life as well as everyone else's from our church that's going. I know it changed mine and no doubt will impact it again the second time. By the way, I still can't thank you enough for letting me go last year. I still can't believe it happened. Your church is amazing! I don't think most youth groups would have opened their trip to outsiders. This trip really changed me so much, and as I'm starting to figure out colleges and careers and such, the experience has really helped me make some decisions, because that was pretty much an unbelievable experience! I can't wait till this summer!!

Love you much!  
Lauren



# DIRECTOR'S PAGE

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Submitted by Randy Prentiss, Director



### SEPARATE BUT OVERLAPPING

For years I have believed that the best structure for our Youth Group is to have separate but overlapping Junior High and Senior High groups. When 6-12th graders are thrown into one large group, we lose the kids at the ends. The 6th graders feel uncomfortable and intimidated and the Juniors and Seniors don't want to be around so many 'little kids.' They are at very different levels of maturity socially, spiritually, emotionally. Sixth and seventh graders are just different animals than 11th and 12th graders.

On the other hand, it is important for there to be a connection between these groups: they are parts of the same church, they have overlapping friendships, Junior High kids benefit from Senior High kids to look up to, high school kids benefit from feeling a sense of responsibility for younger kids. So, separate but overlapping is the design we have wanted for a while.

Well, now the time has come to have separate but overlapping YOUTH GROUPS. Sixth-eighth graders will be primarily together, and 9-12th graders will be primarily together. We have separate (but overlapping) leadership teams for each group and we are ready to go.

Most weeks Youth Group will last 2 hours; 90 minutes of that will be separate programming, and the other 30 minutes allows the groups time to mingle. Additionally, we will still do regular events with all ages together, such as BIG worship, Sharpe Retreat, Duct Tape Party, Special Events and

missional service.

The Junior High programming emphasizes social activities, fun, and short talks that give a glimpse of who God is. The high school program also has a social emphasis but involves more worship, Bible teaching and discussion, and deepening relationships.

In all of our programming we have a strong emphasis on making sure that every kid feels welcomed and connected. We do our best to make this happen. With this in mind, all kids from our church, their friends, kids from other churches and non-church kids are welcome at everything that we do.

Please pray for and support our Youth Group leadership teams:

- Junior High- Maryann Congi, Lisa Friedemann, David Nieves, Josh Nieves, with Lissa Mansfield and Sam Viau as junior leaders.
- High School- Lourdes Kleid, Jennifer Nieves, Patrick Boyd and Meghan Chisholm.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve.

In Christ, Randy

*In all of our programming we have a strong emphasis on making sure that every kid feels welcomed and connected.*



# DIRECTOR'S PAGE

## OUTREACH

Submitted by Mark Mast, Director

### A New Year Review



I am awful at New Year stuff. Any New Year resolution I make is broken within 48 hours and I do just as bad looking back at all the good that has taken place. I am one who keeps his eyes forward, looking back only to learn from mistakes. I realize that at times this gets me in trouble because I often start where we are ready to go and forget people need to celebrate the past. As I look at Hopewell Reformed Church and my first year and a half, there is so much to celebrate. We are a loving and caring congregation loving our tradition with a heart for change. We are a community with one of the finest mission programs (from our children's ministry to all the work in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the world) with which I have been involved. When I looked at all we did in all our worshiping communities this past Christmas, I am very proud.

There is a part of me, however, that says, "That is great! Now what? How do we move beyond into more and more of what God wants us to be?" This is where the New Year's resolution comes in. I feel a very strong call to work with HRC, not just to be a wonderful church with a great mission program, but to become a missional church. A church that always looks out, that is kingdom-of-God minded and is more concerned about people development than programs.

#### 2009 Resolutions:

1. 100% involvement in missional service by all of our ChristCare groups. This, I believe, is where the next creative wave of missional ministry will "bubble up".
2. 100% participation by every person who calls HRC "home" in some missional service. I don't care if it is an HRC program or not, I want every person from 0-100 to serve God by serving others.
3. 100% participation in relational evangelism. YES, I said that word. I want every person in our community to identify one person in their lives who needs the grace of Jesus Christ, pray without ceasing for that person, and be bold enough to invite them to something. It might be worship, CMP, a mission trip, youth group or the Thanksgiving Dinner. The day of "build it and they will come" is over. We need to both bring it to them and invite them to come see what GOD has built.

"We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us!"  
-Philippians 4:13

Happy New Year (a bit late!!!)



## OPERATIONS

Submitted by Karen Gomba, Director



A new year! As I sit here in my office during the first week of 2009, I'm thinking about the projects ahead of me and I'm energized. We're making progress toward launching an updated website, and I'm excited about how this will help us share the good news of Christ and of this church with those around us.

I'm working on a plan to better connect and train our volunteers so that we're all involved with ministries that match our spiritual gifts, and that will allow us to grow as we serve others. I'll be attending a conference in February where I can network with others who do the kind of work I do and where I can learn more about how to tackle the challenges ahead. I took on the role

of church liaison with Love, INC, and they have lots of great things planned that we can get involved with in the name of Christ. We've got a team pulling together a maintenance plan for our facilities and another group that is working on staff job descriptions to help define the tasks and scope of work that we do. And I'll be "crisping" up some of our policies so that we're clear and consistent on how we do things. All this while holding spending at the same levels as last year and maintaining our high standard of excellence. So, with all of that ahead of me, I can see it's going to be a busy but productive year. I hope you'll join me in making new and exciting things happen in 2009!

# DIRECTOR'S PAGE

## WORSHIP & ARTS

Submitted by Sherri Hondorp, Director



### Lent Season--- "I AM"

Lent Season is quickly approaching.

Please join us for all the special worship opportunities during the Lent Season.

Ash Wednesday, **February 25** --- Evening Worship 7:30"

**March 1st we begin our Lent series, "I AM"**

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."

"I Am the Light of the world."

"I Am the Alpha and Omega."

"I Am the Good Shepherd."

"I Am the Vine."

"I Am the Gate."

"I Am the Bread of Life."

"I Am the Resurrection and the Life"

Plan to join us for our Wednesday evening Lent services. This will be a time for fellowship, soup suppers, and worship. The first evening will be on **March 4**.

Check the bulletin for more information coming.

## EXPANSION TEAM

### WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?

Submitted by David Bushey

In the month of February our church will be conducting a congregational survey. This survey is being done in conjunction with the Facilities Expansion Team's (FET) planning for further facility development. If this whole idea is entirely new to you, let me explain. It is recommended by church planning experts that all churches have a plan in place for the ultimate, optimum use of their property. Acting on this advice, in 2005 the Consistory authorized the formation of a team to proceed with just such a planning activity. The development of a plan has been proceeding since that time, with much of the groundwork being laid. In the fall of 2008, the Consistory authorized the hiring of Cogun, a design-build firm specializing in church construction. Working with Cogun, by the end of 2009 we expect to have conceptual architectural plans in place for a new family and community center on our existing property. What will such a building look like? Where would it be situated? What needs will it serve? When will it be built? That's where you come in!

**We are encouraging every person who attends HRC to invest their time in this activity.**

Beginning February 1, 2009, Cogun will be helping us conduct a month long congregational survey, the results of which will be used to help us design the kind of facility that we would construct at some point in the future. Your involvement in the process will be to take the Transforming Church Index survey, a standardized instrument used by churches nationwide to evaluate their ministry needs. This survey will take twenty to thirty minutes and may be done on-line for those who have access to a computer. For those who do not have the necessary computer access, hard copies will be available at the church. We are encouraging every person who attends HRC to invest their time in this activity. More information will be forthcoming on this during the month of February. Be sure to participate so you will have your needs considered as we move ahead in ministry together. If you have any questions about this activity you may speak to FET members David Bushey, Gary Cassaro, Russ Hiller, Neal Marsh or Paul Varanouskas.

# AND MY FINAL POINT . . .

## A YEAR OF MAKING THE RADICAL ORDINARY....HOW ARE WE DOING?



From the Lead Pastor

The seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!”  
(Luke 10:17)

The disciples returned with joy, reporting the breaking out of the kingdom of God through the power of the Holy Spirit. At the end of 2008 and the beginning of 2009 it is my pleasure to share with you some of the ways that the kingdom is breaking out through the ministry of HRC in this, a year of making the radical ordinary.

**Worship:** We have begun two new worshipping communities in Southern Dutchess. This has not been done successfully in over one hundred years by a Reformed Church in our area. HRC Journey and Common Ground both have established core groups that are prepared to grow. Our Foundation service has continued to be full and saw a slight growth over the year before. Our Gatherings service has dropped in average worship attendance and is the place where we need to pay attention in the coming year. We are developing a vision team that will look at worship and determine some directions we need to move to continue to see growth in the kingdom through all areas of worship.

**Kingdom Leadership:** Some changes in our staff and structure this year will be a blessing to the greater kingdom and present some challenges for HRC.

-**Lorraine Nelson Wolf** will be leaving to develop a new ministry that will bless many more churches than HRC. We are sad to lose her here, but thankful for the way that God will use her in a greater way. This year will see a rewrite of the role of the leader of our music ministry at HRC. We anticipate having an interim period until fall of 2009 when a new structure and new person (or people) will be in place.

-**Mark Mast** will be taking more of a leadership role in church planting in the synod and in the denomination. We are looking to shape a job description where one fourth of his time (and funding) are provided for and by the larger church.

-**Lourdes Kleid** will transition to a more specialized role in youth worship and mission. This will mean fewer hours for her at HRC, but we hope that she will develop a greater role with other churches developing mission and worship. Her funding from HRC has decreased, but we are looking for funding methods from other churches and organizations.

-**New Leadership:** With six members going off consistory this year it has provided an opportunity to design the consistory to reflect some of the changes in our structure. The slate that we have presented for election is a group of top level leaders that will minister at Hopewell in new ways.

**Finances:** We had a 2.9 percent increase in giving this year. That is radical in these times. Most American churches saw no increase and many saw significant decrease. Even so, as the year closed we were about \$16,000 behind in expense verse income. In response to that we have made adjustments to our budget for '09 and modified our giving projections. We believe that we will work well within what God entrusts to us this year.

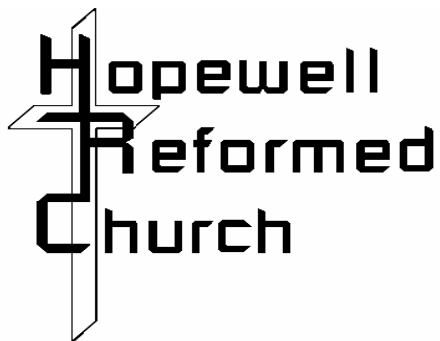
Like the seventy in Luke, I bring you a report that God is working in radical ways through ordinary followers of Christ. We continue to live into our vision of being “One Church in Multi-Sites” with the goal of planting fifteen new faith communities in fifteen years. Let us continue on in joy to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.

In Christ,

*Taylor W. Holbrook*







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**Sunday Worship Services at HRC**

**8:45am\***      **10:30am\***

**The Gathering**      **Foundations**  
(Contemporary )      (Traditional)

**Sunday Worship Times & Locations**

**4:00pm**      **10:00am**

**Common Ground**      **HRCjourney**  
at Arlington Reformed Church      at Tymor Park

*\*Sunday School and Nursery provided at these services*



**To know Christ, and to make Him known.**