

The Parish Visitor

The First Reformed Church of Fishkill

1153 Main St., Fishkill, NY 12524

FEBRUARY, 2018

Dear Friends,

The Season of Epiphany comes to an end on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. A double smudging of ashes has been suggested - a cross within a heart – giving a twist to this somber Church Calendar holy day, that for most, will take a back seat to valentines, roses, and chocolates. Because anything that reminds us that “we are dust; and to dust we shall return,” doesn’t usually pull in the crowds. We will die. We cannot change that, but the cross of ashes proclaims that we will die in Christ, whose death on Good Friday conquers death. And that is the ultimate act of love. An act that trumps valentines, roses and chocolates.

So both hearts and ashes can mingle during the Season of Lent, 40 days, not counting Sundays, as we pause for self-examination and seek to be conformed to the mind of Christ. Often a time to fast from certain foods, like chocolate (maybe starting Thursday ☺), it is also a time to ask ourselves the hard questions, as we seek to become more Christ like:

- 1). Am I gladly sharing what I have with others?*
- 2). How do I respond to those who irritate me?*
- 3). What do I bring to our corporate worship?*
- 4). Do I speak up for those without a voice?*
- 5). How have I grown in my relationship with God and understanding God’s word?*
- 6). Do I have space in my life to respond with prayer and action to those in need?*
- 7). Where do I see God’s grace poured into my life?*
- 8). For whom and what do I need to give thanks?*

What questions would God have us ask ourselves during this Season? What is preventing God from acting freely in and through us? May we allow those blockages to be washed away in the waters of our baptism, even as we daily depend on grace upon grace.



In Christ’s love,

Pastor Glavin

OUR CHURCH TODAY



FEBRUARY CALENDAR

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|----|---|
| 1 | Choir Rehearsal 7 pm | 15 | “Parish Visitor” articles due Choir Rehearsal 7 pm |
| 2 | Confirmation Retreat 6 pm | | |
| 4 | Worship/Communion 10 am Membership Information Class* 11:30 am Chime Choir 11:30 am Girl Scout Troop 10524 Venture Crew 65 7 pm | 18 | Worship 10 am Sunday School 10:15 Annual Meeting* 11:15 am Girl Scout Troop 10524 5 pm Venture Crew 65 7 pm |
| 6 | Worship and Music 11 am Sermon Preview 3 pm | 19 | Presidents Day  |
| 7 | Bible Study 10 am | 20 | Lenten Lunch* 10 am Sermon Preview 3 pm Troop 65 Committee 7:30 pm |
| 8 | Consistory Reports Due Choir Rehearsal 7 pm | | |
| 11 | Worship* 10 am Sunday School 10:15 am Chime Choir 11:30 am | 21 | Bible Study 10 am |
| 13 | Sermon Preview 3 pm Consistory 7:15 pm | 22 | Choir Rehearsal 7 pm |
| 14 |  ASH WEDNESDAY Bible Study 10 am Worship 7 pm | 25 | Worship 10 am Sunday School 10:15 am Chime Choir 11:30 am |
| | | 27 | Lenten Lunch* 12 pm Sermon Preview 3 pm |
| | | 28 | Bible Study 10 am |
| <i>* Indicates article within</i> | | | |

Please submit articles for the March “Parish Visitor” to the Church Office by February 15th, at office@fishkillreformed.org. Thank you.

Church Calendar – Before scheduling a meeting or event at First Reformed Church, please contact Pat in the Church Office to check availability on the church calendar.

Sunday Bulletin Announcements – Please submit your information to the church office no later than the preceding Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the following Sunday bulletin.

Prayer Chain - To be added to the church prayer chain or to request prayers for yourself or someone else, please contact Liz Alexander at mrsvquest@aol.com

Worship service broadcasts - 7:00 pm, Sunday evenings on Cablevision Channel 21.

Church website includes the Church newsletters, worship service links, church history and Facebook: www.fishkillreformed.org.

Directory Changes

Evelyn & Richard Bobb: 2305 Rockledge Ct., Wappingers Falls, NY 12590, ph. 845 337-1260

Brenda Smith-Cliffe & John Cliffe: 439 Sheafe Rd., Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

Gina Serra: 13 Birch Ln., Swan Lake, NY 12783, ginaserra@rocketmail.com

Suggitt, Sheila and Murray: 108 Stockton Blvd., Sea Girt, NJ 08750, sheilagsuggitt@aol.com



Everyone is invited to join our coffee hour following Sunday worship. This time is made possible by rotating the responsibility throughout the congregation, while each week Laura Dachenhausen and Dorrie Hansen set up the coffee pots.

Below is the list of monthly coffee hour hosts. The first name on the list is responsible for calling the others and coordinating what each brings, including milk and juice. The hosts divide up the tasks, which include set up, refills and cleanup of kitchen, tables, serving dishes, and coffee pots. All tables and countertops need to be wiped down with the water/bleach solution, and used dishtowels taken home, washed and returned the following week. As we all have different abilities and limitations, let's not hesitate to offer a helping hand by busing our own tables, even when it's not "our turn". This helps keep things running smoothly.

Karen Twohig (845-765-2326) schedules coffee hour, so contact her regarding having your name added or any concerns you may have about your ability to serve at Coffee Hour due to health or other large issues.

If you are unable to serve on your scheduled date, please find a replacement, then let the lead host and church office know the name of your replacement. The **lead host** is the first name (in bold letters) listed below.

Anyone planning to bring food to coffee hour for a special occasion should notify the host of that date.

Thank you!

Coffee Hour Hosts and Hostesses

February

- 4** Boy Scout Troop #65
- 11** Dorrie Hansen, McGann, Bobb
- 18** LeDioyt, Schwenker, Saya
- 25** Rissin, Quart, Van Nostrand

March

- 4** Sanders, Faulkner, Sansone-Buscemi
- 11** Twohig, Schmidt, Vasquez
- 18** Girl Scout Sunday--**Houston**, Doerr, Skorewicz
- 25** Van Voorhis, Rudberg, Utter, Fellin

From the Worship Committee: Readers & Greeters for February, 2018

- February 4** Reader and Greeters- Boy Scouts
- February 11** Greeters – Toni and Joanna Houston
Reader – Joanna Houston
- February 18** Greeters – Celeste Rudberg and Victor Chao
Reader – Victor Chao
- February 25** Greeters – Donna Benjamin-Lovelett and Jim Butcher
Reader – Jim Butcher



Sanctuary Flowers - to place flowers in the sanctuary, please sign up on the flower chart on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board or call the church office. The cost is \$40 a Sunday, payable to "Women of the Reformed Church," at the time they are placed. Thank you for enhancing our worship with your gift.



Consistory Information

Consistory Notes – January, 2018

- Vice President Ray VanVoorhis led devotions with a focus of gratitude. Though Paul has often struggled in his relationship with the Corinthian church, he opens his second letter with blessing and thanksgiving. In this season we are called to be thankful and to count our blessings, as we are blessed with the birth of Jesus Christ. God gave his all, and asks us to give our all for Christ. Ray closed with prayer.
- The initial 2018 budget was reviewed and revised. Final budget to be approved in January.
- January 21 - the ordination and installation of the elected 2018 elders and deacons: Rich Lanni, Celeste Rudberg, John Cliffe & Marrijane Raptopoulos.
- Confirmation retreat at Camp Warwick is Feb 2 & 3.
- A Lenten Lunch program is being planned for 2018.
- In November, the Food Pantry served 240 households, equal to 12,000 meals.
- Next consistory meeting, for current and new members is January 9, 2018, 7:15pm.



Belonging - Church Membership Class

Those interested in learning more about our church and possible membership at First Reformed Church in Fishkill are invited to an initial meeting, Sunday, February 4th, 11:30am. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall Classroom and talk about:

belonging to God
belonging to the Reformed Church in America, and
belonging to First Reformed Church of Fishkill.

Two other meeting dates and membership Sunday will be set based on folks' calendars.

If interested, please complete the information sheet available on the table in the sanctuary or in the DuBois House and return to Pastor Gloria or the church office. Contact Pastor Gloria with any questions or concerns.

VISIT FROM RCA MISSIONARIES TO NIGER

The Beebout Family will join us February 11th, for worship and *a special presentation at coffee hour*. They arrived in the USA in December and Jeremy, Susan, Lydia (14), Elizabeth (12), Abigail (8) and Benjamin (3), are visiting supporting churches during their seven month furlough. The children are being home schooled while they are in the States, and Fishkill is a great place to enhance their history lessons!

First Reformed Church is a supporting partner for the Beebouts ministry in Niger which includes Jeremy's work in rural development as an agronomist. Susan is a medical doctor who teaches medicine at the university and helped set up the primary care clinic in the capital. They will update us on some of life's changes, challenges and celebrations since they last visited.

If you need temporary transportation, a meal delivered, a visit or a phone call, please contact a deacon:

John Cliffe, Wappingers Falls, 297-5374

John Houston, Hopewell Jct., 227-7655

Marrijane Raptopoulos, Fishkill, 831-4726

Stan Saya, Wappingers Falls, 297-0308

Jim Butcher, Fishkill, 214-3172

If you would like to receive home communion or a pastoral care visit, please contact an elder:

MaryAnn Fellin, Fishkill, 554-9942

Rich Lanni, Wappingers Falls, 896-6889

Jay Wright, Fishkill, 896-8403

Ruth Porter, Fishkill, 896-2617

Celeste Rudberg, Wappingers Falls, 221-9330

Church Family Members...

In Hospitals/Care Facilities

Helen Deneu, Wingate at Dutchess, 3 Summit Ct., Fishkill, NY 12524
Ruth Gallo, Wingate at Dutchess, Rm 204 A, 3 Summit Ct., Fishkill, NY 12524
Carol Lombardi, Elant in Fishkill, 22 Robert Kasin Way, Beacon, NY 12508
Ruth Stumpp, 79 Flint Rd. Apt. I-231, Millbrook, NY 12545
Murray Suggitt, Sunnyside Manor, Wall, NJ 07719 rmsuggitt@aol.com

At Home

Jean and George Corwin, 306 Woodmont Rd., Hopewell Junction, NY 12533
Marisa DeGregoriis and
Shirley Davis, PO Box 282, Poughquag, NY 12570
Lucy Jones, 10 Gertrude Place, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
Mary Magee, P.O. Box 223, Glenham, NY 12527
Hugh J. Maurer, P.O. Box 335, Fishkill 12524
Olga Rygiel, 126 Ivy Hill Rd., Fishkill, NY 12524
Carol Surico, 34 Aspen Ct., Fishkill, NY 12524
Ruth and Sigmund Wisst, 23 Sidney Lane, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

Out of the Area

Shirley Kacur; 9 Tamarack La., Lyon Mountain, NY 12592
Maisie Minot; 994 Old Tusculum Rd., Springfield, GA 31329; maisie-minot@gmail.com
Walt Saunders; Daisy House, 50 Cottage Grove Circle, North Chile, NY 14514



Counting Our Blessings

Thank you to everyone who helped us either monetarily or in preparing the Shelter meals over the last seven years. Your generosity and help were greatly appreciated. We could not have provided the meals without you. We are very happy and grateful that Lola Saya and B.J. Lanni will be taking over this mission. Thank you again from the bottom of our hearts, *Nellie Briggs and Linda Rush*

* * *

Dear Friends, I would like to thank my wonderful church family for all the lovely things you did for us over the holiday period. We had the most delicious Thanksgiving dinner with the Porters, a perfect birthday celebration enjoying the West Point Orchestra, more birthday and Christmas celebrating (as Fishkill reformed carolers serenaded us with sounds of the season). You have done so much for Marisa and me during our year of poor health. I know the Lord has brought us together!
Wishing you all (and us) a happy, healthy new year, *Shirley Davis*.

* * *

From Toni Houston:

With the help of the congregation, CCS, and East Fishkill Cadette, Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts, we collected and sent 84 Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes in November. We have been collecting shoe boxes since at least 1995, from my records. Don Muyskins started the program. I would say that we have easily sent over 2000 boxes, between 71 and 132 per year! I have tracked my boxes to the Ukraine, Namibia, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, Columbia, Ecuador, Angola, South Africa, Tanzania, India, and places that can't be specified because of the danger to both the aid workers and the recipients. Do you know where your boxes have gone?

Thank you, Thank you, Thank You!



The Bulletin Board

Sermon Text Preview meets Tuesdays, 3 pm in DuBois House Parlor. The informal gathering that looks at the next week's scripture text, requires no preparation. Just come. Speak with Pastor Gloria with questions.

Annual Congregational Meeting - Sunday, February 18th. Join us at Coffee Hour for our Annual meeting. We will hear about the highlights of 2017, as well as our 2018 budget. Annual report packets will be available the week before.

Join us at Lenten Lunches!

Starting Feb. 20th and every Tuesday until Easter, the Lenten Luncheon Series will meet in the Du Bois House parlor at 12 noon. This year we will be discussing Embracing the Uncertain by Magrey R. deVega. He invites us to take a different perspective this Lenten season. Instead of ignoring or hiding from life's uncertainties, we can engage them with confidence and find a stronger faith along the way.

Bring your lunch and the Worship and Music committee supplies coffee, tea and dessert. Come for one or come for all six sessions. The sign-up sheet is outside of Fellowship Hall. We look forward to seeing you all.

Monmouth Chamber Choir Concert

On Saturday, April 21, 7:30 pm, the Monmouth Chamber Choir from Monmouth University, will present a concert in our sanctuary. The Activities committee will be planning a dinner for them before the concert. We will need housing for 20 youth and 3 adults. If you are willing to host *at least* 2 students for Saturday night, April 21, including breakfast on Sunday morning, please call the church office.

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH IN MISSION



Children's Community Services

It's snowing, the snow melted, it's snowing, it's freezing, it's 50 degrees! This has been a crazy January!! Despite the weather, we have had a very busy time here at CCS. There have been some staffing changes due to new family situations. Our 4 year old head teacher, Alena Pidala, is expecting a new baby and needs to do all she can to ensure a safe arrival. In her place, Pia Landanno Price is now our new head teacher. Pia's enthusiasm for this new challenge is a joy to see. We also lost our aide in that classroom as she needed more hours for her family. Allie Osborne, a former employee, is now back with us in that capacity and working with Pia. It was a very smooth transition for all involved.

Registration has begun for next school year for our preschool. It's time to pass the word around to any family you know who might be looking for placement for a 3 or 4 year old. We would love to show families around and share all we have to offer these young minds.

Pretty soon we will be thinking about all that happens in February, so "hearts" will be evident in abundance! The four year old class will hold their "Mother's Tea" and busily prepare for this special time.

In preparation for our Open House on Tuesday, March 6th, we will be focusing on "Going on a Bear Hunt." This is a classic children's story and song that will be shared with all who attend.

Thank you to all for your continued support,

Heather Hansen, Director

Learn more on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/childrenscommunityservices.org/index>



Fishkill Food Pantry

1153 Main St., Fishkill, NY 12524 Phone 845 896-4546

Hours: M – F, **9 – 12**



As most of you who follow our Facebook page and read the prayer chain updates know, the Fishkill Food Pantry lost one of our longtime volunteers, Irene Zito, on 12/25/17. Irene was a well- liked & well respected volunteer, not only of the Food Pantry but of the community, as well. Irene wore many hats. She was a dependable and diligent team leader, recording secretary, Food Bank liaison, Food Pantry committee & subcommittee member, library liaison, nurse, teacher, counselor, and voice of reason. But most importantly, Irene was a friend. We were all devastated by this sudden, unexpected loss, and we felt the loss so deeply as she was one of our own.

What happened next was so supportive and reassuring: one by one, our volunteers stepped up to fill Irene’s different jobs. Nellie volunteered to do the “numbers” & reports to the Food Bank. Sue volunteered immediately to cover Wednesdays, Marrijane covered preplanned shifts, Jean agreed to be recording secretary, BJ offered to pick up donations at the library, Pam volunteered to cover the classes at the Food Bank and Helen volunteered to cover January when we needed her. Everyone was willing to help in any way they could. We know what a wonderful group of volunteers we have, but no one would have been more proud than Irene.

The Fishkill Food Pantry ended 2017 with a flurry of activity, having 23 food drives between October and mid-December. The response from the community has been overwhelming, and every food drive and donation - large or small - is greatly appreciated. Our volunteers have been working tirelessly, receiving, checking dates, counting, then distributing the food to our clients.

Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/FishkillFoodPantry>

Ongoing needs

Canned vegetables (mixed, carrots, peas, diced tomatoes)
Canned soup, condensed, chunky, individual; crackers
Canned fruit in juice or water
Canned beans 15oz. baked beans
Rice (1lb.), dried beans, cereal
Mayonnaise, mustard, salad dressing
Canned beef stew, tuna, gravy
Spaghetti, sauce, pasta

Perishable (please bag) string beans,
carrots, tomatoes, celery and onions
Fresh fruit, Jelly
Macaroni and cheese, Jiffy muffin mix
Coffee reg. or instant: caf, decaf; /Tea
Bar soap, Shampoo, Conditioner
Toilet tissue
Cat, dog food (*no large bags, please*)

**Due to Food Pantry policies, we CANNOT ACCEPT:
outdated food, baby food, soda, or any medications or vitamins.**

Thank you!



The Troop's fundraiser at Five Guys in Fishkill was a great success in December. We raised over \$300 which will be donated to Boy Scout Troops in the south that were impacted by the hurricanes last fall. Some of the funds will be used to help rebuild Puerto Rico Council's Guajataka Scout Reservation. Our Troop is planning a second Five Guys fund raiser in the spring, and will be selecting a specific Boy Scout troop to support.

The Troop held a Court of Honor at its last meeting of December. Six scouts were presented with rank advancements and eight scouts received sixteen merit badges. The boys also exchanged Secret Santa gifts.



Finally, in December another Troop 65 scout completed work on his Eagle project. Matt Seman organized an effort to refurbish some outdoor benches at Kennedy Catholic High School. A photo of the project is attached.

On Saturday, January 20th, we will spend the day at Bard Park, working one of the stations for the Cub Scouts Eskimo Run. The scouts will also get a chance to practice their lashing skills by building a gateway at the event. Each station at the Eskimo Run will have their gateways judged as part of the event.

Finally, the troop is looking forward to several events in February. The boys will be competing in the annual Klondike. This year at the

Klondike the scouts will need to build their sled at the event. The sled will need to be made from natural materials and held together with lashings. The troop is also looking forward to **Scout Sunday, Feb. 4th, at Fishkill Reformed Church**. Our February campout will be the annual Electronics Weekend. This is one of the scout's favorite events of the year. We will also be hosting several Cub Scout Dens for a movie night.

Thank you for all your support.

If you would like more information regarding scouting opportunities, activities, or service projects, please refer to our websites at www.troop65fishkill.scoutlander.com or www.crew65fishkill.scoutlander.com or by contacting Frank Giusto, Scoutmaster & Venture Crew Adviser, at (845) 453-5706.

Chartered Organization of First Reformed Church - 1153 Main Street Fishkill, New York 12524

Meetings: Mondays 7:00-8:30 PM during the school year at: Brinckerhoff Elem. School, Fishkill, New York 12524

Our Church-Sponsored RCA Missionaries

Grace Covenant Ministries, formerly known as Jackson County Ministries, is a ministry committed to holistic community development and healing in the Kentucky Appalachians, an area suffering some of the deepest poverty in the U.S Visit: <http://www.annvilleinstitute.com>, or **Facebook:** [Jackson County Ministries](#)

We have just concluded our first youth basketball session and next month our second session will start. In the fall of 2017, we had our first baseball/softball youth leagues and had over 60 participants. Last year we also started the Samson Project where we help local youths with strengthening and improving their agility. During this time, we reminded the participants of the story of Samson and that his greatest strength came when he was closest to God. We are planning to continue these two programs in 2018. We are now in the grant writing stage of seeking funds to add an educational drug fighting component to our program.

The completion of the gym addition project is very close. I realize that I have been writing that the finish line was close for quite some time. But now we are preparing for the final inspections. This has taken longer than I expected, which is making the completion more satisfying. With this phase completed, we plan to start this spring with the conversion of the old bathrooms under the stage into a physical fitness center. The Lincoln Hall rehabilitation project continues as well. It is our prayer that the campus will continue to be a place where God's presence can be felt to the many who come thru the campus gates. Thanks again for your partnership with us.

Sincerely,

Jacob "Jake" L. Moss, Development Director

Jeremy and Susan Beebout

Jeremy is an agronomist working with agricultural development efforts and Susan is a doctor developing the church's health ministries in Niger, Africa, one of the poorest countries in the world. See entire letter with pictures on Missions bulletin board.

Note: the following letter was written in December, as the Beebouts were preparing to leave for the U.S.

As our time here is running down, we are trying to tie up many loose ends. At the same time, several projects are still going full speed ahead! At the Dogon Douchi clinic construction site, the subcontractor is finishing the excavation for the footings and will soon begin the foundation itself. The hope is to have this phase completed before our departure. At the same time, our coordinator, Dr. Chako received some additional funds for the nursing school and so Jeremy is working with the construction team to finish as much of the third floor as possible before leaving. This floor contains a classroom, the library and the laboratory where practical nursing skills can be taught. What remains to be finished? Windows, paint, ceramic tile, electrical and plumbing. The outside finish work is also in progress, which is a combination of stucco and the front facade being painted. The opening date of the nursing school is still to be determined.

I've finished teaching my two classes for the first year students, genetics and medical English. The students really do appreciate your contribution to their education through the convention between the EERN and the university. My second year class is set to start next week. The new PCUSA missionary Jodi McGill will accompany me for the first few classes and then continue from there. I'm certainly thankful not to have to teach all of my hours right before we leave.

At Clinic Olivia we are finalizing contracts and procedures for personnel that have remained at the level of verbal agreements for years. It is satisfying to be able to conclude this process before our departure.

In the midst of all of this activity, we have found ourselves strangely in the middle of a maze not being sure which direction to turn. Last month during the biannual General Assembly of the EERN, a decision was approved for the restructuring of the CADR, the development arm of the EERN that we've been working under for the past 10 years. As of yet, it is unclear how and when this restructuring will take place and what changes it will have on the current activities and plans for the future. The proposition would divide the CADR, in particular the clinic, the nursing school, and the guesthouse, into separate sections with separate supervision. This will certainly have consequences for both of us and, of course, for Dr. Chako. As these ministries are currently quite interconnected this will not be a small task nor one without significant impact and consequences. Please pray for transparency, open hearts on all sides, and a desire above all to see the Kingdom advance.

We leave Niger December 18 and plan to return in late July. After a couple of weeks of vacation with our families we will begin our travels with a trip to RCA headquarters in Grand Rapids, speaking at several churches in Michigan at the same time. We then plan to go east to visit a few supporting churches in New York and New Jersey before returning back to home base in Iowa. While we are technically home schooling our kids, it will once again turn into a mobile school with our minivan being the classroom. We look forward to studying US history with all three of the girls and seeing some historical sites in the midst of other travels. We are excited about being able to give many of you updates in person and to say thank you for all that you do to make our service here possible!

We wish all of you joyful celebrations of Christ the Savior's birth,
Susan (for all of the Beebout's)

Be sure to check out the latest complete newsletters from our regular church-sponsored missionaries, as well as updates from other groups we support with seasonal offerings. You will find these posted on the Missions Bulletin Board, located on the side wall near the rear windows of Fellowship Hall.