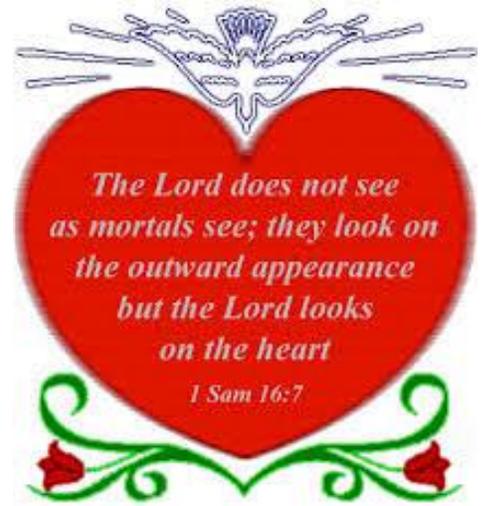


The Parish Visitor

*First Reformed Church of Fishkill
1153 Main Street, Fishkill, NY 12524*

February, 2019



“Heartfelt Thoughts from a New Elder”

by Bill Resling

There are many sincere thoughts that I want to share with you all as we begin this new year of 2019 in our individual lives and in the life of our church, as a church family and as children of God.

First of all, let me begin by saying that we owe a great debt of gratitude to our Deacons and Elders who have just finished their term of office and to those who are continuing to serve into this new year. We also owe a great debt of gratitude to our choir, our choir director Kate, our organist Roy, and to all of those who do so much to keep God’s church afloat with all of its ministries.

I first came to FRC’s doorsteps four years ago in January, looking for a new spiritual home. What attracted me to this church after visiting others was not only the warm welcome extended to me, but also - and most of all - the obvious presence of the Holy Spirit in our worship services. This is what I was looking for, and it was exemplified by the pastor at the time and of the congregation, all who were obviously very spirited in the style of worship and in their singing praises to God.

This is a challenging time for our church and it will continue most likely for some months ahead. The process can be tedious and take time, and our search committees also deserve a great deal of gratitude for their hard work and efforts. Thanks be to God for all of those folks on those committees.

Our eternal and loving God has a plan for this church – a very definite plan – and we pray that ‘God’s Will’ will be done in the life of our church family. Rest assured that God looks down on this church with great favor because of all of God’s work, which is being done (even without a pastor) and all of the ‘good’ coming out of this church on a consistent basis.

It is my very firm belief that God truly loves his church here in Fishkill, and that God truly loves each of us as an individual child of God. I am as confident of this fact of life as I am confident that I am writing this to you all today. Our precious Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, walks with us on our journey, both collectively and individually, and carries us when we need to be carried.

PRAISE GOD! AMEN!



OUR CHURCH TODAY



Consistory Notes from January

- Deacon John Houston's devotions were based on Ephesians 4:11-16 and provided encouragement to Consistory during its time of transition. It offers a reminder for us all, that God has given us unique gifts to equip us for the work of ministry. The strength of all of us, especially with the help of the Lord, is so much greater than that of any one of us alone. We must support and encourage each other so that we can function as a whole to achieve God's goals here on Earth and build up the body of Christ in love.
- Amy Nyland will lead services on 1/27, 2/3 and 2/10. Rev. Nick Miles will lead on 2/17, 2/24, and for the month of March. We are so grateful for their presence here with us!
- Treasurer's Dec. report: Total YTD revenue - \$243,771.70 Total YTD expenses - \$235,746.39
- The Food Pantry served 8,550 meals during December; 100,845 total during 2018!
- The current Scoutmaster for Troop 65 is stepping down. Since our church is their charter organization we are responsible for choosing a new leader before June. Please contact Don Porter, troop liaison, if you or someone you know might be interested in serving in this position to continue helping our youth and community.
- Pastoral search is continuing on schedule and the Committee now has the full results of the Congregational survey as an important tool to help in their work.
- The search for an Organist has recently attracted more candidates for consideration.
- Consistory approved a motion to allow the Food Pantry to keep the chain up on the Church Street entrance to the parking lot from Monday morning to Friday afternoon.
- Signs are now posted on Fellowship Hall, DuBois House and the Food Pantry stating that smoking is not allowed on church property.
- The new Consistory for 2019 will consist of Elders Ruth Porter, Rich Lanni, Celeste Rudberg, Phyllis Lake and Bill Resling; Deacons Sally LeDioyt, Victor Chao, John Cliffe, Manny Valdivia and Kim Albra.
- The following chairpersons were elected for the 2019 Consistory: Ruth Porter as Vice President; Rich Lanni as Chair of Elders; John Cliffe as Chair of Deacons.
- The 2019 budget was approved and will be presented to the Congregation during the Annual Meeting.
- The next Consistory Meeting will be on February 12th at 7:15pm
-
- ***Annual Congregational - Meeting Sunday, March 3rd, following Worship***

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

Kim Albra, Beacon	Victor Chao, Hopewell Junction
John Cliffe, Wappingers Falls	Sally LeDioyt, Fishkill
Manny Valdivia, Wappingers Falls	

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

Phyllis Lake, Beacon	Rich Lanni, Wappingers Falls
Ruth Porter, Fishkill	Bill Resling, Fishkill
Celeste Rudberg, Wappingers Falls	

Safety First! To avoid slipping & falling, please do not use the brick cemetery path to the Education building when the ground is frozen or covered with snow.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

3	Worship/Communion Girl Scout Troop 10524 5 pm	17	Worship 10 am Sunday School 10:15 am Girl Scout Tr. 10524 5 pm
5	Worship & Music 10 am Boy Scout Tr. 65 7 pm	18	Tr. 65 Comm. 7:30 pm
6	Bible Study* 10 am Finance Comm. 5 pm Pastor Search Comm.* 6:30 pm	19	Boy Scout Tr. 65 7 pm
		20	Bible Study* 10 am Pastor Search Comm.* 6:30 pm
7	Consistory Reports Due Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	21	Parish Visitor articles due Choir Rehearsal 7 pm
10	Worship 10 am Sunday School 10:15 am	24	Worship 10 am Sunday School 10:15 am
12	Boy Scout Tr. 65 7 pm Consistory 7:15 pm	26	Boy Scout Tr. 65 7 pm
		27	Bible Study* 10 am
13	Bible Study* 10 am	28	Choir Rehearsal 7 pm
14	<i>Happy Valentines Day</i> Choir Rehearsal 7 pm 	<i>*Asterisk indicates article within</i>	

Please submit articles for the March “Parish Visitor” to the Church Office by February 21st: 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 and reserve your meeting space.

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 contact list or to request prayers for yourself or someone else, please contact Toni Houston at prayerchain@fishkillreformed.org.

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.

Counting Our Blessings

Deacons’ Christmas Offering: *Thanks to your generosity, we were able to send our Christmas offering of \$2962 to California wildfire victims.*

Operation Christmas Child: *Children around the world join me in thanking you for your Samaritan’s Purse (47) shoe boxes. Since 1998, we have collected 1068 boxes between FRC and the Girls Scouts (we did not partner with them this year). Please contact the church office if you have tracked your shoeboxes. It is very interesting to hear where they were delivered. Thank you again for participating! Toni Houston*



Coffee Hour

Sunday Coffee hour is made possible by rotating the responsibility throughout the congregation, while each week Dorrie Hansen assists by setting up the coffee pots. Below is the list of monthly coffee hour hosts.

First name on the list, the lead host, is responsible for calling the others and coordinating what each brings, including milk and juice. The hosts divide up the tasks; set up, refills, cleanup of kitchen and coffee pots, wiping down of all tables and countertops with the water/bleach solution. Please take home and wash the dirty dishtowels and potholders, and return them the following week.

With our different abilities and limitations, let's *all help* by busing our own tables, and helping out where we can.

To have your name added to the rotation, or to address any concerns about serving please contact the scheduler, Karen Twohig.

Not able to serve on your scheduled date? Please find a replacement, and inform the lead host and Church Office of the name of the replacement.

If you plan to bring food to Coffee Hour for a special occasion please notify the lead host.

Thanks to all for helping to provide a wonderful time and place for fun, food and fellowship!

Coffee Hour Hosts and Hostesses

February

- 3 – Boy Scout Tr. #65
- 10 – Sanders, Schwenker, Quart
- 20 – Bobb, Winkler, Carruthers
- 27 – Ledioyt, Gillert, McGann

March

- 3 – VanVoorhis, Utter, Valdivia,(Sr)
- 10 – Houston, Doerr, Skorewicz
- 17 – Lanni, Hughes, Albra
- 24 – Lane, Chao, Landanno
- 31 – Twohig, Schmidt, Falcone

Readers & Greeters for February, 2019

- February 3 Greeters – Brenda Smith-Cliffe and John Cliffe
Reader – John Cliffe
- February 10 Greeters – Al and Linda Gillert
Reader – Linda Baron
- February 17 Greeters – Harry Guzi and Kathleen Spencer
Reader – Jan Lane
- February 24 Greeters – Rich and Marge Faulkner
Reader – Marge Faulkner



From the Pastoral Search Committee

During Coffee Hour on January 13th, Greg Totino shared data gleaned from the congregational survey. The information presented included the demographics of our church, the hopes for what attributes our new pastor will possess, as well as an update on how the process is going. If you were unable to attend and would like to view the presentation created by Greg, please contact a member of the search committee. Thank you to our Classis Supervisor Rev. Mark Mast for his words of guidance during this process.

The committee continues to work on the church profile to send out to candidates. If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to members of the search committee: Jeanne Devine, Larry Sansone, Pia Price, Barbara Harty, Joanna Houston, Gerry Hughes, Jean Teske, Greg Totino, John Twohig, and Jan Utter.

The Information Rack on the Narthex table contains pamphlets and wish lists for CCS and the Fishkill Food Pantry. If you bring a donation, please leave on the white bench in the DuBois House hallway.

All packages of food must be sealed, with UPC codes and future expiration dates visible.

No food is permitted in the sanctuary at any time, with the exception of August, during the food drive. *Thank you for your helping us to keep tiny furry visitors outside.* 

DuBois House Information Rack contains recent bulletins, “Parish Visitor” newsletters, RCA literature and brochures about our church and community services.

Christian Education

Wednesday Bible Study continues to meet Wednesdays at 10 am, in the DuBois House. We are studying a book by Kay Arthur on John I, II, III, James and Philemon. All are invited to join us for this hour of fellowship and study. Speak to Ruth Porter with questions.

Boy Scout Troop 65 Scoutmaster is needed to replace retiring Scoutmaster Frank Giusto. As Charter organization, our church is seeking a new scoutmaster. Frank will stay on as a trainer. Please see Don Porter if you are interested or know someone who will be. We must have a scoutmaster in place by June, to ensure the continuation of the troop.

Worship and Music

Tuesday Lenten Lunch begins meeting March 12th at 12 noon and continues through April 9th. April 16th will be reserved as a possible snow date. Bring your lunch and dine while you enjoy our Lenten study. Watch for sign-up sheet in Education Building foyer. Speak to Bonnie Chao with questions.

2019 Flowers for the Sanctuary can be ordered by signing up on the flower chart and form on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board. Make your \$40 check payable to ***First Reformed Church of Fishkill***, with “Flowers” written on the memo line and place in the envelope by the flower chart. You may pick up your flowers in DuBois House after Worship or leave them to be given to someone who needs some extra love.

Dates available: March 10, 17; April 1; May 2; June 2,9,30; July 7, 28; August 11; September 1,29; October 20,27; November 3; December 1

You may mail to the Church Office (1153 Main St., Fishkill 12524). Please note on envelope: “Attention: Flowers”

(Name) _____ wish to give flowers on (date) _____

I have enclosed my check for \$40 and would like the following in the bulletin: The flowers are given by _____, in (*circle one*) memory, honor or celebration of: _____

The Worship and Music committee thanks you for your donation.

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH IN MISSION



Fishkill Food Pantry

1153 Main St., Fishkill, NY 12524 Phone 845 896-4546 Hours: M – F, 9 – 12

Although many people are aware that The Fishkill Food Pantry is a registered mission of The First Reformed “Protestant Dutch Church of Fishkill Town”, few realize that we are also a co-mission of St. Mary’s, Fishkill. We receive tremendous support from St. Mary’s, including contributions from their annual Christmas concert (now in its 23rd year), two huge yearly food drives and weekly donations of food. The uplifting and joyful Christmas Concert was attended by members of the Food Pantry and First Reformed Church. We were pleased to see one of our long time FFP volunteers, Pat Cummings singing in the adult choir.

We are currently preparing for the annual “Souper Bowl Sunday “ Food Drive, taking place on Super Bowl Weekend, 2/2 - 2/3/19 at St. Mary’s. Since 1998, members the youth group “God’s Tyme”, have collected donations in soup pots for the Fishkill Food Pantry. For the last 5 years, Phyllis Skawinski (a former FFP volunteer) has coordinated and expanded it for into the largest food drive that we have during the year. This year, our own FFP volunteer Sue Doyle has taken over the huge job of coordinating the “Souper Bowl Sunday” food drive. There’s a tremendous amount of work and planning that goes on behind the scenes both in the Food Pantry and at St. Mary’s. This drive is primarily conducted outside as people come to church. The weather is usually frigid. We always hope for a sunny day, but it goes forward in spite of whatever Mother Nature gives us.

As we go into the new year wishing for a happy, healthy, prosperous one, we also realize that we live in uncertain times. Many of our neighbors will find themselves, through no fault of their own, jobless or facing financial insecurities. We at the Fishkill Food Pantry count our blessings and truly appreciate the generous, caring support of our community, which we never take for granted. We feel we are ready and willing to meet whatever challenges the new year brings. “We live in the shelter of one another”. (Irish proverb)

Saint Mary’s, Fishkill 23rd Annual Christmas Concert



Contemporary Choir



Adult & Children’s Choir



Handbell Choir
(Photos courtesy of Kim Doyle)

Children's Community Services

How can the first month of 2019 be over already??? We've finally stored the last of the Christmas ornaments, and it's time for Valentine Hearts to appear!

Parents and Tots program has been booming with activities, even now. Watching two year olds paint with rollers, bath puffs and, of course, their hands is great fun. They have really enjoyed so many experiences with art, music and science, even at this young age.

DeKinder School has been learning all about winter and animals that live in the snowy areas of the world. There have been polar bears, penguins and even snowy owls in abundance. We have had "icebergs" floating in our texture tables. It is amazing fun to use eyedroppers on the ice and watch the changes as it melts and creates valleys and sinkholes!

In February, we plan on celebrating Valentine's Day, Presidents Day and having our annual Mother's Tea.

Before and After School has been busy making pompoms – sometimes the "old" crafts are the best. The children are amazed when they create something with only cardboard and yarn—no electronics needed!!

Stay safe and warm; Happy February,.

Director Heather Hansen and the CCS Staff: Annie, Barb, Jess, Allie, Marlene and Sarah

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



Boy Scout Troop 65 and Venture Crew 65

February, 2018



Troop 65's December camp out plans needed to be adjusted due to the weather. Although the boys were looking forward to testing out their cold weather camping skills, sometimes it is better to follow your head and not your heart. Instead of camping, the troop traveled to New York City to do some sightseeing and take in the holiday season. The boys took a sightseeing bus tour and visited the Christmas tree at Rockefeller Center

The Troop held their December Court of Honor, just before the Holiday break. Six boys received rank advancements. The boys also had fun exchanging gifts for Christmas. We would like to thank the Church family for supporting the troop's calendar sale at Coffee Hour. The money raised will help offset the cost of summer camp for the boys. Finally, in December a few boys took time out of their busy Holiday schedule to go ice skating at the outdoor Bear Mountain State Park ice rink. It is always a great deal of fun to get out and skate under the stars at Christmas time.

January and February will be busy months for the troop. The annual Cub Scout Eskimo Run will be held at Baird Park in LaGrange. Our troop will be running one of the many stations at this event for the local Cub Scouts. This event gives our boys a chance to work with the younger boys and encourage them to continue in the scouting program. We are also planning to spend an evening at the Marist College pool, learning about and practicing scuba diving. This was an activity that was very popular last year and everyone is looking forward to it again this year. There is also an opportunity for the scouts to get in some skiing at Bellaire Mountain's Scout Day in January. Finally, the entire troop is looking forward to Scout Sunday on February 3rd. The scouts will be joining the parish for services and then will be hosting Coffee Hour.

Thank you for all your support.

If you would like more information regarding scouting opportunities, activities, or service projects, please refer to our website at <http://tmweb.troopmaster.com/Website/Home> (select New York State, Unit 65 & Fishkill) or by contacting Frank Giusto, Scoutmaster & Venture Crew Adviser, at (845) 453-5706.

Chartered Organization: First Reformed Church -1153 Main Street Fishkill, New York 12524 **Meetings:** Tues. 7:00-8:30 pm.

Our Church Sponsored RCA Missionaries

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.

Josh Bode, Pastor of the Protestant Church in Oman (PCO), which was founded by the RCA and has been charged with the stewardship of all Protestant Christianity in the country, comprising more than 50 Protestant congregations. Josh has been called to be the RCA shepherd to this diverse and international body of believers in Muscat, Oman, as they seek to build bridges and love their Muslim neighbors.

Grace Covenant Ministries is committed to holistic community development and healing in the Kentucky Appalachians, an area suffering some of the deepest poverty in the U.S.

Annville Institute/Grace Covenant Ministries
PO Box 340, Annville, KY 40402
Phone 606-364-5151

January 18, 2019

Dear Prayer Warriors,

As we enter 2019 we are reminded of our many partners who have blessed us and made our efforts possible. Your prayer support is especially treasured. You are helping us make a difference one opportunity at a time to those we have been called to serve by sharing the love of our Savior and Lord. During 2018 we saw unexpected challenges met by unanticipated blessings. The bathroom addition to the gym was finally completed! Needed repairs were made to the roof of Lansing Hall and to the waste water treatment system.

The past year was exciting. Our youth activities (camps, basketball, baseball, softball) had great participation and we received many thank you's from the participants and their parents. The Veterans Outreach Committee made several new contacts. The Samson Project was expanded to a year around program. Recently we hosted the live walk through nativity production called "Journey Through Bethlehem". The campus was transformed into the community of Bethlehem. We were thrilled to have over 1,700 people (total) attend the eight performances. Even better was the fact the Holy Spirit was at work and at least seven people accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior and several others rededicated their lives.

This year we hope to complete the renovations of the old bathroom areas into a fitness center that can be used by the community. Our board of directors is seeking funds to replace our old maintenance building that is subject to frequent flooding. We are working on two grants and seeking donations to bring the rehabilitation of Lincoln Hall closer to completion. Your prayers are requested as we consider new possibilities for ministry. Space and funding requirements for the potential programs competing with existing programs create a need for wisdom as we strive to be good stewards with the blessings we are receiving. May we follow the advice given in Proverbs 3:5-6.

We thank you for your prayer support.

Sincerely,

Jacob "Jake" L. Moss
Development Director

*See Missions bulletin board in Fellowship Hall
for latest updates and newsletters from our other mission recipients.*