



The Readington Reformed Church Newsletter



2010

FROM THE PASTOR

On the third Sunday of Advent, during the time of the service for prayers of thanksgiving and intercession, Hilary Orlando offered a prayer that shocked me: her mother had accidentally overheard two women talking at a card display, in a store during the second week of December. One of the two women complained to the other that she thought it was a shame that religion was intruding on the celebration of Christmas. The irony of this comment was unnoticed by the two women chatting; Hilary's mother was stunned.

If I didn't know Hilary's mother, AND Hilary, I'd have thought she was trying to pull my leg. I would have thought this was a joke. But Hilary's mother is a quite reliable woman, and while she has a nice sense of humor, it is not bizarre. This comment is too strange for anyone to have made up. If any of us were in doubt before, we need not be any longer: this is a pagan culture. There may be a veneer of Christianity in America, but it is a very thin veneer. There was no irony in the conversation itself; but to a Christian, there is nothing BUT irony present. We gather to celebrate Jesus' birth, and to show that we are anticipating His return - and yet people in the larger culture complain that religion is ruining their Christmas celebration.

But God, in God's own way, prepares the people of God for the task at hand. It is no coincidence that we have just finished our congregational study of *Unbinding Your Heart*, a process that Martha Grace Reese developed to help us to recognize how important Jesus is to us, and then how to get comfortable sharing that Good News with others. We need to be able to figure out HOW to tell our stories before we can share them with others. And, as this overheard conversation shows us, we need to prepare to share those stories, because the people living in this culture need to know that the whole reason for Christmas is CHRIST. We were not celebrating the Solstice in December, although the early Church may have developed the timing of this holiday celebration to help people switch from worshipping the sun to worshipping the Son. We were celebrating a Birth, and anticipating His return.

For those of you who have participated in the Unbinding process, there is one more level you can take this to: reach out to one single person you know who does not attend a church, and invite them to participate in a four week study (that is described elsewhere in this newsletter). Those studies will commence during Lent. For those of you who were not able to participate in Unbinding Your Heart, we will organize classes that will also occur in Lent. There will be sign-up sheets available, as before, and a variety of times and locations that we will hold classes in.

The new year is a time for promises to ourselves: to lose weight, to be kinder, to draw closer in our relationships with our friends and family. May it also be a time when we promise to draw closer to our Lord and Savior, through *Unbinding* or other bible studies, through reading scripture on our own, through a more conscious prayer life. As we continue on our journey together, and as we work while waiting for our Savior's return, may we also look for, and seize, opportunities to share that Good News to this lost and broken world, which needs this promise more than ever! Amen!!

Pastor Cathy

CHURCH ACTIVITIES UPDATES

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Our weekly scripture readings are based on a three year cycle for reading scripture. The following passages are for the month of January:

January 3

Psalm 147:12-20
Jeremiah 31:7-14
John 1:1-18

January 24

Psalm 19
Isaiah 61:1-11
Luke 4:14-21

January 10

Psalm 29
Isaiah 43:1-7
Luke 4:1-13

January 31

Psalm 71:1-6
Jeremiah 1:1-10
Luke 4:22-30

January 17

Psalm 36:5-10
Isaiah 62:1-5
John 2:1-12



Unbinding Our Souls

Those of you who participated in Unbinding Your Heart have had a time to think about what difference Jesus makes in your life, and how you can tell that story to others. We have practiced telling our stories in safe places; now it is time to think about how to share that story with someone in our lives who may not be attending worship, or someone who has been hurt by a church and has fallen away, or someone who doesn't even know much about God at all. That step is called Unbinding Our Souls. It involves a few more weeks of bible study and then inviting that one person to come to a bible study for four weeks. There is no obligation to do more than come those four weeks, for these non-practicing, or non-Christian folks. There will be more information on this in the weeks to come; watch the bulletin and future newsletters, or see Pastor Cathy for more details!



2009 YEARBOOK

We are beginning the preparations for the publication of our 2009 Yearbook! The Yearbook provides a sketch of what we have accomplished together in the past year. Each organization and/or committee in the church needs to include a summary of last year's events and finances (if appropriate) to share with the whole church family.

Please make sure that your report is in the church office no later than Sunday, January 31st.

Thank you!

COMMITTEE & ORGANIZATION NEWS

CONSISTORY CORNER

- Approval of a \$100 "deposit" for the Covenant Players in January to subsidize their travel expense.
- The rules & regulations of The Mabel Hall Trust fund are being investigated.
- A New Members class has started.
- Pastoral Care met on 11/24 and had a very good meeting.
- A Consistory meeting date needs to be established by the 2010 members.
- Pastor's new office hours - Monday & Wednesday: 4:30pm-7pm and Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday: 9:30am-12:30pm.
- The Unbinding Your Heart study is wrapping up and a celebration will happen on January 10th during coffee hour. The last step for those who completed the classes is to invite an un-churched person to a four-class Bible study. Anyone who completed the process is asked to write a little devotion about their experience.
- Installation of Consistory will be on Jan 3rd and Communion on Jan 10th.
- Consistory Retreat: January 22 & 23 @ South Branch Reformed.
- The Pork Loin Take-out Dinner generated \$2,489 in profit; we will host this dinner again next year. Imre will rotate off as FFO chair; this role needs to be filled.

DEACONS

DEACON OF THE MONTH

We all have experienced a time when we are in need of a little assistance. The Deacons would like to assist you when these times occur. We have designated a Deacon of the month so that it may be easier for you to contact them with your needs. For the month of January, please contact our church office and leave a message for Lisa Stettner. She will then handle getting the provided care that is required.

MISSIONS

Reformed Church Home Mission for the Month of January

The mission for the month of January is for the Reformed Church Home. RCH provides quality residential alternatives and services designed to enhance the independence, dignity, and privacy of its residents through God's love, spirited, social, recreational and physical programs. Reformed Church Home relies on the benevolent contributions of the Mid Atlantic Synod Reformed Churches to support all the elderly in our church community and beyond. Please give generously to this special Home.

RRCWM

We started the Holiday season with a successful party, attended by over 40 women and girls. The food - appetizers and desserts - were great, tasty and the best of party foods. The grab bag game was a lot of fun as usual. Everyone went home with a great gift, even if it wasn't the first one chosen. Christian fellowship was the highlight of the evening and we all had a great time. Thank you to all who contributed, came, and had fun.

In January we will start our new year and the first meeting of 2010 will involve developing our yearly budget/events for the year. Please join us and add your important thoughts. Refreshments will be served - should be veggies after the holiday season and all the goodies we all indulged in! Please come.

Thank you to all for the donations to the Poinsettias which graced the sanctuary for the Christmas season.

See you in January Judy Iselin

FELLOWSHIP/FUNRAISING/OUTREACH

On Sunday, Dec 6th, FFO sponsored a trip to attend the Handel Messiah: A Sacred Oratorio concert at the State Theatre in New Brunswick. The concert featured the New Brunswick Chamber Orchestra and the Christ Church Choir. In addition to the large crowd in the theatre, the seventeen RRC attendees enjoyed a beautiful presentation of Handel's three part oratorio that included the famous "Hallelujah" chorus. A return trip to enjoy the concert for Advent next year will be planned.

Chili Cook-off

Warm up your crock pot and mark your calendars for the **RRC 1st annual Chili Cook-off**. We are looking for 5 to 8 people to compete by preparing their best Chili. Tastings will be \$5.00 to sample all the recipes or \$1.00 each. Get ready to vote for the best one! Invite your friends! This will take place during coffee hour on January 31st.



If you're interested in competing (*must bring your own crockpot*) call Lisa Stettner 782-0038 or Kim Cole 874-8696.



Snow Tubing

FFO is pleased to offer a snow tubing trip on Sunday, 2/20/10. It will be an evening outing at Blue Mountain in Palmerton, Pa. The cost will be \$25 per person. Anyone interested may sign up on the sheet located in Fellowship Hall, or contact Toni Rathborne (369-4070) with any questions.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

!!!!!!!!! SAVE THE DATE !!!!!!!!

2010 VACATION BIBLE CAMP

August 16 - 20, 2010

Mark your calendars NOW and plan to register early next year!

MORE IMPORTANT DATES

Scout Sunday: Sunday, February 28, 2010

Easter Family Sunday: March 21 during Sunday School

Spring Concert: Sunday, April 25 @ 3:00 pm featuring Hilary Orlando and Brenda Gerlipp

Covenant Players: Sunday, May 16 during Sunday School and Worship

Children's Day & Church Picnic: Sunday, June 13

2010 Lenten Devotionals

RRC is accepting submissions for our 2010 Lenten Devotional titled "**Unbound**" to correspond with our *Unbinding* theme. We would love to publish your articles, insights and inspirations resulting from your experiences during our Unbinding Your Heart E-vent. What insights did you have about faith sharing? What were some of the lessons from participation in a group study or the group prayer times? How was your individual prayer time impacted? What was "unbound" in you and others as we all went through the unbinding your heart process? Please consider sharing your story in our 2010 Lenten Devotional. Please submit your articles to Laura Fields in person or e-mail to: fieldslm1012@aol.com. The submission deadline is **Sunday, January 24th, 2010**. Thank you!

NEW GIVING ENVELOPES to support CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We have a wonderful Sunday School program here at Readington which includes outreach to the community through our three annual community events and Vacation Bible Camp. However, in recent years costs have increased and run ahead of the budget. In order to raise funds we are reaching out to YOU to prayerfully consider a donation above and beyond your weekly offering to support the Christian Education Committee. For your convenience, there are four extra envelopes in your 2010 offering box that can be used to support Christian Ed or Vacation Bible Camp (please indicate which program you would like to support). By using the envelopes, your extra donations will be added to your giving statements for your records.

Thank you!

Donna Freeman and Sandy Vitez

Christian Education Co-Chairs

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

The modernization of registration has now occurred at the Readington Reformed Church. With the help of Google Docs we can now register your child for Christian Education and other Christian Ed Events online.

Please take a few minutes to register your child online.

And remember Bring a friend to Sunday School *ANYTIME*

MUSIC MINISTRY

As we welcome 2010 and begin a new year, it is appropriate to take a moment and acknowledge the members of the Chancel Choir, Readington Ringers, Cherub Choir, Joyful Noise, and Cymbalum (youth bells) Ringers for the wonderful music of Advent and Christmas. Music does indeed lift the spirit and add to worship!

As we begin the new year, we invite one and all to join us to sing or ring. If a steady commitment is not possible, consider joining us for a shorter time. Everyone is always welcome!

Happy New Year to one and all!

Beverly Gorovoy
Choir Director

CHURCH FAMILY



THE DEADLINE for the February Newsletter will be Sunday, January 17th. Please be sure to leave your complete, written articles in the church office by this date. Thank you!

JANAURY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2 - Donald Beisswanger
Rosemarie Manzo | 20 - Dawn Thompson |
| 4 - Brian Cole | 22 - Gail Doheny
Kaitlyn Vitez |
| 5 - Greg Chester | 24 - Kathy Tyson |
| 7 - Susan Giles-Price | 25 - Christopher Iselin |
| 10 - Elizabeth Iselin | 28 - Betty Kunkel |
| 11 - Eric Stettner
Holly Stettner-Boorda | 29 - Chelsea Doheny
Nathan VandeGiessen
Gina Cermenaro |
| 14 - Sylvia Fedelchak | |
| 17 - Emily Lelah | |
| 18 - Barbara Lynch | |
| | 22 - Stephen & Beverly Harris |



If you have a birthday or anniversary that's not listed here, please call the church office at (908) 534-2077 to let us know your special date so we can add it to our list.

RRC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Below find the list of upcoming activities being held at the RRC. Please check and see which of the events appeal to you/your family's interest and sign up to attend. All are welcome!

January 3 (Sunday): Epiphany - Undecorate the Sanctuary - Install New Consistory
January 10 (Sunday): Communion and Unbinding Celebration (during coffee hour)
January 31 (Sunday): Chili cook-off Coffee Hour
February 20 (Saturday): Snow Tubing
February 28 (Sunday): Scout Sunday
March 13 or 20 (Saturday): RRCWM Lenten Breakfast
March 21 (Sunday): 2nd Annual Easter Family Sunday
April 1 (Thursday): Seder Meal with Stanton Reformed Church
April 2 (Friday): Tenebrae Service
April 4 (Sunday): Easter (No Sunday School)
April 25 (Sunday): Spring Concert @ 3:00 pm with Hilary Orlando and Brenda Gerlipp
May 15 (Saturday): Turkey Dinner
May 16 (Sunday): Covenant Players
June 13 (Sunday): Children's Day and Church Picnic
August 16-20 (Monday-Friday): Vacation Bible Camp
September 12 (Sunday): Sunday School Kick-Off Pancake Breakfast
September 18 (Saturday): Harvest Home
October 23 (Saturday): RRCWM Craft Fair
November 13 (Saturday): Roast Pork Take out Dinner

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

MEALS ON WHEELS

Would you like to do lunch?

With meals on Wheels, that is. Meals on Wheels in Hunterdon has provided "comfort food" to our recipients since 1973; now we'd like you to join us. If you are over 60, homebound and/or have a disability, Meals on Wheels in Hunterdon can deliver a hot noontime meal Monday through Friday with weekend coverage if needed. Service can be short term until recovery or longer - or provide caregiver relief - depending on individual needs. Or - if you are able to - we invite you to join us at one of our Congregate Dining Nutrition Sites around Hunterdon County.



Delicious meals delivered and served by warm and caring volunteers - what could be better? If you, or someone you know, would benefit from the security and support of home delivered meals or congregating dining, contact Meals on Wheels today. Call (908) 284-0735 for more information.

Hunterdon Hospice Presents . . . Youth Art Therapy Bereavement Program for 2010

This 12 week series is for all school-aged children (K through 12th grade) who have experienced the loss of a loved one. Meetings will be held on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:15 p.m., beginning on February 4th and running through April 29th. Parents are invited to attend a companion parents' group. As their children use the medium of art to explore and express their grief, parents will learn about their child's perception of loss, as well as interventions for coping with their own grief. Trained professionals conduct all sessions. The fee is \$35 per family and meetings are held at the Senior Center, 4 Gaunt Place, Building 1 off Route 31 in Flemington. To find out more about the program, please contact Hunterdon Hospice at (908) 788-6600; or, see the flyer and brochure posted on the bulletin board outside the church office.

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
JANUARY 2010					1 HAPPY NEW YEAR	2 10:00- Author's Group
3 9:30-Sunday School 10:30-Joyful Noise 11:00-WORSHIP 12:00-Coffee 12:15-Cym. Ringers	4 Day of Fasting, Prayer and Almsgiving 9:30-New Member Class 7:00-Troop 1980	5 10:00-Quilters	6 9:00-MOM's 7:00-R. Ringers/BS 7:30 NA/NARANON 8:00-Chancel Choir	7 9:30-GS Team 10:00-Bible Study	8 7:00-Cub Scout Den 5	9
10 9:30-Sunday School 10:30-Joyful Noise 11:00-WORSHIP 12:00-Coffee 12:15-Cym. Ringers	11 9:30-New Member Class 7:00-Troop 1980 7:30-RRCWM	12 10:00-Quilters	13 9:00-MOM's 7:00-R. Ringers/BS 7:30 NA/NARANON 8:00-Chancel Choir	14 10:00-Bible Study 7:00-Pack 1980 Committee Mtg. 7:30-GS Leaders	15 9:30-Hunterdon County Quilters	16
17 NL DEADLINE 9:30-Sunday School 10:30-Joyful Noise 11:00-WORSHIP 12:00-Coffee 12:15-Cym. Ringers	18 9:30-New Member Class 7:00-Troop 1980 Spiritual Care Com.	19 10:00-Quilters	20 7:00-R. Ringers/BS 7:30- NA/NARANON 8:00-Chancel Choir	21 10:00-Bible Study	22 CONSISTORY...	23 ...RETREAT
24 9:30-Sunday School 10:30-Joyful Noise 11:00-WORSHIP 12:00-Coffee 12:15-Cym. Ringers 2:30-Gerlipp Recital	25 9:30-New Member Class 7:00-Troop 1980	26 10:00-Quilters	27 7:00-R. Ringers/BS 7:30- NA/NARANON 8:00-Chancel Choir	28 10:00-Bible Study 7:30-Mem./Student Loans Com.	29 7:00-Pinewood Derby Weigh-ins	30 2:00-Pinewood Derby Weigh-ins
31 9:30-Sunday School 10:30-Joyful Noise 11:00-WORSHIP 12:00-Coffee 12:15-Cym. Ringers 1:00-Pinewood Derby						

CHURCH SERVICE SCHEDULE

HEAD USHER/ASSISTANT USHER SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY

Sunday, Jan.	3 rd	James Wadle/Judy Iselin
Sunday, Jan.	10 th	David Cole/Pat Chadwick (COMMUNION)
Sunday, Jan.	17 th	Ken Iselin/Karen Weber
Sunday, Jan.	24 th	Steve Freeman/Donna Freeman
Sunday, Jan.	31 st	Donald Beisswanger/Maryfern Beisswanger
Sunday, Feb.	7 th	Imre Vitez/Pat Chadwick (COMMUNION)
Sunday, Feb.	14 th	Bob Lefever/Toni Rathborne
Sunday, Feb.	21 st	David Cole/Laura Fields
Sunday, Feb.	28 th	Ken Iselin/Karen Weber

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY

Sunday, Jan.	3 rd		Sunday, Feb.	7 th	COMMUNION
Sunday, Jan.	10 th	COMMUNION	Sunday, Feb.	14 th	
Sunday, Jan.	17 th		Sunday, Feb.	21 st	Ken Iselin
Sunday, Jan.	24 th	Ken Iselin	Sunday, Feb.	28 th	
Sunday, Jan.	31 st				

CHILDREN'S SERMON SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY

Sunday, Jan.	3 rd	Pastor Cathy	Sunday, Feb.	7 th	Laura Fields
Sunday, Jan.	10 th	Sandy Vitez	Sunday, Feb.	14 th	Pastor Cathy
Sunday, Jan.	17 th	Pastor Cathy	Sunday, Feb.	21 st	Sandy Vitez
Sunday, Jan.	24 th	Kim Cole	Sunday, Feb.	28 th	Pastor Cathy
Sunday, Jan.	31 st	Pastor Cathy			

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY

Sunday, Jan.	3 rd		Sunday, Feb.	7 th	COMMUNION
Sunday, Jan.	10 th	COMMUNION	Sunday, Feb.	14 th	
Sunday, Jan.	17 th		Sunday, Feb.	21 st	
Sunday, Jan.	24 th		Sunday, Feb.	28 th	
Sunday, Jan.	31 st				

*NURSERY SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY

Sunday, Jan.	3 rd		Sunday, Feb.	7 th	
Sunday, Jan.	10 th		Sunday, Feb.	14 th	
Sunday, Jan.	17 th	Toni Rathborne	Sunday, Feb.	21 st	
Sunday, Jan.	24 th		Sunday, Feb.	28 th	
Sunday, Jan.	31 st				

*Additional volunteers are welcome. Please contact our Nursery Coordinator, Toni Rathborne, at (908) 369-4070 or sign up on the sheet located in Fellowship Hall.

READINGTON REFORMED CHURCH DIRECTORY
2010

Church

124 Readington Road
Box 1, Readington, NJ 08870
(908) 534-2077
(908) 534-0868 (fax)
Email: office@readingtonreformed.org

Pastor

Pastor Cathy Gumpert
126 Readington Road
Box 19, Readington, NJ 08870
(908) 534-1510
Email: pastorcathy@readingtonreformed.org

The Consistory

Elders

Ken Iselin	2010	369-4227
Vice President		
Building & Grounds/Cemetery Chair		
Wilma Matysek	2010	725-3209
Memorial & Student Loans Liaison		
Endowment		
Wendi Kalley	2011	526-8358
Finance Chair		
Bob Lefever	2011	725-3708
Building & Grounds/Cemetery		
Brenda Gerlipp	2012	369-4192

Deacons

Lisa Stettner	2010	782-0038
Deacon Chair		
Ken Ciccotelli	2010	963-3353
Cemetery		
Building & Grounds		
Imre Vitez	2011	534-1753
Fun-raising		
Toni Rathborne	2011	369-4070
Fun-raising & Outreach		
Carol Gauer	2012	369-4814
Herb Wood	2012	534-6290

RRC Congregation

Great Consistory

Spiritual Care:
Donna Freeman,
Chair

Liaison

Christian Education:
Donna Freeman &
Sandy Vitez, Chairs
See Spiritual Care

Memorial & Student Loans:
Pat Chadwick, Chair
Wilma Matysek

Endowment:

Kim Cole
Wilma Matysek

Worship:

See Spiritual Care

Music:

See Spiritual Care

IHN:

Sue Lelah, Chair

Finance:

Wendi Kalley, Chair
Ken Iselin

Youth & Family Ministry:

See Spiritual Care

Outreach:

Lisa Stettner

Building & Grounds:
Ken Iselin, Chair
Ken Ciccotelli
Jim Kennedy
Imre Vitez

Cemetery:
Ken Iselin, Chair
Imre Vitez, liaison
Ken Ciccotelli
Jim Kennedy

IT:

Imre Vitez, liaison

Fun-raising:

Imre Vitez
Toni Rathborne

Pastoral Care:

Ken Iselin, Chair

Consistory Clerk:

Fellowship:

Shirley Koller, Chair

Elders:
Ken Iselin, Chair
Brenda Gerlipp
Wendi Kalley
Bob Lefever
Wilma Matysek

Deacons:
Ken Ciccotelli
Carol Gauer
Toni Rathborne
Lisa Stettner, Chair
Imre Vitez
Herb Wood

Missions:

See Deacons

Women's Ministries:

Pat Ciccotelli, Chair

Treasurer:

Wendi Kalley

Consistory

Custodians:
Stanly and Anna Gomez

Choir Director:
Beverly Gorovoy

Vice-President of Consistory: Ken Iselin

Secretary:
Terry Digan

Pastor: Cathy Gumpert

JINGLE BELL TAMBOURINE

To ring in 2010, make a joyful noise with this musical instrument.

What you need:

- 2 plastic plates
- Hole punch
- Pen
- Beads or beans (or other small items that will make noise when shaken)
- Tacky craft glue
- 6 pieces of ribbon (each about 5" long and 1/4" wide)
- 6 jingle bells
- Stickers
- Markers



What you do:

1. On the bottom of each plate, write, "Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth" (Psalm 100:1, NIV).
2. Punch six evenly spaced holes around the rim of one plate. Mark the holes with a pen and then punch six matching holes in the second plate.
3. Pour the beads or beans into one plate and then squeeze glue around the rim of that plate.
4. Place the other plate on top, aligning the holes. (Make sure the Bible verses are on the outside.) Let it dry.
5. Thread one ribbon through one hole and through one bell, and then tie the ribbon. Repeat five more times, once for each hole.
6. Decorate the instrument with stickers or markers.
7. Play your tambourine when you sing your favorite songs.



Make a joyful noise

People often gather with noisemakers to celebrate the promise of a new year. Be thankful and joyful for the many blessings in your life.

Using the musical note code, write the words of Psalm 100:2 (NIV) in the correct order below.

CODE: before come gladness him joyful Lord songs the with Worship



_____ the _____ ;



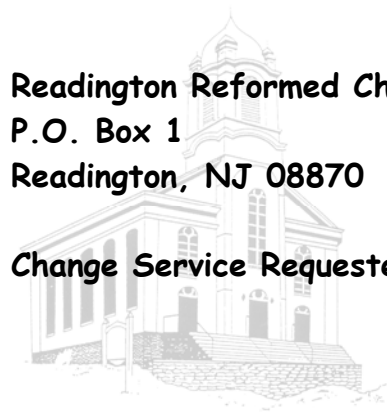
_____ .



Answer: Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

Readington Reformed Church
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