



# The Readington Reformed Church Newsletter



2012

## FROM THE PASTOR

On average, January is the coldest month of the year. The days are just beginning to lengthen after the winter solstice, which occurred on December 22. But the temperatures are cold; it seems a time to regroup and rest, a time to ease back into routines after the excitement of Christmas and the celebration of the New Year.

Our journey with Jesus, which hit a high spot with the celebration of His birth in Jerusalem, rejoicing in the development of a shoot from the stump of Jesse, seems to slow, as well. This year we linger, liturgically, in Bethlehem, remembering the visit of the magi with an Epiphany celebration on January 1. This year we also celebrate another Epiphany, that of Jesus' baptism by His cousin John in the River Jordan, on January 8. We linger during this Christmastide, even as the calendar advances. We have this brief respite from our journey, even as we also prepare to resume our journey, using the Gospel of Mark as our guide. Mark's Gospel begins with Jesus' baptism. We can sense the journey continuing, even in the bleak midwinter, because the midwinter, after all, is also an early herald of the coming of spring.

In the middle of the cold and silence, in the slowly lengthening days, there is the promise of new life, life that may be hidden from direct sight for now, but life that exists nevertheless. In the ebbs and flows of the seasons, in the ebbs and flows of our lives as individuals and as a congregation, life continues to develop, ready to burst forth at its appropriate time.

Almost three thousand years ago, Solomon wrote these words: *For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...* (Ecclesiastes 3:1). We are now in a time that gives us the opportunity to renew our commitment to this journey with Jesus, learning from Him how to live our lives in ways that are pleasing to the Lord our God. In the middle of the quiet routines of January, as our pace is slowed by the cold and the slow return of daylight, may we remember that this season is a time of quiet blessings. Those blessings hold the promise of renewal and new growth, for us as individuals and as a congregation. The journey goes ever on; we have one another as companions along the way. We also have a Shepherd who leads us with tender care, One who laid down His life for us and for our salvation. By His resurrection we have the opportunity to choose life, abundant life, and a journey that transforms us into the people God has called us to be.

In this season, may we take comfort in that promise, as we continue our journey with Jesus, working to do that which is pleasing in His sight, until He returns in glory! 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 1

Psalm 8  
Ecclesiastes 3:1-13  
Matthew 2

### January 22

Psalm 62:5-12  
Isaiah 40:12-20  
Mark 1:16-20

### January 8

Psalm 29  
Isaiah 40:1-5  
Mark 1:1-11

### January 29

Psalm 111  
Isaiah 40:21-31  
Mark 1:21-28

### January 15

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
Isaiah 40:6-11  
Mark 1:12 & 13



## 2011 YEARBOOK

We are beginning the preparations for the publication of our 2011 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 29<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

## COMMITTEE & ORGANIZATION NEWS

### CONSISTORY CORNER

The Readington Reformed Church consistory held a regularly scheduled meeting on December 6, 2011. The following actions were taken:

- The Bessie Green organization will be our mission of the month for January 2012.
- The 2012 Operating Budget was reviewed and approved.
- The annual Congregational Meeting was held on Dec. 11, 2012. Sue Engel and Jim Kennedy were approved to serve as deacons and Tom Barnes and Karen Weber were approved to serve as elders. The 2012 Budget was presented and blessed by the congregation.
- Ken Iselin presented an update on activities related to the Tower and Roof project which included a recent site visit for structural engineering and architectural review by Chris Pickell, AIA.
- The consistory thanks outgoing elders, Wendi Kalley and Bob LeFever, and outgoing deacons, Imre Vitez and Toni Rathborne, for their faithful service in their respective terms.

# 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 Sarah VandeGiessen. She will then handle getting the provided care that is required.

# MISSIONS

## MISSION OF THE MONTH FOR FEBRUARY IS THE BESSIE GREEN COMMUNITY CENTER.

The Bessie Green Community Center is a social service ministry located at the North Reformed Church in Newark, NJ. Bessie Green provides food, clothing, and counseling to needy families and individuals through a clothing barn, food pantry and Senior Day. The organization was established in 1979 to benefit underprivileged children and continues to respond and adapt to the current needs of the surrounding community in various ways. Some of these might include academic summers and tutoring for children and job search services for adults.

# RRCWM

Thank you to all who came to the Annual Christmas party. If you missed a great time, mark your 2012 calendars to attend next year. There were 40 women having a great deal of fun exchanging grab bag gifts. The food was excellent once again, as we shared our favorite appetizers and finished with delicious desserts.

Join us at our January meeting on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. when we begin to plan 2012. We need YOU. Our group is very busy and we have a lot to offer but we need the women of our church to join us. Please consider coming out on the second Monday evening each month.

Judith Iselin, Secretary

# MEMORIAL & STUDENT LOANS

## ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AND THEIR PARENTS INTEREST-FREE STUDENT LOANS ARE AVAILABLE!!

Interest-free student loans up to \$2,500 are available from the Memorial and Student Loan Funds Committee. Applications are available from any member of the Committee (Pat Chadwick, Wilma Cole, Susan Lelah, and Wilma Matysek) or from the church office.

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

## 2012 Lenten Devotional Call for Articles

RRC is accepting submissions for our 2012 Lenten Devotional titled "**Journey with Jesus - Part II.**" Writers, please consider contributing to our next publication of 40 articles for the Lenten season. If you have a faith story of 350 words or less, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Laura Fields for the writer's guidelines. You can submit your story to her in person or send an e-mail to: [fieldslm1012@aol.com](mailto:fieldslm1012@aol.com). The submission **deadline** is **Sunday, February 12, 2012.**

## FFO

### COVENANT PLAYERS

On Sunday, February 5, 2011, we will be welcoming the Covenant Players! They will be helping to lead worship in celebration of Communion Sunday. As in previous years, we would like to offer a meal and housing to the members of the Covenant Players. If you can offer dinner and/or a bed or two on Saturday, February 4th, please contact the church office or Karen Weber (908) 284-2065. Church members who have provided this hospitality in previous years will be the first to say this is a truly rewarding way to offer your time & talent to the church. Thanks!



### RRC ANNUAL SNOW TUBING EVENT - Save the date!



The annual RRC snow tubing event has been set for 2/25/12 from 4-10PM at Blue Mountain in Palmertown, PA. The cost is \$20/person, when arriving in a group of 15 or more. Sign-up on the sheet located on the bulletin board outside of Fellowship Hall to get the group rate. Be sure to bring your friends and family to this great opportunity of fun and fellowship!

# CHURCH FAMILY



**THE DEADLINE** for the February Newsletter will be Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please be sure to leave your complete, written articles in the church office by this date.

Thank you!

## JANAUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 2 - Donald Beisswanger<br>Rosemarie Manzo   | 20 - Dawn Thompson   |
| 4 - Brian Cole                              | 22 - Gail Doheny<br>Kaitlyn Vitez                            |
| 6 - Austin Stansbury                        | 24 - Kathy Tyson   |
| 7 - Susan Giles-Price                       | 25 - Christopher Iselin                                      |
| 10 - Elizabeth Iselin                       | 28 - Betty Kunkel  |
| 11 - Eric Stettner<br>Holly Stettner-Boorda | 29 - Chelsea Doheny<br>Nathan VandeGiessen<br>Gina Cermenaro |
| 14 - Sylvia Fedelchak                       |  |
| 15 - Dan Delmonte                           |  |
| 16 - Michael Ronaldo                        |  |
| 17 - Emily Lelah                            | 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 1 (Sunday): Ehipany
- January 8 (Sunday): Taking Down the Greens
- January 15 (Sunday): Ordination & Installation of New Elders and Deacons
- February 5 (Sunday): Soup-er Bowl Sunday/Covenant Players
- February 22 (Wednesday): Ash Wednesday
- February 25 (Saturday): Snow Tubing at Blue Mountain
- April 1 (Sunday): Palm Sunday
- April 5 (Thursday): Maundy Thursday
- April 6 (Friday): Tennebrae Service
- April 8 (Sunday): Easter Sunday

# COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

## VOICE OF POVERTY IN HUNTERDON COUNTY: A DIALOGUE

Come hear the voice of poverty in Hunterdon County. Join in a two week learning opportunity about what it means to live in poverty in Hunterdon County. On Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> from 11:30-12:30, learn general information about poverty and prepare for the dialogue. On Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup> from 11:30-12:30, join Alicia Liss, Professor of Poverty and Society at Raritan Valley Community College, and Jessica Hathaway, local resident and friend of Stanton Reformed Church who lives "in poverty" in Hunterdon County. Please plan to attend the January 15<sup>th</sup> meeting if you attend the January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Stanton Reformed Church is hosting these two events. The Church is located at 1 Stanton Mountain Road in Stanton, NJ. Please contact Becky at the church office (908) 236-2381 or [stantonchurch@gmail.com](mailto:stantonchurch@gmail.com) with any questions.

## WANT TO LEARN SPANISH???

Rev. Marisol Ferrer, specialized minister and Pastor of the Congregational Church of Bound Brook (209 Church Street, Bound Brook, NJ) will offer free Spanish Classes starting January 4, 2012 and running every Wednesday until February 15th. Classes begin at 6:30pm for one hour.

*"From Marisol: We studied "Easy" Spanish this past summer and will continue where we left off. On January 4th, we begin Spanish classes again using the book "Easy Spanish Step-by-Step"*  
[http://www.amazon.com/Spanish-Step---Step-Barbara-Bregstein/dp/0071463380/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1324314187&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Spanish-Step---Step-Barbara-Bregstein/dp/0071463380/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1324314187&sr=1-1)

*The book is fairly easy and the classes are meant to keep up with the homework. We usually do a chapter a week. You must purchase your own book. If you have NOT attended a class, but wish to do so just hop right in. You can read the first four chapters on your own and we'll recap in the first class and move from there.*

*Classes will run until the week before Ash Wednesday at 6:30pm on Wednesdays. It's free and it's fun. Come!"*

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>JANUARY 2012</b>						
<b>1</b> 9:30-NO Sunday School 10:00-WORSHIP 11:00-Coffee	<b>2</b> <b>Day of Fasting, Prayer and Almsgiving</b>  7:00-Troop 1980	<b>3</b> 10:00-Quilters	<b>4</b> 9:00-MOM's  6:00-Chancel Choir 7:00-R. Ringers 7:30- NA/NARANON	<b>5</b> 10:00-BS  7:00-Writer's BS Cub Scout Com. GS Team	<b>6</b>  5:00-Webelos	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:30-Sunday School 10:00-WORSHIP 11:00-Coffee Taking Down The Greens 12:00-Finance Com.	<b>9</b>  6:00-GS Troop 1270 7:00-BS Troop 1980 Committee 7:30-RRCWM Elders	<b>10</b> 10:00-Quilters	<b>11</b> 9:00-MOM's  6:00-Chancel Choir 7:00-R. Ringers 7:30- NA/NARANON	<b>12</b> 10:00-BS  6:00-GS Troop 80444 7:00-Writer's BS GS Leaders	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>Ordination &amp; Installation of New Consistory</b> 9:30-Sunday School 10:00-WORSHIP 11:00-Coffee	<b>16</b>  Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  Church Office Closed	<b>17</b> 10:00-Quilters	<b>18</b> 9:00-MOM's  6:00-Chancel Choir 7:00-R. Ringers 7:30- NA/NARANON	<b>19</b> 10:00-BS  7:00-Writer's BS	<b>20</b> 9:30-Hunterdon County Quilters  CONSISTORY RETREAT	<b>21</b>  CONSISTORY RETREAT
<b>22</b> NL Deadline  9:30-Sunday School 10:00-WORSHIP 11:00-Coffee	<b>23</b>  6:00-GS Troop 1270 7:00-BS Troop 1980 Spiritual Care Com. 7:30-FFO	<b>24</b> 10:00-Quilters	<b>25</b>  6:00-Chancel Choir 7:00-R. Ringers 7:30- NA/NARANON	<b>26</b> 10:00-BS  7:00-Writer's BS	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:30-Sunday School 10:00-WORSHIP 11:00-Coffee	<b>30</b>  7:00-BS Troop 1980	<b>31</b> 10:00-Quilters				

# CHURCH SERVICE SCHEDULE

## HEAD USHER/ASSISTANT USHER SCHEDULE JANUARY & FEBRUARY

Sunday, Jan.	1 <sup>st</sup>	Ken Iselin/Toni Rathborne (COMMUNION)
Sunday, Jan.	8 <sup>th</sup>	Imre Vitez/Judy Iselin
Sunday, Jan.	15 <sup>th</sup>	Marvin Fields & Laura Fields
Sunday, Jan.	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Bob Lefever/Shirley Koller
Sunday, Jan.	29 <sup>th</sup>	David Terhune/Karen Weber
Sunday, Feb.	5 <sup>th</sup>	Donald & Maryfern Beisswanger (COMMUNION)
Sunday, Feb.	12 <sup>th</sup>	David Cole/Sarah VandeGiessen
Sunday, Feb.	19 <sup>th</sup>	Tom Barnes/Toni Rathborne
Sunday, Feb.	26 <sup>th</sup>	Marvin & Laura Fields

## WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY

Sunday, Jan.	1 <sup>st</sup>	COMMUNION	Sunday, Feb.	5 <sup>th</sup>	COMMUNION
Sunday, Jan.	8 <sup>th</sup>		Sunday, Feb.	12 <sup>th</sup>	
Sunday, Jan.	15 <sup>th</sup>		Sunday, Feb.	19 <sup>th</sup>	
Sunday, Jan.	22 <sup>nd</sup>		Sunday, Feb.	26 <sup>th</sup>	
Sunday, Jan.	29 <sup>th</sup>				

## CHILDREN'S SERMON SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY

Sunday, Jan.	1 <sup>st</sup>	Pastor Cathy	Sunday, Feb.	5 <sup>th</sup>	Covenant Players
Sunday, Jan.	8 <sup>th</sup>	Sandy Vitez	Sunday, Feb.	12 <sup>th</sup>	Laura Fields
Sunday, Jan.	15 <sup>th</sup>	Pastor Cathy	Sunday, Feb.	19 <sup>th</sup>	Sandy Vitez
Sunday, Jan.	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Kim Cole	Sunday, Feb.	26 <sup>th</sup>	Pastor Cathy
Sunday, Jan.	29 <sup>th</sup>	Pastor Cathy			

## ACOLYTES FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY

Sunday, Jan.	1 <sup>st</sup>	COMMUNION	Sunday, Feb.	5 <sup>th</sup>	COMMUNION
Sunday, Jan.	8 <sup>th</sup>	Janine LeChien	Sunday, Feb.	12 <sup>th</sup>	Mira Pantozzi
Sunday, Jan.	15 <sup>th</sup>	James Kennedy	Sunday, Feb.	19 <sup>th</sup>	Alex Rathborne
Sunday, Jan.	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Katie Weger	Sunday, Feb.	26 <sup>th</sup>	Audrey Robbins
Sunday, Jan.	29 <sup>th</sup>	Kevin Cole			

## NURSERY SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY

Sunday, Jan.	1 <sup>st</sup>	High School	Sunday, Feb.	5 <sup>th</sup>	High School
Sunday, Jan.	8 <sup>th</sup>	Teen	Sunday, Feb.	12 <sup>th</sup>	Teen
Sunday, Jan.	15 <sup>th</sup>	Members	Sunday, Feb.	19 <sup>th</sup>	Members
Sunday, Jan.	22 <sup>nd</sup>	As	Sunday, Feb.	26 <sup>th</sup>	As Needed
Sunday, Jan.	29 <sup>th</sup>	Needed			

**READINGTON REFORMED CHURCH CONSISTORY**  
**2012**

**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**

Marvin Fields	2013	534-8736
Karen Weber	2012	284-2065
Bob Cole	2013	534-5912
Clerk of Consistory		
Dave Cole	2013	874-8696
Memorial & Student Loan Liaison		
Endowment Committee Liaison		
Tom Barnes	2014	534-9884

**Deacons**

Carol Gauer	2012	369-4814
Eric Stettner	2013	782-0038
Building & Grounds		
Sarah VandeGiessen	2013	752-2451
Jim Kennedy	2014	823-0238
IT Liaison		

**RRC Congregation**

**Great Consistory**

**Spiritual Care:**  
Karen Weber &  
Sandy Vitez, Chairs

**Christian Education:**  
Karen Weber &  
Sandy Vitez, Chairs  
See Spiritual Care

**Memorial & Student Loans:**  
Pat Chadwick, Chair  
Dave Cole, Liaison

**Endowment:**  
Dave Cole,  
Liaison

**Worship:**  
See Spiritual Care

**Music:**  
See Spiritual Care

**IHN:**  
Sue Lelah, Chair

**Finance:**  
Wendi Kalley, Chair

**Youth & Family Ministry:**  
See Spiritual Care

**FFO:**

**Building & Grounds:**  
Ken Iselin, Chair  
Bob Lefever  
Eric Stettner

**Cemetery:**  
Ken Iselin, Chair

**IT:**  
Jim Kennedy,  
Liaison

**Pastoral Care:**  
Marvin Fields, Chair

**Consistory Clerk:**  
Bob Cole

**Women's Ministries:**  
Pat Ciccotelli, Chair

**Elders:**  
Marvin Fields, Chair  
Tom Barnes  
Bob Cole  
Dave Cole  
Karen Weber

**Deacons:**  
Sue Engel  
Carol Gauer  
Jim Kennedy  
Eric Stettner  
Sarah VandeGiessen

**Missions:**  
See Deacons

**Treasurer:**  
Wendi Kalley

**Consistory**

**Vice-President of Consistory:** Marvin Fields

**Pastor:** Cathy Gumpert  
**Student Pastor:** Leah Ennis

**Music Director:**  
Hilary Orlando

**Secretary:**  
Terry Digan

**Custodians:**  
Stanly and Anna Gomez

## NO-SEW FLEECE SCARF



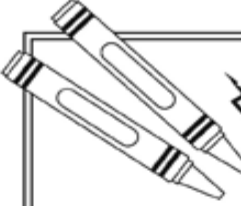
Winter is a difficult time for people in need, so make this scarf to help someone stay warm.

### What you need:

- Medium-weight polar fleece, 60" standard width (a 9" portion will make one scarf)
- Scissors
- An adult to help

### What you do:

1. Cut a piece of medium-weight polar fleece to the size of 60" x 9". Cut the fabric across its width so the material is stretchy.
2. Trim off the edge binding. To add "fringe" along each end, make a 6"-long cut every half inch.
3. For curly fringe, pull each strand and then let go sharply. Another attractive option is to tie an overhand knot at the top of each strip.
4. Donate your scarf to a local group that helps people in need. For greater impact, encourage your Sunday school classmates or other friends to make scarves, too.




































# PUZZLE

## A caring disciple

In **Acts 9**, Peter tells of a woman who lived in Joppa. She performed good works and helped the poor. Solve the puzzle below to reveal this disciple's two names.

**Instructions:** Cross out the letters that spell each object and write the remaining letter on the blank.

___ adcltne			
___ rohmtae			
___ srgbape			
___ rbieda			
___ pehtshred			
___ rdhaenlca			
___ fadoo			
<b>Her name in Greek</b>			
___ pdeesh			
___ dchilnero			
___ drove			
___ acehtr			
___ sarcos			
___ nusoaatim			

Answers: Tabitha, Dorcas

Readington Reformed Church  
P.O. Box 1  
Readington, NJ 08870

Change Service Requested



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