

trumpeter

Lord, I do not know what this day will hold. I only ask that you hold my hand and grant me a quiet trust in your faithfulness.



Do you ever wonder, sitting in church, what the pictures above the columns represent?

They are emblems of the two Reformed traditions out of which our church comes. The one on the left represents our French Huguenot heritage. The eight-pointed Huguenot cross symbolizes Jesus. The dove below symbolizes the Holy Spirit. The emblem reminds us of Jesus sending his Spirit down upon us.

The picture on the right is the emblem of the Reformed Church in America. It is based on the coat of arms of William of Orange, the first Reformed King of the Netherlands. The motto beneath the coat of arms is Dutch: "Eendracht Maakt Macht" which means "Union makes strength". Jesus said, "A house divided cannot stand." The motto above is in Latin: "Nisi Dominus Frustra" meaning "Without God, frustration". In other words, all of our efforts in life ultimately go nowhere without the knowledge of our God.

Howard Major III, pastor



Children in Worship

Whenever I was able on Wednesday afternoons at 4:30, I would take my place on the floor of the Fireside Room, surrounded by four, five and six-year-olds, ready for "Children in Worship" to begin. A unique religious education program for young children, "Children in Worship" is used around the world. It is largely the creation of Sonja Steward, professor of education at RCA Western

Theological Seminary. Based in part on the Montessori Method for young children, "Children in Worship" introduces children to worship, the Bible, and the Church through touch, hearing, and sight.

Catherine Bird, assisted by her mother, *Kyle*, has led "Children in Worship" in our church for three years. Although the method of "Children in Worship" is exacting, *Catherine* makes it seem effortless. Typically the children trickle in. Colored mats have been set out for them. They choose their mats and sit down, sometimes with gentle but firm encouragement from *Catherine* and *Kyle*. The kids fidget and squirm. They barrage their teachers with reports of their week and questions: "My cat climbed onto the roof"; "Can I have a drink of water?" "I have to go to the bathroom." I wonder how they are possibly going to sit through the session.

Catherine begins. She sets a serious, though not heavy, tone. It is time for worship as well as learning. She opens with a blessing in sign language. The children intently imitate her motions. A song follows. The songs are simple, concrete, and the children soon know them by heart.

Then it's time for the story. *Catherine* focuses on the objects on the floor in front of her. Today's lesson is the story of Exodus. Before *Catherine* sits a tray with white sand on it. *Catherine* starts telling the story. "The desert is a strange and wild place. At night it is very cold, but in the day it is burning hot. The desert is always changing." She shapes valleys and dunes in the sand. The kids are hooked and give *Catherine* their complete attention. *Catherine* does not allow herself to be deterred from the story by questions or comments.

She continues. “There is no food, and the children are hungry. So the people travel to Egypt for food. They live in Egypt until a new pharaoh takes away their freedom. So, God sends Moses to Pharaoh – Catherine picks up the wooden cutout of Moses. Moses confronts an imaginary Pharaoh in a corner of the box. Pharaoh says the people may leave Egypt. The people depart, but they come to the edge of the sea and can go no further. Catherine lays two strips of blue cloth across the desert. The figures of the people press against the “sea”. But God parts the water so the people can pass through. Catherine parts the two strips of cloth. She invites each child to move a wooden figure through the sea.

Then come the ‘wonder’ questions. Catherine asks, for example, “I wonder how it felt when God led them through the water to freedom?” or “I wonder how it feels to be hungry and not have any food.” She neither offers nor asks for answers. These are simply questions to ponder.

The mood now changes for “Response Time”. It’s time to wiggle and giggle again. The children are given several options: retell the story, color, or work a puzzle. Sometimes play dough appears when Catherine and Kyle are feeling especially ambitious. Play Dough means a mess.

I am always amazed by the kids’ attentiveness during stories. In part, it’s Catherine’s charisma and in part the age-old power of the stories themselves. Although I have heard the stories countless times, I am as drawn in by them as the kids. The many props are small and simple, but very effective. Besides figures of people, there is, for example, a table, a city, birds, a nest, a bowl, a mustard tree. My favorite is a mysterious treasure box out of which come many surprises. The props are handmade by Jay Pogmillar.

Catherine grew up with “Children in Worship” led by her mother and others at the Gardener Reformed Church. According to Catherine, she was so eager to find out about the next story that she would eavesdrop outside the room where her mother was practicing. For a Scout project, Catherine created her own “Children in Worship” lesson based on the “Prodigal Son” parable.

This is Catherine’s last year of teaching “Children in Worship”. She will be in college this fall working on a degree in nursing (to my disappointment. She would make a terrific teacher.) I will miss Wednesday’s “Children in Worship”.

The stories are not just for kids,” Catherine says. “Adults can also get a lot out of them.” I know I did!

Howard Major III, pastor



Coming Soon!

It’s almost time for our annual St. John Bosco backpack project. More information will be coming. In the meantime, if you see school supplies on sale and want to pick some up, there will be a box in the Narthex of the church and in the Education Building. You can drop your early purchases off in either box.

Ann Phillips, chair, Missions Committee



Extreme Makeover /Landscaping Edition

Our mission for this year, which is actually “Project Julie”, was completed on Friday, June 12th. Thirteen people “manned” shovels, rakes, and wheelbarrows to landscape the Habitat for Humanity house in Ellenville. Under the leadership of our capable master gardener, Cheryl Alloway, we were able to complete it in one day! Pictures are on display in the Social Hall. A **BIG** thank you to Cheryl Alloway, Toller Alloway, Glenn Phillips, Ann Phillips, Skip Van Alst, Adriana Havnaer, Pat King, Rosemarie McBride, Romina, Marybelle Gemmel, Barbara Wright, Cathy Whittaker, and Jill Aube!



Church Sign in the United Kingdom

**Adam blamed eve,
Eve blamed the snake,
and the snake didn't have a leg**

submitted by *Elaine Corey*



At Twice Blessed we have the good fortune to have *Rosemarie McBride* serving as the vice president on our board of directors. Ever affectionate, *Rosemarie* hands out hugs to our volunteers and our shoppers. If you need a good hug, just visit our thrift shop on a Saturday and feel the warmth and love of one of *Rosemarie's* hugs as you sort through the many treasures donated to our shop. The items are for sale at very reasonable prices; the hugs are free. You only need to follow the colorful flags swaying in the wind at the Wullschleger Education Building—banners sewn by *Rosemarie*.

Walk down the stairs and see the shop where possibilities shimmer in our shop's great collection of books, dishes, kitchen stuff, furniture, clothes, toys and jewelry. Take what you like or what you can use, and we'll pack it in a recycled bag. It's all part of our church's quest to be a green facility. Now if we could just figure out a way to sustain *Rosemarie's* warm hugs...

Lu Bouchard, Manager, Twice Blessed



Want To Be Our Membership Director?

Do you enjoy meeting new people? Are you eager to share your love of our church with others? If so, read on! The Fellowship Committee is seeking candidates for the position of Membership Director. The Membership Director is a year-round salaried position that requires approximately ten hours per week, including weekly attendance at the Sunday service.

If interested, please contact *Lisa Curtis* at 255-8950 or lcurtis@earthlink.net for more information.

Lisa Curtis, chair, Fellowship Committee



Old New Paltz Day A "Grand" Succes\$\$

On Saturday, May 30th, we were invited to provide a food booth to enhance the Huguenot Historical Society's Old New Paltz Day celebration. We accepted their invitation, and it was quite a success! Our church was open for tours, and the food booth raised over \$1000 for the church. More important than raising the money was the wonderful fellowship among the more than thirty volunteers it took to put this together and make it a success.

Volunteering at events like this gives you an opportunity to get to know people in the congregation you don't get to talk to outside of the Sunday service. A great big THANK YOU to all of those who helped. Your time and effort on the church's behalf is greatly appreciated. Also, a huge thank you to *Derrick and Ebbie Doubrava*, owners of Minard Farms, for once again donating lemonade and cider!

Ann Phillips, Event Chair



Our Shut-Ins

Fran Buchanan

Mountain View Nursing and Rehabilitation Center
P.O. Box 909. New Paltz 12561

Celia Coulter

3 Lookout Ave., New Paltz

Gladys DuBois

44 Jenkinstown Rd., New Paltz

Doris George

Mountain View

Millie Hague

Mountain View

Carl Lillberg

16 Lincoln Place, New Paltz

Martha McKenna

Moran's Rest Home

1741 State Route 32, Modena, 12548

Fran Seaholm

Mountain View

Jesse C. Welwood-Kunz

Mountain View

Jane Wright

Valley Vista



Members and Friends in the Armed Forces

Please pray for these members of the Armed Forces:

Scott Beswick, Sergeant Christopher Beyer, Shane Freer, Brooke Greener, Corey Greener, P.F.C. Andrew J. Hasbrouck, Evert Janson, Jacob Kouhout, Denise and Jacob Lockwood, Nick Meredith, Jessica Ruschak, James Van Alst, Stewart Van Deusen, Jr, Pvt. 1st class Daniel Van Leuven.



Notes from Consistory

Charlie Stratton, our church treasurer, reported that pledge income was down significantly in May. *Howard* reported that he visited sixteen churches of many denominations while he was in New York City on his sabbatical. He felt that our church compared well to the various music programs, coffee hours and liturgy. Our service length is short compared to most of these churches. There was good attendance at the churches he visited. *Howard* is concerned about reverence during the worship service. Are we communicating how profound the service is, especially to the children? This year is the 100th birthday of the manse, and *Howard* would like to have a birthday party at the manse in July. The Twice Blessed Thrift Shop's annual financial report was distributed to Consistory. Twice Blessed took in \$34,443 from June 2, 2008 to June 1, 2009. \$7,319 was distributed for the church's benefit, \$14,658 was distributed for the benefit of Twice Blessed and the church, and \$1,347 was distributed to others.

We still have had no communication from the lawyers on the Hummer Estate. We have received two payments of \$4000 each. These may be dividends on stock we may be receiving.

Nancy Owen needs help for Summer Sundays. Contact the church at 255-6340 if you would like to help out.

Annika Havnaer is mowing the church lawns this summer. The Count Room and Ladies bathroom in the church have been renovated. The furnaces have been cleaned, and the tanks are full. It looks like we've done well financially with the programmable thermostats and service plan.

Joyce D.Gartrell, Clerk of Consistory



Ways To Help Our Environment at Home

In the kitchen

- Set the refrigerator temperature between 38 and 42 degrees F.
- Set the freezer temperature between 0 and 5 degrees F.
- Microwave whenever you can.
- Don't wash dishes with the water running..

In the dining room

- Use napkin rings and cloth napkins.
- Use washable plates, cups and silverware.
- Serve condiments from recyclable containers.
- Provide personal glasses for soft drinks.

In the laundry

- Wash and dry only full loads.
- Wash with warm water instead of hot.
- Rinse with cold water instead of warm.
- Hang wash out to dry.

In the bathroom

- Shut off the sink while brushing your teeth.
- Shut off the shower while soaping or scrubbing.
- Install a low-flow showerhead.
- Reduce the volume of water in your toilet tank.

In the living room

- Switch off unnecessary lights.
- Dress warm; don't turn up the furnace
- Dress cool; don't turn on the air conditioner.
- Raise shades on winter days; lower them in the summer.
- Reverse your fans for summer and winter operations as recommended.

In the yard

- Compost leaves and grass clippings
- Avoid pesticides; use non-toxic alternatives.

- Apply only as much fertilizer as the lawn needs.
- Water the grass early in the morning.

In the garage

- Recycle motor oil, antifreeze and car batteries.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.



The U in Jesus

Before **U** were thought of or time had begun,
 God stuck **U** in the name of His Son.
 And each time **U** pray, you'll see it's true,
 You can't spell Jes**U**s and not include **U**.

U are a pretty big part of his wonderful name.
 For **U** he was born; that's why He came.

And His great love for **U** is the reason He died.
 It even takes **U** to spell cr**U**cified.

Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand
 He rose from the dead, with **U** in His plan.

The stones split away, the gold trumpet blew,
 and this word res**U**rrrection is spelled with a **U**.

When Jes**U**s left earth at His **U**pward ascension,
 He felt there was one thing he just had to mention.

"Go into the world and tell them it's true –
 That I love them all – just like I love **U**."

So many great people are spelled with a **U**.
 Don't they have a right to know Jes**U**s too?

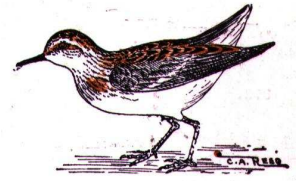
It all depends now on what **U** will do.
 He'd like them to know, but it all starts with **U**.

from the newsletter of First Presbyterian church,
 Kingston, NY

Mission of the Month

The Mission of the month for July is the RCA Board of Pensions, now called the Board of Benefits Services. The purpose of the Board of Benefits Services is to provide retirement income, annuities, supplemental pensions, assistance grants, insurance benefits, and certain specified investment and personnel support services for all ordained ministers and their families, and for lay workers of the Reformed Church in America.

The Mission of the Month for August is St. John Bosco. We furnish school supplies for the boys living in this home.



The Sandpiper

by Ruth Peterson

She was six-years-old when I first met her on the beach near where I live. I drive to this beach, a distance of three or four miles, whenever the world begins to close in on me. She was building a sand castle or something and looked up, her eyes as blue as the sea.

"Hello," she said. I answered with a nod, not really in the mood to bother with a small child.

"I'm building," she said.

"I see that. What is it?" I asked, not really caring.

"Oh, I don't know. I just like the feel of sand."

That sounds good, I thought, and I slipped off my shoes. A sandpiper glided by.

"That's a joy," the child said.

"It's a what?"

"It's a joy. My mama says sandpipers come to bring us joy."

The bird went gliding down the beach. Good-bye joy, I muttered to myself, hello pain, and turned to walk on. I was depressed. My life seemed completely out of balance.

"What's your name?" She wouldn't give up.

"Ruth," I answered. "I'm Ruth Peterson."

"Mine's Wendy...I'm six."

"Hi, Wendy."

She giggled. "You're funny," she said.

In spite of my gloom, I laughed too, and walked on. Her musical giggle followed me.

"Come again, Mrs. P.," she called. "We'll have another happy day."

The next few days consisted of a group of unruly Boy Scouts, PTA meetings, and an ailing mother.

The sun was shining one morning as I took my hands out of the dishwater. I need a sandpiper, I said to myself, gathering up my coat. The ever-changing balm of the seashore awaited me. The breeze was chilly, but I strode along, trying to recapture the serenity I needed.

“Hello, Mrs. P.,” she said. “Do you want to play?”

“What did you have in mind?” I asked, with a twinge of annoyance.

“I don’t know. You say.”

“How about charades?” I asked sarcastically.

The tinkling laughter burst forth again. “I don’t know what that is.”

“Then, let’s just walk.”

Looking at her, I noticed the delicate fairness of her face. “Where do you live?” I asked.

“Over there.” She pointed toward a row of summer cottages.

Strange, I thought, in winter.

“Where do you go to school?”

“I don’t go to school. Mommy says we’re on vacation.”

She chattered ‘little girl talk’ as we strolled up the beach, but my mind was on other things. When I left for home, Wendy said it had been a happy day. Feeling surprisingly better, I smiled at her and agreed.

Three weeks later, I rushed to my beach in a state of near panic. I was in no mood to even greet Wendy. I thought I saw her mother on the porch and felt like demanding she keep her child at home.

“Look, if you don’t mind,” I said crossly when Wendy caught up with me, “I’d rather be alone today.” She seemed unusually pale and out of breath. “Why?” she asked.

I turned to her and shouted, “Because my mother died!” and thought, My God, why was I saying this to a little child?

“Oh,” she said quietly, “then this is a bad day.”

“Yes,” I said, “and yesterday and the day before and ...oh, go away!”

“Did it hurt?” she inquired.

“Did what hurt?” I was exasperated with her, and with myself.

“When she died?”

“Of course it hurt!” I snapped, misunderstanding, wrapped in myself. I strode off.

A month or so after that, when I next went to the beach, she wasn’t there. Feeling guilty, ashamed, and admitting to myself that I missed her, I went up to the cottage after my walk and knocked at the door. A drawn looking young woman with honey-colored hair opened the door.

“Hello,” I said. “I’m Ruth Peterson. I missed your little girl today and wondered where she was.”

“Oh yes, Mrs. Peterson. Please come in. Wendy spoke of you so much. I’m afraid I allowed her to bother you. If she was a nuisance, please accept my apologies..”

“Not at all – she’s a delightful child,” I said, suddenly realizing that I meant what I had just said.

“Wendy died last week, Mrs. Peterson. She had leukemia. Maybe she didn’t tell you.”

Struck dumb, I groped for a chair. I had to catch my breath.

“She loved this beach, so when she asked to come, we couldn’t say no. She seemed so much better here and had a lot of what she called happy days. But the last few weeks, she declined rapidly...” Her voice faltered. “She left something for you, if only I can find it. Could you wait a moment while I look?”

I nodded stupidly, my mind racing for something to say to this lovely young woman. She handed me a smeared envelope with “MRS. P.” printed in bold childish letters. Inside was a drawing in bright crayon hues – a yellow beach, a blue sea, and a brown bird. Underneath was carefully printed: A SANDPIPER TO BRING YOU JOY.

Tears welled up in my eyes, and a heart that had almost forgotten to love opened wide. I took Wendy’s mother in my arms. “I’m so sorry, I’m so

sorry, I'm so sorry," I uttered over and over, and we wept together.

The precious little picture is framed now and hangs in my study. Six words – one for each year of her life – that speak to me of harmony, courage, and undemanding love: A gift from a child with sea blue eyes and hair the color of sand – who taught me the gift of love.

This story appeared in Readers Digest many years ago, and then circulated on the Internet. It appears to be a true story, but told by someone who had heard the story from someone else. The story serves as a reminder to all of us that we need to take time to enjoy living and life and each other. Life is so complicated, that the hustle and bustle of everyday traumas can make us lose focus about what is truly important or what is only a momentary setback or crisis. There are NO coincidences! Everything that happens to us happens for a reason. Never brush aside anyone as insignificant. Who knows what they can teach us.



Ten Commandments

A Sunday School teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six-year-olds. After explaining the commandment to "honor thy father and mother," she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."

Help Me To Remember

Oh, God, when I have food,
 Help me to remember the hungry;
 When I have work,
 Help me to remember the jobless;
 When I have a warm home,
 Help me to remember the homeless;
 When I am without pain,
 Help me to remember those who suffer;
 And remembering, help me to destroy my
 complacency and bestir my compassion.
 Make me concerned enough to help, by word and
 deed, those who cry out for what we take for
 granted.

-- Unknown

Holmes and Rahe Stress Scale

To measure stress for adults according to the Holmes and Rahe Stress Scale, the number of "Life Change Units" that apply to events in the past year of an individual's life are added and the final score will give a rough estimate of how stress affects health.

<u>Life event</u>	<u>Life change units</u>
Death of a spouse	100
Divorce	75
Marital separation	65
Death of a close family member	63
Personal injury or illness	53
Marriage	50
Dismissal from work	47
Marital reconciliation	45
Retirement	45
Change in health of family member	44
Pregnancy	40
Sexual difficulties	39
Gain a new family member	39
Business readjustment	39
Change in financial state	38
Change in frequency of arguments	35
Major mortgage	32
Foreclosure of mortgage or loan	30
Change in responsibilities at work	29
Child leaving home	29
Trouble with in-laws	29
Outstanding personal achievement	28
Spouse starts or stops work	26
Begin or end of school	26
Change in living conditions	25
Revision of personal habits	24
Trouble with boss	23
Change in working hours or conditions	20
Change in residence	20
Change in schools	20
Change in recreation	19
Change in church activities	19
Change in social activities	18
Minor mortgage or loan	17
Change in sleeping habits	16
Change in number of family reunions	15
Change in eating habits	15
Vacation	13

Christmas

12

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 dropped off at the church, and in emergencies, phoned into the
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Have we missed anyone?

Next Trumpeter Deadline
 August 18, 2009