

trumpeter



Youth Choir Christmas Concert

December 18th marked the Youth Choir's tenth annual Christmas concert at the Valley Vista Adult Home in Highland. A onetime performance each year, the full concert is given exclusively for the Valley Vista residents. The concert theme this year was "What is your treasure?" Is it "stuff" or is it joy and peace?

The Christmas story was told through carols and anthems introduced by choir members. The medieval plainsong chant, "O come, O come Emmanuel", expressed the yearning for the Savior's coming. Jesus' birth was described in "Birthday of a King" and "Mary's Boy Child". The angels' good news to the shepherds was heralded by J. S. Bach's "Glory to God, Alleluia" (a very impressive performance of a very difficult piece), and "Angel's Carol". The Magi appeared in "I Wonder As I Wander" and "We Three Kings". "Masters in this Hall" was an invitation to go into the world and spread the joy and peace of Christmas.

There were ample sing-along opportunities, including such pop Christmas favorites as "Silver Bells", "Winter Wonderland", and "Jingle Bell Rock". There even was opportunity for audience instrumental participation – if you define sleigh bells as instruments. Speaking of instruments, the Berman Brothers and Matt Nobile played guitar; Ned Bixby was on the drums; Sean Harrington did percussion; the incomparable Janet Salt at the keyboard.

After thanking them, activities director *Barbara Heifer* noted that this was the choir's tenth anniversary concert at Valley Vista. She added that

the Christmas season for her didn't start until *Nancy Herforth* called to schedule a performance date. Among the Valley Vista audience were residents and church members *Jane Wright* and *Jess Welwood-Kunz*.

Following the concert, choir members and parents gathered at the Plaza Diner for a post performance party.

Howard Major



Christmas Fair 2008

I'm just one of three of us who chaired the Christmas Fair. You see, I have two cohorts: my co-chairs, *Jean Chilcott* and *Jeanne McCullough*. Without their creative energy, faith and strength, I would not be able to stand in front of you each Sunday in November and ask for your help with the Fair. They have inspired me, and I think they have inspired you, too. You stopped by our ornament workshops during coffee hour. You came to our wreath, topiary and fresh greens workshops. Perhaps you tried something new and found a hidden talent. You may have spent countless hours with the Knit 'n Knibble group, creating those gorgeous sweaters and mittens. Or you shared your favorite craft by donating a handmade item. Maybe you baked a favorite cookie or bread. You stood outside jingling the bells, greeting everyone with a happy smile. Maybe you spent the day manning a table or room, cashiering or wrapping. And after all of that, you stuck around to help clean up. No matter what, so many of you have helped to make this another successful Fair.

We are so blessed! What a wonderful group our church family is! God has given each of us talents, sometimes in things we didn't even realize we could do. Thank you, thank you everyone for sharing with us. A special thanks goes to *Frank*

and *Susan Kraat* and crew for serving such a delicious luncheon. And lastly, thank you *Beth*, for putting up with all the rearranging and commotion this event causes (not to mention the needles on the floor). We couldn't do this without you.

We continue to say...this event may be one of our major fundraisers, but it is about so much more than the dollars and cents. Our hope is that you were able to share in God's blessings of glorious fellowship and friendship.

Thank you!

Cheryl Alloway



Bequest from Carolyn Dressel

Our church has received a generous bequest from the estate of *Carolyn Dressel*. *Carolyn* always had a special place in her heart for our Church, and this will now be recognized by her name being added to the Huguenot Cross Society Plaque which hangs in the Education Building.

Have you thought about updating your will and including the New Paltz Reformed Church as one of your beneficiaries?

Dave Lent, Senior Elder



A Thanksgiving Tradition

Sometimes you aren't aware that something has become a tradition until it stops. Last year was the first time the Thanksgiving Service wasn't held since I started it twenty years ago. (I wanted Thanksgiving Day off from work) I thought no one would even notice, much less mind its cancellation. However, I was delighted afterwards to learn that many people did notice and missed it.

The service customarily has been not only a celebration of Thanksgiving but of the Huguenot founders of our church. Before the service begins, I explain the service as well as the religious reasoning behind the building's design. The service includes French, German, and Dutch hymns to represent the Huguenots' multi-cultural heritage. A portion of the service always is in French. A conch shell is blown just as one was three centuries ago to summon people to worship.

Special in this year's service was *Alex Bartholomew's* solo performed on medieval French style bagpipes. *Eben Yonetti* played his traditional Scottish pipes at the door before the service. *Andrea Cornwell*, who grew up the church and since has lived and studied in Paris, read parts of the liturgy in French. *Susan* and *Carolyn Kraat* responsively read Psalm 137. My DuBois family Bible in Dutch, dating from the same period of the church, was displayed on the Communion Table. *Judy Elliot* sang "Let All Things Now Living" to the medieval English tune "The Ash Grove". *Mark Brown* played period music on the harpsichord. It really is a service too good to miss, even for a year.

Howard Major

Thanks

Jane Boden was responsible for the symbolic Thanksgiving collage on the Communion Table". Thank you, *Jane*.

On the subject of gratitude, thanks to *Betty and Mike Watts* for their sixth year of helping *Beth* decorate the church for Christmas.

Howard



The Customer Is Always Right

Twice Blessed is located across from the Reformed Church on Huguenot Street in the basement (Fellowship Hall) of the Education Building. Our space is filled with thoughtfully donated treasures, as well as *Judy Eliot's* homemade jams and jellies and *Stacie Flint's* and *Joyce Garrell's* colorful notecards. We have other local artists' work, including pieces by *Mary Lou Schnell*, *Betty Bickmore*, and even a *Hardie Truesdale*. We are truly blessed.

Recently, a woman entered our door and then paused at the top of the stairs. "I can feel the love down there," she announced. I have always known that God was with us, but on this day, our customer confirmed it. Such praise makes all our efforts at Twice Blessed feel worthwhile.

Lulu Bouchard, Manager

Wish List for the Church

We need to borrow a steam cleaner to eliminate wrinkles in the Social Hall stage curtains. Please contact *Skip Van Alst* (255-0573) or *Cheryl Alloway* (658-3552)

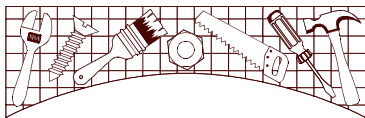
Wanted: Artificial Christmas trees – Do you have a Christmas tree that you're not using anymore? We'd love to have a few more trees (4' to 7' tall) to hang ornaments on at the Christmas Fair. Please contact *Cheryl Alloway* (658-3552) to donate a tree.



Getting To Know You

Why not try something new for 2009? We would like to welcome you to **Getting To Know You** on the second and the fourth Tuesdays at 11 a.m. in the Social Room of the Reformed Church. Just bring a sandwich and look around at the card tables to find something you would enjoy trying. There are not many of us that are expert, but we do have a good time.

Any questions? Phone *Joan Davison* at 883-6660.



Property Committee

A new rug has been installed in our Fireside Room, thanks to generous gifts from *Mary Reid* and Twice Blessed. The old rug was stained in many places that could not be cleaned. The Fireside Room is once again our special living room that we can be proud to use. Groups that are planning to serve food or beverages, please take care so the room will be special for many years.

The Property Committee has been attempting to reduce energy use in our buildings. We have twelve programmable thermostats in our three buildings. Please have your meetings placed on the Church calendar in the office, so the rooms are warm when you come in. If you find the room is too cold, use the + button to increase the temperature. Our system is large and slow to respond, so be patient. Never set the thermostat

above 70 degrees. Please return it to the original settings (55) when your meeting is finished.

Many of the light bulbs have been converted to compact fluorescents. They use only about ¼ the electricity to produce an equal amount of light. Turning lights off that are not needed will help even more. Thanks for your help in reducing our energy usage.

We have decided to remove the snow from our own sidewalks this year rather than pay to have it done. If you could help out, please call *Skip Van Alst* at 255-0573.

Skip Van Alst, chair, Property Committee.

Help Wanted

When an elevator in the church was first proposed over twenty-five years ago, some church members objected, including many who later would make the most use of it. Since then the elevator has been essential to the work of our church. It also created the new ministry of operating it as well as helping people in and out of the elevator. As former long-time elevator minister, *Eben Yonnetti*, would tell you, a special relationship developed between him and those he served. *Eben*, who is now at Sienna College, is still very much missed by those he served. No one had yet taken on *Eben's* ministry. (His Mom is doing it temporarily, by default.) If you would consider taking on this ministry, please let us know.

Speaking of ministries, our church's tower bell is an important witness to our community. Every time it is rung, it reminds the people throughout New Paltz that worship and work of God continues. Consider becoming the bell ringer. It's also great aerobic exercise.

Howard



Church School

63 Smiles

A very special thank you for all of you who did an Operation Christmas Child box. 63 children will feel the love you put into those boxes and receive some much needed (and appreciated) supplies!

Each year we seem to have fewer participants, but it is such a wonderful way to spread God's love that we will, again next year, offer up shoe boxes for kids in need. I tell you this now because as the year goes on, you can often find little treasures on sale that are too good to pass up. Knowing they're perfect for the boxes, I buy them and squirrel them away until November rolls around. That way I already have things for the boxes, and it doesn't cost so much at one time.

Kids Kare News

The members of Kids Kare want to thank all of you who sent in greeting cards for us to use. The past few weeks we were busy making and decorating cookies for the fruit baskets that the Church School puts together, and decorating stockings for the family we adopted for Christmas. We are hoping to do some home and nursing home visitations and to continue our cards to people who need a little cheering up. We are also planning a bake sale to earn money for stamps, etc. If you know of someone in the community who could use a little cheer or have any suggestions for projects with which we could get involved, please let us know.

December 21st Christmas Pageant

The Church School will be presenting a special Nativity pageant during the beginning of the church service on December 21st. Readings, poems, a song (sung and signed) along with angels, animals, shepherds, Mary, baby Jesus, and Joseph will be a part of this blessed story. Please plan on joining us!

Also a very special thank you to the wonderful Church School staff, not only for practicing and helping create this pageant, but for all the work and time they give to our students all year. We are very fortunate to have such caring, creative, and dedicated people teaching our children!

Nancy Owen, Director, Christian Education



Notes From Consistory

Charlie Stratton, treasurer, reported that the pledge income for 2008 is nearly at budget because some of the Jamison funds were applied to people's pledges. Because of the Jamison Fund and over \$2000 extra from last year, we're "staying afloat".

Howard felt the Season of Blessings should be added to the church calendar to be celebrated every year. He urged all to keep their list of blessings going as it has been proven that people who count

their blessings live happier and often healthier lives.

The clerk read an e-mail from *Don Carragher* requesting transfer of membership from the New Paltz Reformed Church to the St. Remy Reformed Church.

Howard was thanked for the Thanksgiving Service in the Old French Church. Others commented on how much they enjoyed this service every year.

In this year's Stewardship campaign we have received \$130,000 in pledges so far. We are budgeted for \$165,000. The 2009 Consistory will need to make a final decision on the budget in January.

Since the money for Family of New Paltz was reinstated, there is no need for a letter writing campaign. The Missions Committee helped other churches in town with the Thanksgiving dinner for the SUNY Student Christian Center.

With a suggestion from the book *Creating Wow Experiences in Your Church*, the Worship Committee invited someone who knew nothing about our church to attend a church service "inognito" and report back on how they felt about the church, what could be improved, etc. On November 23rd, our mystery guest, *Jane Groves*, attended our church with her husband. She reported back that they were both overwhelmed by how wonderful our church is. From beginning to end they felt genuinely welcome and thought the entire experience was wonderful. They left wishing they lived close enough to attend our church.

Howard encouraged all to be aware of new faces in church and at coffee hour and speak to them.

We need a new representative from our church to the Student Christian Center at SUNY.

Skip Van Alst reported on the new rug being installed in the Fireside Room. New doors have been installed on the Nursery School side of the building. The old doors were rotten, did not have the required panic bars, and no thermopane glass. All of the bulbs in the chandelier and spotlights in the Fireside Room have been replaced with compact fluorescent bulbs, thanks to Caring for Creation Committee. The committee is in the process of replacing the ceiling lights in the sanctuary with fluorescent bulbs. Caring for Creation has donated \$400 to fund some of the energy projects identified in the energy audit. All except one of the thermostats have been replaced

with programmable thermostats. They are reprogrammed on Monday of each week.

To reduce the cost of snow removal, staff and volunteers will be using the snow blower to remove snow from the sidewalks. We will hire someone for snow removal on the parking lots and Howard's driveway. We now have a contract for servicing the boilers and have already saved some money.

Adriana Havnaer reported on the Congregational Care Workshops, the most recent two led by *Janet O'Dowd*. There will be a repeat session in January of the most recent Workshop on Grieving for those who were unable to attend the one in November. Session 2 on Grieving will be held in February.

Laura Mulvihill and *Adriana* are planning a workshop on Care for the Elderly. *Adriana* packaged leftover meatballs from the annual meeting luncheon to share with folks needing some help with meals.

Lisa Curtis distributed a report on the Apple Fest as well as a comparison report of expenses and income for the Apple Festival for 1999-2008. Our expenses were the lowest this year of any of those years, and our profit was the highest with a total profit of \$6430.86 (which includes some dollars exclusively eared for Junior and Youth Choirs. 130 apple pies were baked at the church and others came from individuals who baked them at home. We could have used more and will increase the number baked at church for next year.

Orientation for new members of the Consistory will be on January 4, 2009 from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m., plus a potluck dinner to which this year's Consistory members are invited. *Faire Hart* will coordinate the dinner. *Pat King* and *David Lent* go off Consistory, *Lisa Curtis* and *Gail Yonnetti* also go off, but return as members of the 2009 Consistory along with new members *Harold King* and *Alicia Vitarius*.

Next meeting – January 13, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

Joyce Gartrell, Clerk of Consistory

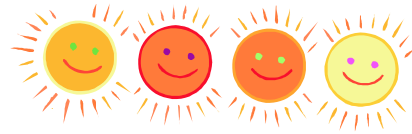


The following was a grace used at a Thanksgiving Dinner this year:

The silver rain
The shining sun
The fields where scarlet poppies run
and every ripple in the wheat
is in the bread that we do eat.

So when I sit at every meal,
and say a grace, I always feel
that I am eating rain and sun
and fields where scarlet poppies run.

submitted by Ann Adler



Symptoms of Inner Peace

This could pose a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world. Some signs to look for:

- ▶ A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences.
- ▶ An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
- ▶ A loss of interest in judging other people
- ▶ A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.
- ▶ A loss of interest in conflict
- ▶ A loss of the ability to worry. (This is a very serious symptom.)
- ▶ Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation
- ▶ Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature
- ▶ Frequent attacks of smiling
- ▶ An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen
- ▶ An increased susceptibility to the love offered by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it

submitted by *Monika Kretschmer*



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

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

Valley Vista

141 North Rd., Highland 12528

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.

St Theresa's Prayer

May today there be peace within you. May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith. May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you. May you be content knowing you are a child of God. Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love. It is there for each and every one of us. Amen.

from the Internet



Grandparents and Grandchildren

A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like: "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony, and we picked wild raspberries in the woods."

The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"

and

A second grader came home from school and said to her grandmother, "Grandma, guess what? We learned how to make babies today."

The grandmother, more than a little surprised, tried to keep her cool. "That's interesting," she said. "How do you make babies?" "It's simple, replied the little girl. "You just change Y to I and add ES."

and

When my grandson Billy and I entered our vacation cabin, we kept the lights off until we were inside to keep from attracting pesky insects. Still, a few fireflies followed us in. Noticing them before I did, Billy whispered, "It's no use, Grandpa. The mosquitoes are coming after us with flashlights."

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Information and articles are due on the following Tuesdays: January 13 and February 17, 2009 and may be mailed, e-mailed, dropped off at the church, and in emergencies, phoned into the editor. Your contributions are encouraged.

Send articles and information to the church or to:

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Dir. of Christian Education	<i>Nancy Owen</i>
Sr. High Youth Coordinators	
Middle School Fellowship	<i>Hal King & Mike Watts</i>
Organist and Sr. Choir Dir.	<i>R. Mark Brown</i>
Dir. Junior & Youth Choirs	<i>Nancy Herforth</i>
Administrator	<i>Faire Hart</i>
Church Secretary	<i>Barbara Lane</i>
Church Secretary	<i>Betty Scott</i>
Church Treasurer	<i>Charlie Stratton</i>
Church Financial Secretary	<i>Carolyn Culver</i>
Sexton	<i>Beth Cornwell</i>

Have we missed anyone?

Next Trumpeter Deadline
Tuesday, January 13, 2009