

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.

Reformed Church of New Paltz



So, what's your religious literacy? This is the question that Boston University professor Steven Prothero raises in his book Religious Literacy. Prothero says that when he started teaching he was shocked by his students' ignorance of basic religious facts. Few knew ever the names of the four Gospels, much less the name of a Hindu sacred scripture. Many didn't even know where Jesus was born.

Especially today, when religion is a factor (but only one among many) in so many world conflicts, religious knowledge is especially important. How can anyone begin to understand Iraq without understanding the difference between Shiite and Sunni Muslims? How can the Israeli/Palestinian conflict be understood without knowing the differences as well as similarities of Judaism and Islam?

And now about our own Christian faith...it's very much based on facts as well as faith. Without the facts, faith quickly deteriorates into simply feelings. "I feel Jesus in my heart" and "I feel God is taking care of me." But what about those inevitable times when I don't feel Jesus in my heart or that God is taking care of me? Those are the times when basic Christian religious knowledge is indispensable.

Or how do you explain your faith to your kids? How do you account for your faith to people who challenge it, such as your teenage son who has just announced that he is an atheist? Could you give three good reasons for believing in the existence of God (and not "I just feel God everywhere").

The good news, according to the Journal of Higher Education is that religion is making a return to university curriculums, including state schools.

Religion departments are quickly increasing in size. Educators have caught on, not only that religion is here to stay (*it wasn't so long ago that theologians were predicting the demise of all religion*), but also that religious knowledge is critical for understanding our culture and the world.

I would like to see the return of the teaching of religion in public schools. I don't mean the promulgation of any one religion, but promulgation of basic information about all major world religions (of which there are only four).

What is your Christian literacy, much less religious literacy? Try the following quiz.

1. Which of the following is not one of the four gospels?
a) Luke b) John c) Paul d) Mark
2. Eve ate:
a) a grape b) an apple c) a turnip d) none of the above
3. Which is not a sacrament in Protestant Christianity?
a) Marriage b) Baptism c) The Lord's Supper d) Confirmation
4. Which is not one of the books of the Bible?
a) Ruth b) Susanna c) Hezekiah d) James
5. Which is not a commandment?
a) Thou shalt not commit adultery b) Thou shalt not steal c) Thou shalt not lie d) Thou shalt not kill.
6. In Genesis the sin of the Sodomites was:
a) paganism b) sodomy c) inhospitality d) gluttony
7. What did Jesus not say?

- a) God helps those who help themselves
- b) The poor you have always with you. c) An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth d) Blessed are the strong for God is with them
- 8. Paul was
 - a) an apostle b) a tentmaker c) a Jew d) a carpenter
- 9. Which Bible book did St. Paul not write?
 - a) Colossians b) Acts c) Titus d) Philemon
- 10. Mary Magdalene in the Bible was
 - a) a prostitute b) an apostle c) the sister of Martha d) possessed by demons

answers to this quiz later in this issue.

Howard Major III, pastor



Possibility of Church Being Cancelled

If the weather is really questionable, your driveway is impossible to navigate, there are huge piles of snow everywhere, there is freezing rain, etc., please call the church office on Sunday morning to ascertain whether the church service will be held as usual. For sake of life and limb, there are times when the pastor cancels the service. It already happened once this winter.

So, before venturing out in bad weather, please call the church office at **255-6340**. There will be a message on the machine if church is cancelled.

Consistory



Directories...Directories...Directories

Within a couple of weeks each family in our congregation will receive a copy of the new church directory. Hopefully you will be pleased with your portrait, and you will find this publication invaluable in getting to know your church family. What better way to help celebrate our 325th church anniversary than to have an update of who we are!

The coordinators for the project (*Judy Elliot and Jeanne McCullough*) would like to thank all those who helped with the sitting, those brave enough to be photographed and especially *Cheryl Alloway* and *Betty Scott* for trying to update all the names and addresses, phone numbers, etc. I said trying...the church office does not always have correct information; so **if you find an error in your name, address, etc., please call the church office for a correction!** We will print a list of corrections and additions for you to attach to the new directory.

We hope you will enjoy the new “facebook”, and by the way, there will be a poster on the bulletin board in the cloak room of the church showing all the “faces”.

Judy Elliot—Coordinator
Jeanne McCullough—Candid Photography & Layout
(Our fifth edition!)

Finances for December 2007

Pledges	\$27,934
Denominational Assessment	2,790
Loose Collection	469
Miscellaneous	2,815
Christmas Fair	7,155
Room Use	400
Endowment	1,160
TOTAL INCOME	\$42,713
TOTAL EXPENSE	27,678
2007 TOTAL INCOME	\$299,437
2007 TOTAL EXPENSE	277,561
December Mission of the Month	381



Members and Friends in the Armed Forces

Please pray for these members of the Armed Forces:

Scott Beswick, Sergeant Christopher Beyer, Shane Freer, Corey Greener, P.F.C. Andrew J. Hasbrouck, Evert Janson, Jacob Kouhout, Jessica Ruschak, James Van Alst, Stewart Van Deusen, Jr, Pvt. 2nd class Daniel Van Leuwen



Getting To Know You

NOT FEBRUARY 14th BUT Tuesday, February 13th, Getting To Know You will be celebrating Valentines Day with a Party! Do not bring a sandwich, but do come at 11 a.m. as usual and party with us! We look forward to new people joining us. The last time we met there were seven different activities to enjoy – indeed, a wide variety!

If you have any questions, please call *Joan Davison* at 883-6660.

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CROP Walk Raises Over \$14,000!!

All pledges for the CROP Walk are in, and \$14,000 has been raised this year! Our church led the way for the participating congregations and contributed \$2,892.00.

Included in this amount is \$1,051.00 raised by the Youth Choir. Eighteen enthusiastic teens hit the Rail Trail singing, playing catch, pushing each other in a wheel chair (thanks, *Matt!*) for the cause of world hunger. Top “pledge-getter” was *Rebecca Renus* who raised \$156.00. *Rebecca’s* fundraising skills deserve mention. Every line on her pledge envelope had a name and donation. Some people gave less than \$1.00; some gave more than \$30. *Rebecca* asked several people, and when they learned about CROP, they gave a donation. *Rebecca* seems to understand that asking for donations is not about her but about providing food and water for someone in need.

Church World Service will soon be sending a check for over \$3,500 to Family of New Paltz, the designated local agency to receive 25% of funds raised. Thank you very much to all of our church participants – donors and walkers!

Adriana Havnaer



Music To Benefit The Student Christian Center

The Woodstock based band, Faithful Folk, will be performing in New Paltz on Sunday, February 10th. The concert, which will be a benefit for the Student Christian Center, features folk music blended with gospel, bluegrass, rock, and pop.

The concert will be held at Redeemer Lutheran Church at 3:00 p.m. A donation will be requested.

For more information call 255-0051 or go to www.faithfulfolk.org.

Adriana Havnaer

Help Wanted!

- 1) Someone is needed to put up and take down event announcements on the BIG sign in our parking lot. No matter whether you’re a wiz with the alphabet, or you need some practice, this is the job for you!
- 2) We will be doing some bathroom renovations in the church and need some help.

If you are interested in helping in either of these projects, please contact *Cheryl Alloway*. (658-3552 or 430-0025)

Cheryl Alloway



Service of Healing

“And Jesus healed many who were sick...” (Mark 1:34) Jesus still heals people in many ways including surgery, medicines, therapy, and the amazing innate healing powers within us. Jesus also continues to heal through prayer and his touch.

You are invited to a service of healing prayers, music and touch on **Sunday, February 24th at 10:00 a.m.** Invite a family member or friend.

Howard Major III



Church School

Acolyte Club Still Strong and Growing!!!

The Acolytes had another wonderful meeting/party on January 10th and welcomed two new members. They are *Lea Maney* and *Jennifer Cook*, both members of the third grade church school class. They join *Lauren Apuzzo*, *Jade Fogden*, *Jessica Merton*, and *Grace Richardson*, who joined in the fall. Our senior acolytes are *Abby King*, *Taylor Martinez*, *Kayla Wallace* and *Danielle Watts*, who assume extra responsibilities, helping with instructing new members and overseeing our fellowship activities. *Katherine Curtis*, *Kaya Jordan*, *Seb* and *Allie Pannuto*, *Julianna Rock*, *Josephine* and *Allan Ruschak*, *Tyler Wallace* and *Wesley Watts* complete this wonderful group of acolytes. Alumni *Sam Owen* and *John Shepherd* still serve by ringing the outside bell most Sundays. Thanks to all our acolytes for their continued service.

February is a Busy Month for Church School!

Starting January 13th and continuing until February 18th the Church School is having a ***Bible Trivia Contest***. Any student who wants to enter may pick up a weekly quiz on the ***Trivia Challenge*** bulletin board by the Education Office. Each week there will be a new quiz along with a collection box for completed quizzes. Remember to bring them back, so you and your class get credit. On February 10th we will have our Church School ***Bible Trivia Bowl*** challenge. Teams are forming now, so have your child speak to their Church School teacher if they want to participate.

On February 3rd the Confirmation class will be presenting a special service for the Church School classes. This will happen after the children have come over from the morning service. This is a very “kid friendly” short service that all ages really enjoy.

February 18th there is no official Church School, but there will be a special program for any children that attend church that Sunday. It is President’s

Weekend and attendance is traditionally low, so we won’t be starting any new lesson plans until the 25th. And, speaking of the 25th, that is the last day in our 2nd trimester. We will have a special coffee hour for the church school in the Fireside Room during which we will present both attendance awards and Bible Trivia awards.

Mark Your Calendars for March 16th!

The Church School and Junior Choir are collaborating on a special Palm Sunday presentation called ***The Singing Bishop***. All members of the Church School, Pre-K through 8th grade will be involved, as well as all members of the Junior Choir.

Nancy Owen, Director of Christian Education

Youth and Junior Choirs

How did this happen?? It’s already January, and I’m just starting to put up photos from Candlelight, Christmas Eve, the Junior Choir Caroling and Gingerbread House Making Party! And they have to be up soon, ‘cause in another ten days it will be time to put up the Pancake Breakfast photos! The Christmas Season has passed as quickly as the click of my camera shutter!

I’m thankful for the photos because, as I look at them, I relive all the events in a much more relaxed way. I can look at the beautiful smiling faces and almost feel the energy bursting forth and appreciate anew all the helping hands and encouragement, all the music learned by all the choir-robed beings that make up the Junior and Senior Choirs. I can see Skip Van Alst bringing in the Social Room Christmas tree, and Beth putting on the Christmas tree lights before the Junior Choir members start hanging the ornaments.

I have great shots of the Youth Choir “candlelight” Pizza Dinner and of parents-drivers and residents of Valley Vista smiling and shaking jingle bells as the Youth Choir sings to them. I even have photos of tables filled with plates of cookies that look so good that you can hardly wait until next year’s Cookie Walk!

And there are photos of the parents helping the children get robed and lined up, and some of both choirs processing to the front of the sanctuary in an orderly, well-spaced line (how did that ever happen

out of the chaos preceding “O Come All Ye Faithful”?) and, I have a mental snapshot of *Karl and Roberta Budmen* handing out candy canes to the Junior Choir after the Candlelight Service. There are wonderful, touching photos of *Lee Gartrell* guiding Junior Choir members in the art of gingerbread-house-making, and there are some great pictures of the graduates who came back to sing with us for Christmas Eve.

If you, too, would like the fun of reliving all these events, you’d better hurry up and check out the choir bulletin board. In a few days it will be on to the next photo op!

Nancy Herforth, Director, Junior and Youth Choirs



Senior Choir Notes

Thanks to the choir and to everyone who helped make our Candlelight Program possible this past Christmas. It was a monumental task rescheduling the program, and it was a relief to see how well everyone adapted to the necessary change. The choir sends a special THANK YOU to *Rosemary and Guy Gardiner* for once again hosting a luncheon for us, following our Saturday morning rehearsal with the instrumentalists. *Guy and Rosemary*, you have been so kind and thoughtful, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

With January we embrace a New Year, and, along with our week-to-week efforts to lead our worship services in music, we are already embracing the challenges of finding new and inspiring music for Easter Week.

The Senior Choir has begun a Special Project for spring 2008. We will be preparing the cantata – *Of Faith and Freedom* by *Joseph Martin* to be presented in the late spring of this year. This cantata is about the faith of our forefathers, which, in our case, includes the Huguenots who made their home here in the Hudson Valley. I think that this is a program you will not want to miss. Anyone who enjoys singing is welcome to join us. The Senior Choir meets at 7:30 p.m. each Thursday night in the Social Hall under the sanctuary. Come sing with us and be our choir friend. Sincerely, *R. Mark Brown*

Notes from Consistory

The January 14, 2008 Consistory meeting opened with readings regarding anger from the Book of Proverbs in the Old Testament. A brief discussion followed.

David Lent was asked to give a report on the Endowment Fund at the next Consistory meeting.

Howard wants to devote more time to Consistory this year, wants Consistory members to participate in the worship services and wants to have a one-day Consistory Retreat in February or March. He announced that another current or past elder is needed to represent our church at Classis.

Eileen Cortright is a new member on the Education Committee.

Susan Kraat and Joan Van Leuven are taking responsibility for obtaining new Bibles for the church pews under the leadership of the Worship Committee. The New Revised Standard Version will be used. No money will come from church funds. The Bibles will be donated by church members and friends who would like to do so in memory of someone.

Muriel Bixler reported that all broken links on the church Website have been fixed. She is being aided in the cleaning up of the Website by *Cheryl Alloway, Ann Phillips and Ann Barber Smith*.

The 2008 budget has been revised. The pledges fell short by about \$20,000 – last year’s pledges totaled \$195,000 and this year’s pledges totaled \$175,000. In the revised budget the base salaries will remain the same. The Assistant Minister position was eliminated. Things that could not be changed like oil, electricity, etc will remain the same. Everything else in the budget is cut by 10%. We haven’t done a special appeal at Easter or Christmas for the last couple of years, so we will do it this year at Easter. If a member does not choose to pledge, but would like to pay for some specific thing like snow removal, that would be welcomed.

As a result of the concern expressed at the annual meeting, a health plan was proposed for *Beth Cornwell*.

In regard to the Jameson House, *Howard and David Lent* were asked to recuse themselves from one of the boards because of their involvement on both the Jameson House board and the Consistory and *Dave’s* involvement on the Huguenot Society board

as well. *Howard* said he would resign from the Jameson House board, but must be present at Consistory. After some discussion, *Howard* appointed an ad hoc committee of *Dennis Pannuto*, *Joan Kelley*, *Rick Greener* and *Susan Lynch* to continue dealing with the Jameson House situation.

The Consistory meeting time is being changed to the first Tuesday of the month. The next Consistory meeting will be on February 5th, 2008.

Joyce D. Gartrell, Clerk of Consistory

Answers to Howard's Christian Literacy Quiz:

1) c 2) d 3) a & d 4) b 5) c 6) c

Our Shut-Ins

Clara Bockmann

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

Ruth Blatchly

2 Academy St., New Paltz

Fran Buchanan

Mountain View

Celia Coulter

3 Lookout Ave., New Paltz

Doris George

Mountain View

Jean Langwick

60 South Manheim Blvd., New Paltz

Carl Lillberg

16 Lincoln Place, New Paltz

Martha McKenna

14 Tricor Ave., New Paltz

Helen Parker

Mountain View

Fran Seaholm

Mountain View

Jesse C. Welwoodkunuz

Hyde Park Nursing Home

4975 Route 9

Staatsburg, NY 12580

Jane Wright

Valley Vista

141 North Rd.

Highland 12528



Baptism: *Kyle Brian Nelson*, son of *Brian and Danielle Nelson* was baptized On January 6, 2008.

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Rebooting the Heart Chakra

Installing Love

Tech Support: Yes, I can help you. Are you ready to proceed?

Customer: Well, I'm not very technical, but I think I'm ready. What do I do first?

Tech Support: The first step is to open your Heart. Have you located your Heart?

Customer: Yes, but there are several other programs running now. Is it okay to install Love while they are running?

Tech Support: No problem. Love will gradually erase Past Hurt from your current operating system.

It may remain in your permanent memory, but it will no longer disrupt other programs. Love will eventually override Low Self-Esteem with a module of its own call High Self-Esteem.

However, you have to completely turn off Grudge and Resentment. Those programs prevent Love from being properly installed. Can you turn those off?

Customer: I don't know how to turn them off. Can you tell me how?

Tech Support: With pleasure. Go to your start menu and invoke Forgiveness. Do this as many times as necessary until Grudge and Resentment have been completely erased.

Customer: Okay, done! Love has started installing itself. Is that normal?

Tech Support: Yes, but remember that you have only the base program. You need to begin connecting to other Hearts in order to get the upgrades.

Customer: Oops! I have an error message already. It says, "Error – Program not run on external components." What should I do?

Tech Support: Don't worry. It means that the Love program is set up to run on Internal Hearts, but has not yet been run on your Heart. In non-technical terms, it simply means that you have to Love yourself before you can Love others.

Customer: So, what should I do?

Tech Support: Pull down Self-Acceptance; then click on the following files: Forgive-Self; Realize Your Worth; and Acknowledge your Limitations.

Customer: Okay, done.

Tech Support: Now, copy them to the "My Heart" directory. The system will over-write any conflicting files and begin patching faulty programming. Also, you need to delete Verbose Self-Criticism from all directories and empty your Recycle bin to make sure it is completely gone and never comes back.

Customer: Got it. Hey! My Heart is filling up with new files. Smile is playing on my monitor and Peace and Contentment are copying themselves all over My Heart. Is that normal?

Tech Support: Sometimes. For others it takes a while, but eventually everyone gets it at the proper time. So Love is installed and running. One more thing before we hang up. Love is Freeware. Be sure to give it and its various modules to everyone you meet. They will in turn share it with others and return some cool modules back to you.

Customer: Thank you, God.

from the Internet – Author unknown



You will find, as you look back upon your life that the moments that stand out, the moments when you have really lived, are the moments when you have done things in a spirit of love.

Henry Drummond from "The Greatest Thing in the Word"

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Always say what you feel, and do what you think is good and right. If I knew that today would be the last time I'd see you, I would hug you right and pray the Lord be the keeper of your soul. If I knew that this would be the last time you pass through this door, I'd embrace you, kiss you, and call you back for one more. If I knew that this would be the last time I would hear your voice, I'd take hold of each word to be able to hear it over and over again. If I knew this is the last time I'd see you, I'd tell you I love you, and would not just assume foolishly you know it already.

Gabriel Garcia Marquez

MEMORIAL EASTER FLOWERS 2008

Orders for memorial flowers or memorial donations to The Student Christian Center will be taken at Coffee Hour on March 2, March 9 and March 16, the 16th being the final day to order. Orders may be sent to The Reformed Church Chancel Committee, 92 Huguenot Street, New Paltz, NY 12561. .

Please order: _____ Easter Lilies (\$7.00)



I will take _____

I will leave _____

Total number Lilies ordered _____

Total cost of Lilies ordered \$ _____

Please order: _____ Daffodils (\$7.00)



I will take _____

I will leave _____

Total number of daffodils ordered _____

Total cost of daffodils ordered \$ _____

Total cost of flowers ordered \$ _____

Donation to Student Christian Center \$ _____

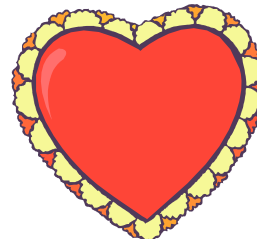
In memory of _____

(Please print)

Given by: _____

(Please print)

QUESTIONS: Ann Phillips -- 845 255- 2321 or Church Office -- 845 255- 6340



trumpeter

Staff:

Editor: *Joyce Gartrell*
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Information and articles are due on the following Tuesdays:

Feb. 12, March 11, 2008 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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New Paltz, NY 12561
(845) 255-8314
E-mail: gartrelljl@aol.com

Reformed Church of New Paltz**Church Staff**

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

Have we missed anyone?

Next Trumpeter Deadline
 February 12, 2008