



The Messenger

July & August 2012

Clarkstown Reformed Church

Established 1750



Pastor's Corner

Rev. Rich Hasselbach

On November 6th, for the 57th since the founding, Americans go to the polls to elect a President. The first presidential election was held in 1788 - thirty eight years after our church was established. Our earliest congregants were patriots: twenty three Revolutionary War soldiers are buried in our cemetery.

Faith lies at the heart of the American experiment. The founding fathers affirmed God as the source of liberty; the one who endows every individual with unalienable rights to live securely, to act freely, and to pursue happiness. These rights do not come from government - they are the gifts of God's creative love.

Two hundred and twenty four years after that first national election, many issues confronting Americans need to hard work: taxation, jobs, the national debt, energy and terrorism among them. But some issues are so fundamental that they define who we are as a people, and who we will become.

Abortion continues to be a national scandal. The United States has the highest abortion rate in the western world, and the third-highest abortion rate of all developed nations worldwide. From a moral perspective, Abortion is the taking of innocent human life! People of faith must affirm and protect life from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death. It is, after all, God alone who gives life, and He alone has the right to call it back to himself.

Marriage is under assault. For the first time in history, marriage is being re-defined. Marriage has always meant more than just two people in a committed, loving union. It is the love of a man and woman through which new life is created and nurtured in an family environment characterized by generative care. At a time when there is so much pressure on families, marriage doesn't need to be redefined, it needs to be reinforced!

Last year the U.S. Military issued a regulation prohibiting the giving or using religious items (including Bibles) during visits to the wounded in military hospitals. Since rescinded, this attempt to abridge religious freedom is chilling. More recently the federal government is trying to force the Catholic Church to fund birth control and abortion for church employees. As Cardinal Dolan said, "When the government tampers with a freedom so fundamental, one shudders to think what lies ahead."

Enduring principles are at stake this November: the sanctity of life, the sacredness of marriage, and respect for our basic religious freedom. Will we have the courage to vote for the values that lie at the heart of our Christian faith; values our fore bearers risked all to create and defend? "Unless the Lord builds, the house, they labor in vain who build it" (Psalm 127:1).



Larry and Ann Essick are the first recipients of the **Rev. James B. Parsons Award** for Outstanding Service to the Church, presented on June 3, 2012.

L.to R.: Robert Longobardo (Vice President of consistory), Rev. Rich Hasselbach, Ann Essick, Larry Essick, Ray Castel, Joyce O'Brien.

From Larry and Ann Essick:

It was an honor and we were very touched to receive the Reverend James B. Parsons award. A sincere thank you to the consistory and members of our beautiful church. James 1:22 "But be ye doers of the word and not hearers only."

Our Mission:	A community of faith, friendship, and service committed to living the Gospel and striving to be the salt of the earth and light of the world.
Church Staff:	The Reverend Dr. Richard Hasselbach, Pastor, Cell (914) 804-1944 Twitter: @pastorreh Anastasia Karassik, Secretary (845) 358-4321 Hours: Tue.-Thu. 10 AM to 2 PM Patricia Singer, Music Director
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Messenger Staff:	Rosa Conlon, Rich Hasselbach, Jim Hershberger, Mary Anne Hill
Messenger Articles:	To submit an article, please email Mary Anne (mahmally@gmail.com), or hand it to her after Worship, by the 15th of the month.



NY BLOOD CENTER DRIVE
SUNDAY, AUGUST 12
11:30 AM to 5:30 PM
at the Fellowship Hall of
Clarkstown Reformed Church

The NY Blood Center will be offering an incentive of two (2) NY Mets baseball tickets for your donation of blood. For more information, call the church office at (845) 358-4321.

Our love & prayers go out to...

- Betty Sue Lindsey
- Brendan Delk
- Cheryl Smith
- Dorothy Knapp
- Dorrie Longobardo, mother of Bobby Longobardo
- Edward Kracke
- Eileen Runyon
- Frederick Kracke
- Gavin Gretzula & family
- Gladson Lerebours & family
- Jim Cole
- Kathy Bertolino
- Kenneth Savoury, son of Amy Savoury
- Myrla DeLeon
- Phoenix
- Rosa Conlon
- Thelma Connolly
- Tom Danney, Rev.
- Tre Castel
- Deployed men and women



Rev. Warren G. Martens of Burton, WV, who was the Pastor of the Clarkstown Reformed Church from 1964 to 1990, died Thursday, June 14th, at the age of 83 at Monongalia General Hospital in Morgantown, WV. Please pray for his wife of 59 years, Margaret and her family upon the passing of our beloved former pastor.

Clarkstown Reformed Church has established a Rev. Warren G. Martens Memorial Fund, with the donations being used for Christian Education. Checks can be made out to Clarkstown Reformed Church, memo "Rev. Warren G. Martens Memorial Fund".

COMING IN SEPTEMBER . . .

SUNDAY, SEPT. 16

Homecoming Sunday Worship and Dedication of Edna Wright Carriage House. Followed by a luncheon at the Fellowship Hall.

STARTING WED. SEPT. 27

Christian Values Academy: "Church in the Age of Reform", taught by Pastor Rich Hasselbach and by Pastor Don Hoover of Tappan Reformed Church.



**WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 14**
at
11:00 AM

We have reserved 20 tickets for this **Westchester Broadway Theatre** production. The dinner and show package includes entrée of your choice, salad, vegetable, potato or pasta, fresh rolls and corn muffins, Chef's Choice dessert, coffee, decaffeinated coffee or regular tea prior to the performance.

Please see Lourdes L. ASAP to purchase a ticket.(\$53). Tickets are going fast!

I'd Rather Have Jesus

Words by Mrs. Rhea F. Miller, 1894-1966

Growing up with devoted Christian parents, George Beverly Shea used his fine singing voice in church services where his father was a pastor. Financial needs of the family made it necessary for him to leave college and get a job, however he continued singing in church and for Christian radio programs. He was unexpectedly offered an audition in NYC and passed the test. The opportunity for a substantial salary and fame made the decision difficult. Mrs. Miller's poem was left on the family piano by George's mother for him to find when he was preparing for a church service. He was deeply moved by the challenge of this text and immediately composed the melody that he is famous for singing through the years especially for Billy Graham crusades.

*I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold;
I'd rather be His than have riches untold;
I'd rather have Jesus than houses or land;
I'd rather be led by His nail-pierced hand*

*I'd rather have Jesus than men's applause;
I'd rather be faithful to His dear cause;
I'd rather have Jesus than world-wide fame;
I'd rather be true to His holy name*

*Than to be the King of a vast domain
And be held in sin's dread sway!
I'd rather have Jesus than anything
This world affords today.*

Submitted by Patricia Singer, Music Director; adapted from the book "AMAZING GRACE" by Kenneth W. Osbeck



SUMMER CHRISTIAN READING LIST

as recommended by our readers



Assault on Tradition: The Decline of Christianity and Western Civilization by Andrew J. Smith (PublishAmerica, 2011). 150 pages.

Forgiven and Forgiving by L. William Countryman (Morehouse Pub, 1998). Once you discover the depth of God's love, and the knowledge that deep down you are forgiven you can see the world anew. And only when you accept God's forgiveness can you offer it to others. 144 pages.

Holy Ground: Walking With Jesus as a Former Catholic by Chris Castaldo (Zondervan, 2009). Whether you are a former Roman Catholic or know someone who is, you'll find helpful answers and encouraging support within these pages. 240 pages.

Miracle of Miracles by Mina Nevisa (Long Wood Communications, 2004). A Muslim Woman's Conversion to Christ and Flight from the Perils of Islam. 224 pages.

Searching for God Knows What by Donald Miller (Thomas Nelson, 2010). Can the gospel of Jesus be summed up in bullet points and formulas? Has a quick-fix culture altered the gospel of Christ, stripped it of its beauty and meaning? 272 pages.

One Thousand Gifts: A Dare to Live Fully Right Where You Are by Ann Voskamp (Zondervan, 2011) Living an emptier, fuller life in Christ. 240 pages.

The Case for Christ: A Journalist's Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus by Lee Strobel (Zondervan, 1998). 304 pages.

The Healing Path: How the Hurts in Your Past Can Lead You to a More Abundant Life by Dan B. Allender (Waterbrook Press, 2000). Regardless of how we've been hurt, we all face a common question: What should we do with our pain? 272 pages.

The Prayer of Jabez: Breaking Through to the Blessed Life by Bruce Wilkinson (Multnomah Pub, 2000). A daily prayer by a little known Biblical hero. 96 pages.

For the Young & Young at Heart

The
B - I - B - L - E, Yes
that's the book for me. I
stand a - lone on the Word of God, The
B - I - B - L - E.



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