



Clarkstown Reformed Church Welcomes Our New Pastor *A New Beginning*

Newsletter

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Welcome to Our New Pastor

We are delighted to announce that, after a long search, God has answered our prayers for a new pastor.

Please welcome the Reverend Ken Bradsell and his wife Marcia to our church family. They are delightful people. Come in and meet them.

Many of you met Ken when he conducted services at our church earlier this year. The Bradsell family are residents of Ridgewood, N.J. and Ken comes to us with many years of pastoral experience. His service with Clarkstown complements his continuing responsibilities as the Director of Operations and Support and Assistant Secretary for the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America.

Please take time to join us for worship on Sunday, at Choir Practice, or in Bible Study, or at evening prayer. ALL are welcome to worship in our church so come on in and invite your friends and neighbors to join you.

Ray Castel, V.P. Consistory

Greetings from Ken Bradsell

Dear Friends,

Hospitality is a core value of the Kingdom of God. Jesus talked about it constantly. When his followers, and those who weren't, didn't get it, he showed them what he meant. He healed those whom others called undeserving and dined with those unwelcome at others' tables. He reached across every human "barrier" to announce, "God's Kingdom is for everyone."

I serve as your pastor because last spring you offered Marcia and me gracious hospitality when I was your occasional worship leader. We sensed and felt it. It's a gift you have. In the months ahead we must build upon it so others feel as welcome among you as we do.

In our worship, prayers and work we need to discern God's call for each of us and for us as the Clarkstown congregation. I like what a friend said: "Imagine you start getting a fresh glimpse of Jesus' message...you realize that, 'yes' you would like to be part of God's dream for the world coming true." What do you do? First you hear from the heart and think deeply about what you hear. We gather as the friends of our Lord in Clarkstown. We



Ken and Marcia

need to do fresh listening.

While listening we'll also be doing. You may have noticed small signs – this newsletter is an obvious one. We have made modest changes in our worship to better involve all of us in giving gratitude to God and receiving God's Word for our living. On the right, I've noted "signs" of our commitment to living more fully into God's mission.

If we haven't already met, I look forward to the opportunity.

Christ's Peace,
Ken Bradsell

Communion – Beginning **October 7th at our regular 10:30AM service**, we will celebrate communion on the first Sunday of each month. The 7th, World Communion Sunday, will be "Clarkstown Homecoming Sunday". Inviting others to the table of the Lord is a sure sign of hospitality.

What do we believe? – We represent many Christian backgrounds. Do you have questions about the distinctive beliefs and practices of the Reformed Church in America? On **October 7th**, I will begin a four-six week introduction to the RCA before worship at 9AM. Members and friends bring your wondering questions (and see if I can answer them). An opportunity to become a confessing member of Clarkstown will follow the introduction.

Our children – We don't have many children and it won't change if we don't do something different. On **September 26th** I will present to consistory a program we can implement called "Young Children and Worship."

Our music ministry – Pat Singer and the choir are hard at work to enhance the Sunday liturgy. They will be in the chancel to assist us in offering thanks and praise to God. Why not join them? Speak with Pat. The hand bells are being restored and a bell choir will be getting underway.

Pastoral care team – I hope to form a team from among us to extend the ministry of care for members and friends, and into the community.

Join those who **pray on Monday evenings at 7:30**. Prayer is the ground under our feet and the sustainer of our journey. Consider **Bible study on alternate Friday evenings at 7:30**. We can't know where we are going if we aren't hearing (again and again) the Word of the Lord for our lives.

Quilting – Join Edna, Rosa and Judy in this labor of love.

Mission – Finally, the church isn't about us. It's God's church and God intends for the church to be in mission. With prayerful discerning we'll learn where this takes us. We dare not forget we are gathered to be sent.