

The Messenger

First Reformed Church of Scotia
224 North Ballston Avenue
Scotia, NY 12302

The Rev. Craig J. Hoffman

The Rev. Jan L. Hoffman

Volume 65, Number 7

July 2014

**From
Craig's
Desk**

WELCOME, KRISTEN!

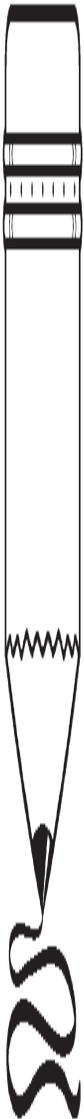
This month we welcome Kristen Shave to our church staff. Kristen is our new Church Office Administrator. Here are a few things you need to know about her:

- Kristen's work number is the church number, (518) 370-4751.
- Kristen's work email address is: frcsoffice@verizon.net.
- Kristen's office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 to 3:00.

That's what you need to know about Kristen. Now here are a few things you'll want to know and that are fun to know about her:

- Kristen has been married to husband Bill Shave, a general contractor, for nearly 4 years. They live in Duaneburg on 2 acres of land.
- She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Maine College of the Arts. Where she majored in photography.
- Kristen tends to 11 laying hens and 9 baby chicks. (Gently let her know if you see feathers in her hair some day.)
- She puts up 1,000 jars of jam every year – in 40 different flavors! Ever hear of hot pepper jam, or sugar plum jam? Me neither. Sugar plum jam is made of plums, pineapples, and warm spices. I'll bet you can figure out what hot pepper jam is made of. Says Kristen, "My great grandfather was an executive chef. I guess a little of him rubbed off on me."
- Kristen does a great deal of volunteering for the American Cancer Society, Relay For Life, which provides funding for cancer research as well as many local programs such as Road to Recovery that offers rides for people who need help getting to their radiation or chemo treatments. I asked her why she has such a commitment to the ACS, and she told me, "I have too many friends and family members who have been affected by cancer."
- Kristen and Bill have a family camp in the Adirondacks on Lincoln Pond near Elizabethtown. She and Bill also enjoy canoeing and tent camping.

Kristen brings great experience to us, and Jan and I are very glad to have her as part of our staff. One of her biggest challenges will be learning who all of us are. So please, when you stop in the church office, make sure you take a few moments to introduce yourself to Kristen. You'll be glad you did.



Thank You Notes From The Congregation



Since we published the last issue of *The Messenger* we received the following thank-you notes and letters. They are posted on the tack strip outside of Pastor Craig's office. Read and enjoy them there for yourselves.

- From Eileen Quick at the Scotia Food Pantry: Thank you so much for the generous food donations during the month of May. We serve many needy families at the Scotia Food Pantry so this food really helps us stock our shelves. Thank you for your support!
- From Kathie Balsler: Words cannot express my sincere thanks to everyone for organizing a wonderful BBQ for me. Thanks to the set up team and the cooks who worked over hot coals making burgers and hot dogs. Thanks to all of you who attended. I have enjoyed working with all of you and especially our Pastors Craig and Jan. Thank you for all of the cards, gifts and well wishes. The bread maker and juicer will be put to good use. Fresh bread and juice will be especially tasty on our sunny deck at camp in Maine this summer and later here in Scotia. Come and join us for a taste!

Milestones In The Lives Of The Congregation

Here are some milestones in the lives of people in our congregation since the last issue of *The Messenger*.

Congratulations:

- To Liz Woznack and Charlie Snell who were married at the Charlton Inn on June 7.
- To Amanda Shults on the baptism of her son Landon Jacob who was baptized on June 29.
- To Brian Ahl and Emily Richards who were married in Altamont on June 28.
- Pastor Jan Hoffman who was nominated to serve as the Vice President of General Synod. She was not elected, but it is a high honor to be one of four nominated and to stand and address the synod.

New Address:

- Emily and John Pierce Sr. have moved to 133 Saratoga Road, Apt. L-2, Scotia, 12302.
- Terry Griesche has moved to Kingsway Manor, Room 131, 357 Kings Road, Schenectady, 12304.

We express our sympathy to:

- To Elaine and Ken Willcox on the death of Elaine's step-father, Fred Lanoue who died on June 12.

Special "Shout Outs"

So many people do so much for our congregation, and we thank them all for it. This month we especially give a shout out to:

- Dennis and Sheryl Pelkey for delivering the food donations to the Scotia Food Pantry during June.
- The book movers. This crew said "yes" when asked to use their muscle to lift many boxes of books and bring them from the Green Shed to the church to make more room for White Elephant items. Thanks go to: Steve and Kathie Balsler, Lou Crisci, Justan Foster, Jane Lansing, Dennis and Sheryl Pelkey and Lee Poremba.
- To the women who helped Betsey Homer make jam for Camp Fowler. The women included: Pam Walsh, Jan Hoffman, Sunny Baldwin, Kristen Shave, Sheila Dort, Trudi Thun and Linda Willoughby.

Sign Up For Baseball At “The Joe”

Our Congressional Care Council is sponsoring a second annual night of baseball at “The Joe” in Troy. Join others in your church family on Wednesday, August 20 at 7:00 for a game between the Tri-City Valley Cats and the Vermont Catamounts. Fireworks will follow the game. We have reserved box seats all in the same section so that we can sit together. Sign up on the bulletin board outside of Pastor Craig’s office by Monday, July 21. Tickets are \$7.50 each. Payment is also due by July 21.

Jam Sales Will Benefit Camp Fowler

Homemade strawberry jam will be sold after both services in the narthex as long as supplies last. There are two sizes available: \$6 and \$3. The proceeds from the sales go to benefit Camp Fowler. This is a tradition started by our own Betsey Homer who served two terms on the Fowler Program Committee, some of the time as its chairwoman. It now continues with Betsey and with others.

“Year In Review” CDs Now Available

Director of Music Ministry Rebecca Shepherd can make CD copies of June 15’s Choir Year in Review Concert. Sign up on the bulletin board outside of Pastor Craig’s office to reserve your copy. There is no cost. Thanks, Rebecca.

Labyrinth Update



We are pleased to announce the formation of a labyrinth committee! Our members are Pam Walsh, Kristin Bodden, Sheila Dort, Lynn Makrin, Linda Willoughby and Steve Balsler. Our Christian Education Council and Consistory has supported the purchase of a canvas section via Pete Lewis for the fabrication of our own 25 foot canvas labyrinth. The committee has decided on a design and will work on drawing and painting the labyrinth this July, and hopes to have it completed by August. They will be using a portion of Brink Hall to work on this large project. We are very excited to be able to offer so many opportunities for spiritual and prayerful practice and reflection for our congregation and the community in the near future. Be on the lookout for more information and opportunities to get involved!

Instrumental- ists Needed For The Summer

Rebecca Shepherd, our Director of Music Ministry, is putting out a call for guitarists, drummers, and other instrumentalists who may be able to play this coming program year with our Sanctuary Choir on anthems that call for instrumental accompaniment. Could that possibly be you? Please contact Rebecca and let her know what you play. Phone her at 393-9862 or email her at shep2@nycap.rr.com.

Worship Begins Outdoors

Weather permitting, our 8:00 worship is now held outside on the plaza. Bring a blanket or a lawn chair to sit on. If it rains we will simply be inside. Outside worship will run through Labor Day Sunday, August 31.

Summer Nursery Hours

Nursery Director Diana Ackner will be present to care for our children in our nursery during our 10:00 worship services this summer. Thank you, Diana! Our nursery has two adjoining rooms for play, tables for projects, a variety of age appropriate toys and games, a changing station, a bathroom, a baby swing, and rocking chairs for parents and care givers. See you this summer!

Cleaning Out Your House?

Our 66th annual Dutch Fair is fast approaching. This year the fair will be held on Saturday, September 20, from 9:00 to 3:00. While you are doing your summer cleaning, don’t forget to bring your donations to the green shed. There’s a lot to do, and there is a place for you! To volunteer or to get more information, please speak to either of this year’s Dutch Fair Chairmen: Justan Foster, 965-2389; or Tracey Swearingen 377-9569.

July Mission Of The Month

Our July Mission of the Month offering will be given to Schenectady Habitat for Humanity. For over twenty years, HFH has renovated existing housing or built new simple housing for people who would otherwise be frozen out of the housing market – a good and noble work. For more information, see <http://www.schenectadyhabitat.org>. They are holding a BBQ and Blues Bash on Sunday, August 3 in Schenectady's Central Park. There will be a BBQ Buffet at the Central Park Pavilion from 5:00– 7:30, and blues concert at 7:00. Tickets are \$25. Call 395-3412 or contact Karen McLane at kmclane@schenectadyhabitat.org.

Designate your Mission of the Month offering by using the specially marked envelope in your box of offering envelopes. Need a box? Call Kristen Shave in our church office, 370-4751.

June Attendance

We report our monthly worship attendance to encourage you to faithfully gather on the Lord's Day, and invite others to join you.

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
June week #1	166	203
June week #2	224	229
June week #3	134	190
June week #4	174	164
June week #5	166	155
June Average	173	188
YTD Average	230	226

Family Finance Each month we report our giving. Here's how we gave in June and throughout the year.

<u>GIVING</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
June	\$29,704	\$27,606	\$2,098	8%
Total for the Year	\$152,860	\$153,651	\$-791	-1%

Summer Lunch Program

Free summer lunches will be served in Collins Park Monday through Friday, from 12:00 noon to 1:15 beginning Monday, June 24 and ending Friday, August 16. Schenectady Inner City Ministry coordinates the summer lunch program for city parks, with help from Union College who prepares the meals.



Our congregation will provide three or more volunteers for two weeks: July 15 – 19, and July 22 – 26. We are excited to be part of a Scotia lunch program again after a few years of not being able to provide lunch in Collins Park. We are asked to offer hospitality, serve the meals, and help clean up. Adults may bring children to help serve. We thank Martha Eberle, Dorothy Horstkotte, Linda Lewis, and Ann Armstrong for coordinating our two-week involvement.

Will you help? Please sign up on the sheet posted outside Pastor Craig's office.

Sunday School July & August

As we make our way through summer, it is a good idea to provide opportunities for our youth's Christian education. We will offer two Sunday School sessions, one in July and one in August. These sessions will be during church following the Children's Sermon, and will include age 4 to High School. We will focus on a theme, tie in scripture, and involve an activity for each session.

Sunday, July 13: Creation Care with a Nature Workshop

Sunday, August 17: Team Building with a Games Workshop

Youth Leader Search



On Sunday, June 22, we formally said good-bye to Kate Dulmes who has so excellently served us as our Youth Leader for the past school year. Kate and her husband Eric aren't going anywhere, they both work at KAPL and hope to continue volunteering to help with our youth. Thank you, Kate and Eric!

We have begun a search for a Youth Leader to begin this September. The job description is posted outside Pastor Craig's office. We are looking for someone to work 15 hours/week and lead a weekly meeting of our Junior and Senior high youth, and monthly meetings of our FROG's in Grades 3 – 5.

The Search Committee is made up of Paul Rooney, chair, Chris Bodden, Wendy Carpenter, Dave Schalekamp, Mike Torelli, and Pastor Jan. The deadline for applicants is Friday, July 18.

Please spread the word and pray for enthusiastic, committed youth leaders to apply. If you have ideas or questions, please be in touch with any of the Search Committee members.

Stephen Ministry Moments

Stephen Minister Al Carter writes our July Stephen Ministry Moment.

Listening – Part I

Stephen Ministry uses several approaches for interaction between a care receiver and caregiver. Perhaps the most fundamental and key approach is effective listening as a caring skill. Listening well is an active process involving several characteristics that need to be present to the listener: *desire*, *commitment* and *patience*.

Desire to listen is essential. It has often been said that a good conversationalist is a good listener. However, consider that the words listen and silent contain the same letters, simply arranged in a different order, illustrating that to listen well involves – silence.

Commitment is best described as follows: *ability* is what you are capable of doing, *motivation* determines what you do and *attitude* determines how well you do it. Stephen Ministers are trained to demonstrate their ability, are deeply motivated and present a positive attitude as a listener. They are committed to walking alongside their care receivers.

Patience is highlighted in 1 Corinthians 13:4, 7 when St. Paul wrote, “Love is patient.” This is an essential quality for the sincere listener. The Stephen Minister's presence to their care receiver is the present given in the caring relationship.

Won't you consider walking, praying and sharing your experience with a Stephen Minister?

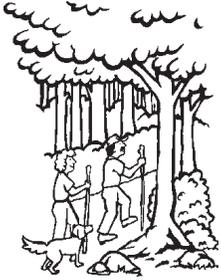
Al Carter
Stephen Minister

Stephen Ministry is a ministry of one-on-one Christian caregiving in which a trained Stephen Minister confidentially comes alongside a person going through a life crisis or hard time in order to listen and be present for as long as necessary. For more information contact Stephen Ministry Leader Cheryl MacNeil at (518) 382-8279.

Vacation Bible School

We are thrilled to be invited to share in the summer programming with Trinity Presbyterian this year. This summer's theme is “Get a Clue, Finding That Which Is Lost.” The schedule is **9:00 -12:00, Monday through Thursday, August 18 thru 21**. (NOTE this is a date change from the last posting.) Children age 4 through 13 are invited to attend. If older students are interested, there may be opportunities for junior leaders to participate. Adult volunteers are also welcome. Pick up a registration in the church office, or contact Coordinator of Christian Living Kristin Bodden for more information, 370-4751.

How To Address Camp Fowler Mail



During the summer we send mail to the Camp Fowler campers and volunteers from our church. If they get 3 pieces of mail during the week they get to kiss Bullwinkle the Moose on Saturday morning. We put notes in the bulletin and Messenger so we know who is going each week. Here are the people we have so far. All weeks start on Sunday.

- June 29, Week #20: Campers: Ethan Schalekamp, Ethan Szemansco,
- July 06, Week #30: Campers: Hanna Pitts, Brittney Schaefer
- July 13, Week #40: Campers: Paul Munson
- July 13, Week #42: Camper: Olivia Munson
- July 20, Week #50: Camper: Megan Carpenter
- July 27, Week #60: Camper: Grace Ackner, Nathan Jullien, Edward Rosenberg, Emilee Rosenberg, Rachel Rosenberg, Jordan Swearingen, Jack Szemansco, Maddie Westervelt, Ayanna Willoughby, Cheyenne Willoughby
- August 03, Week #70: Campers: Brad Faubion, Aubrey Pierce, Ethan Schalekamp
- August 10, Week #80: Campers: Rebecca Carpenter, Ethan Schalekamp, Ethan Szemansco, Ellie Zenner, Jordan Zenner

Here's how you need to address the envelopes:

Camp Fowler
Name, Week #
P.O. Box 131
Speculator, NY 12164-9801

Fowler Scholarships

Youth from our church who register for a week at Camp Fowler this summer will receive a church scholarship of \$150. So far twenty-two campers have let us know they're registered at Fowler. A list of campers is posted outside Pastor Jan's office. Please check to make sure your name is listed.

The church has paid your scholarship directly to Camp Fowler. You must still pay the \$100 non-refundable deposit when you register online. The scholarship will be applied to your unpaid balance, so that when you arrive at camp to register, the balance you owe will be \$150 less than it would otherwise be.

PLEASE NOTE: You need to contact either Coordinator of Christian Living Kristin Bodden or Pastor Jan Hoffman, 370-4751, after you have registered for camp and paid your deposit. **IF YOU DON'T CALL AND TELL US, WE DON'T KNOW YOU'RE REGISTERED!** We cannot send your scholarship money to Camp Fowler if we don't know that you've registered. Fowler doesn't tell us; only you can do that.

Visit www.campfowler.org to register online. Camp weeks are filling up. Don't delay!

Angel Pin Recipients



Rotation Sunday School Students have been participating in an ongoing mission project this year called Angel Mission Project. They have been working hard to follow Jesus' Two Great Commandments: to love God with all your heart and to love your neighbor as yourself. To illustrate these efforts, they have been learning more about God, the Bible and faith through reading, projects, asking questions and sharing stories. They have done service projects, such as planting, raking, cooking for others, sharing their time, donating items and creating artwork. They have attended church events, Sunday school, volunteered, sung with the choir and so much more! They received points for every special deed they completed. For every 50 points they worked towards, they earned an Angel Pin. Here are the results! We are so proud of you all, keep up the good work!!

6 Pins: Maddie Westervelt

5 Pins: Rachel Rosenberg and Hanna Pitts

4 Pins: Becca Carpenter

3 Pins: Brittney Schaefer and Ayanna Willoughby

2 Pins: Grace Ackner, Annie Gibson and Jack Gibson

1 Pin: Katherine Makrin, Vika Falcon, Jordan Zenner, Ellie Zenner, Kelly Kilgallen, Ed Rosenberg, Paul Munson, Alyssa Anderson, Nick Swain, Zack Swain, Alta Pirigyi, Jack Pierce, and Rheana Gravell

See the bulletin board outside the nursery for more information on these students!

Food Pantry Needs For July

Every week our bulletin lists the food most needed for the Scotia Food Pantry. Below are the items for July. Please place your donations in the container in the narthex or in the one outside Brink Hall. What a great offering we would give if **everyone** brought the weekly item!

There is **always** a need for bags and for monetary donations. Donations are used to purchase milk certificates and other items available at the Regional Food Bank for just 16 cents a pound. Make out your check to the First Reformed Church of Scotia and put "Food Pantry" on the memo line. Here are this month's food askings:

- July 6: Macaroni and Cheese
- July 13: Fruit
- July 20: Soups
- July 27: Peanut Butter

August Communion And MOM



We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at both the 8:00 and 10:00 services on Sunday, August 3. The Thanksgiving Offering received that day will be used for Camp Fowler Ministries. Camp Fowler Ministries will also be our August Mission of the Month.

Camp Fowler offers a summer camp experience to many campers this summer and to adult volunteers. To help make that summer experience, there are 30 summer staff and 25 or more SWiMs (Students Working in Ministry). Six churches are hosting week-long Day Camps for about 300 more youth. But Camp Fowler isn't just about summer camp. There are retreats held all year long in several facilities. We regularly use Fowler for women's and men's retreats. Fowler is a year-round ministry to many groups and individuals. See more information at: <http://www.campfowler.org/fundraising>.

The Reformed Churches of our region no longer assess themselves for Camp Fowler Ministries. Instead, Fowler needs to raise at least \$150,000 annually from churches, organizations and individuals who share its vision for ministry. Our offerings help provide that support – support all the more necessary because Fowler has tried to keep its user and camper fees as flat as possible.

We are proud of the number of Fowler youth, adult volunteers, and staff from our congregation. We contribute and receive incredible benefits from this partnership. Won't you consider the importance of this ministry and contribute generously to our August offerings?

Designate your Communion Thanksgiving offering by using the specially marked envelope in your box of offering envelopes. Need a box? Call Kristen in our church office, 370-4751.

July 2014 Calendar

Room Code

ML – Memorial Lounge
 BH – Brink Hall
 LH – Lakehill Room
 OF – Church Office
 BR – Bell Room
 S – Sanctuary
 RM 1 – Room 1
 RM 8 – Room 8
 RM 9 – Room 9
 RM 12 -- Room 12
 K -- Kitchen

Sunday, July 27

8:00 Worship –S
 10:00 Worship –S
 11:15 Coffee Hour -- outside on the
 plaza

Friday, July 4

* Offices Closed
 Happy Independence Day!

Sunday, July 6

8:00 Worship –on the plaza
 10:00 Worship –S
 11:15 Coffee hour -- outside on
 the plaza

Sunday, July 13

8:00 Worship –on the plaza
 10:00 Worship –S
 10:30 Sunday School -- Creation
 Care Theme
 11:15 Coffee hour -- outside on
 the plaza

Monday, July 14 - Friday, July 18

11:45 Serving Lunch in the Park

Monday, July 14

7:15 Consistory -- ML

Wednesday, July 16

1:30 Sharing and Caring -- ML

Sunday, July 20

8:00 Worship –outside on the plaza
 10:00 Worship –S
 11:15 Coffee Hour --outside on the
 plaza

Monday, July 21 - Friday, July 25

11:45 Serving Lunch in the Park

Tuesday, July 22

7:15 Buildings and Grounds ---ML

Thursday, July 24

7:15 Youth Leader Search
 Committee -- ML

August Anniversaries



Melanie and James Geiger	6
London and Rebecca Shepherd	6
Dave and Pam Walsh	6
Karl and Debra Griffith	8
Peter and Glenda Lewis	9
Cheryl and John Miller	9
Bruce and Barbara Wurz	11
Nelson and Jane Corby	14
Michael and Lynda Benedict	15
Kevin and Kate Oaks	17
Ron and June Shaw	22
Joe and Deb Rosemarino	23
Keith and Lynn Makrin	26
Patrick and Allison Beauchemin	28
Alex and Rebecca Ayers	29

August Birthdays

Janet Bekkering	3	Nancy Landry	17
Courtney Lee	5	Jack Pierce	17
Kate Oaks	5	Miles Torelli	17
Harrison Bicknell IV	7	Russ Garrison	19
Joe Homer	7	Jacob Page	19
Joyce Murray	7	Linea Kilgallen	20
David Libby	8	Sophia Pierce	20
Jimmy Frasca	10	Olivia Munson	21
Fern Lee	10	Alex Atchley	22
Craig Hoffman	12	David Page	22
Victoria Dykstra	14	Abbey Naumowicz	23
Barbara Robinson	14	Rebecca Jarczynski	24
Amanda Shults	14	Michael Marré	26
Karen Squires	15	Tee Munson	27
Jennifer Westervelt	15	Helen Nelson	29
Bill Shave, Jr.	16	Emily Kohout	29
Lauren Sill	16	Patrick Beauchemin	30
Jerry Hamm	17	Rylan Beauchemin	30

First Reformed Church of Scotia
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