

The Messenger

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

The Rev. Craig J. Hoffman

The Rev. Jan L. Hoffman

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From
Craig's
Desk

Voices of Faith

Voices of Faith: Five Who Show Us the Way is the title of a series of sermons that Pastor Jan and I will present this fall starting September 20. We will tell of some who have written about their faith. We may hear in them something of our own faith stories, or we may be encouraged to take new steps of faith as we hear how they deeply lived theirs.

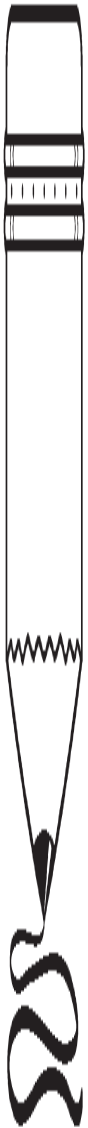
This front page letter is longer than usual because I want to give you just a bit of an introduction to these five Christians whose faith journeys will inspire our own. Here are the five we'll look at.

Augustine: St. Augustine (354 - 430) converted to Christianity as a young man and wrote the first-ever spiritual autobiography, simply called, *Confessions*. In it he tells his faith story. Augustine's story is the paradigm of conversion for many – once I was blind, but now I see. In a prayer, he writes, "You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee."

C. S. Lewis: Born in 1898, Clive Lewis was a WWI vet and an Oxford scholar who came to faith through his intellect. He writes of his intellectual struggle in, *Surprised By Joy*. "You must picture me alone in my study, night after night, feeling, whenever my mind lifted . . . , the steady, unrelenting approach of Him whom I so earnestly desired not to meet. That which I greatly feared had at last come upon me. In 1929 I gave in, and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed: perhaps the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England. I did not then see what is now the most obvious thing; the divine humility which will accept a convert even on such terms. The Prodigal Son at least walked home on his own feet. But who can duly adore that Love which will open the high gates to a prodigal who is brought in kicking, struggling, resentful, and darting his eyes in very direction for a chance of escape? The hardness of God is kinder than the softness of men, and His compulsion is our liberation."

Bonhoeffer: Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945) was a German theologian. For a time he taught in New York City, but he boarded one of the last ships back to Germany before war broke out, convinced that he was called to suffer with his people there. Once, while delivering a radio lecture in Berlin, he flayed the German public for its hankering after a "leader" who would inevitably become a "misleader." The broadcast was cut off before he had finished. Involved and discovered in a plot to kill Hitler, Bonhoeffer was imprisoned and later hanged by the Gestapo. Bonhoeffer wrote this about the cost of discipleship: "When Christ calls a man, he bids him to come and die."

. . . continued on next page



- Lamott: Anne Lamott, b. 1954, is a contemporary writer. Her faith story includes being embraced by a congregation and its music: “One week later, when I went back to that church, I was so hungover that I couldn’t stand up for the songs, It was as if the people were singing in between the notes, weeping and joyful at the same time, and I felt like their voices or *something* was rocking me in its bosom, holding me like a scared kid, and I opened up to that feeling – and it washed over me.”
- Tutu: Desmond Tutu, b. 1931, is the retired Anglican Bishop of Cape Town, South Africa. His name is synonymous with the non-violent struggle against apartheid there, and later with the South African government’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Tutu said this: “No one is a nonentity. For our God, everybody is a somebody. All life belongs to Him. Because of Him all life is religious. There are no false dichotomies so greatly loved by those who are comfortable in this life. Consequently, if you say you love God, whom you have not seen, and hate your brother whom you have, the Bible does not use delicate language; it does not say you are guilty of terminological inexactitude. It says bluntly that you are a liar. The divine judgment about our fitness for heaven will be based not on whether we went to church, whether we prayed or did other equally important religious things. No, Jesus says it will be based on whether we fed the hungry, clothed the naked. We do this not because of our politics, but because of our religion.”

The fall is a time of new beginnings in the program life of congregations. I hope that his fall’s sermon series encourages new beginnings of faith in you and in me.

**Thank You
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 Eula Wilds thanking the church for flowers taken to her.
- From Martha Eberle thanking everyone for their acts of kindness, visits, phone calls and get-well wishes after her heart surgery.
- From Mary Davis thanking the church for flowers and a visit by Pastor Craig.
- From Eileene Fordham and family thanking the church for love and thoughtfulness extended to them during Ron’s illness and for our help in Ron’s Celebration of Life service.

**Milestones
In Our
Congregation**

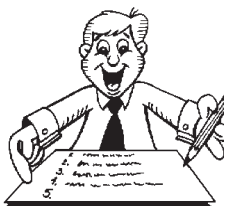
Here are some milestones in the lives of people in our congregation.

Congratulations:

- To David Schalekamp who has completed the requirements for a masters degree in education at the College of St. Rose.
- To Patrick Beauchemin and Allison Shoemaker who were married in our sanctuary on August 28.

**Attendance
Reported**

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



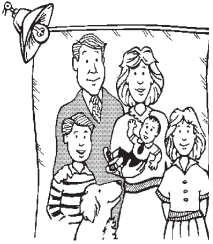
	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
August week #1	176	158
August week #2	125	171
August week #3	156	167
August week #4	126	148
August week #5	132	144
August Average	143	158
YTD Average	215	226

Beth Worthley Steps Down

Since July, 2000 our own Beth Worthley has served as the Secretary/Treasurer to our Board of Cemetery Trustees. Beth has done a faithful and careful job, but she has recently told the board that she needs to resign her position. We thank her for her years of service.

If you are interested in knowing more about the Board of Cemetery Trustees' Secretary/Treasurer position, please call the board's president, Ken Willcox at 356-3890. Other board members are Jane Corby, Bill Faulkner, Erv Grant, Harris Gregory Jr., Mike Marré and Bill Miner.

Get Your Photo Taken



One of the finest tools we have for telling our community about our church is our Brink Hall photo board. Whenever people gather in Brink Hall for a wedding or funeral reception or for an event sponsored by a group that has rented the hall, you can be sure that people who do not go to our church will wander over to the photo board to see who we are. Those whose images are there reach out to our community and say: "I worship here. I am part of First Reformed Church; you come, too." We thank all these people for their witness.

On the first three Sundays of October church photographer Brian Schaefer will be here before and after worship with his camera to take our pictures. Many of us need to have new photos taken for our photo board because we change from year to year. Moreover, many of us need to have photos taken for the first time. So please, help us reach out to our community. A personal witness for Christ could never be easier than this. Make sure that Brian takes your picture before or after worship on Sundays October 4, 11 or 18. Your image on our photo board makes our outreach stronger.

Grant For Solar Panels Written

In July our consistory invited a presentation by the staff of Adirondack Solar of Albany, New York, a company that designs and installs renewable energy systems. Pursuant to its stated goal of helping us become a greener congregation, our consistory wanted to learn about photovoltaic electrical generating (PV) systems, and whether or not one might be cost effective for our church. Coincidentally, we learned that the federal government has given economic stimulus funds to NYSERDA, the New York Energy Research and Development Authority, for grants to help fund energy efficiency projects. These grants can provide up to 100% of the funding for renewable energy projects like the very one our consistory was already investigating.

In response we have submitted a grant application for \$59,000 to NYSERDA in hopes that we may benefit from this federal stimulus money. We have also informed our representative, the Honorable Paul Tonko, of our application. Your consistory will let you know when we hear of NYSERDA's action relative to our grant application.

Essential 100 Class Will Begin

The Essential 100 is a plan of Bible reading designed especially for people who want a broad overview of the scriptures, and who want the encouragement that comes from reading the texts and talking about their meaning with others. *The Essential 100* selects 50 lessons from the Old Testament and another 50 from the New Testament, and then bundles these lessons into groups of five – twenty groups of five in all. The essential 100 texts can thus be read over a twenty-week period.

Pastor Craig Hoffman will lead twenty weeks of *The Essential 100* this coming program year on Wednesdays starting October 7. Three sessions of *The Essential 100* will be offered each Wednesday: one from 6:30 to 7:30 in the morning, another from 12:15 to 1:15 with participants invited to bring a brown bag lunch, and another from 7:15 to 8:30 in the evening. Participants may move from one session to another as their schedules require.

Watch for signup sheets to be posted after Labor Day.

No Family Finances This Month

Each month we report our giving. This month because of the Labor Day holiday we have not had time to complete our reports. Look for the information next month.

Participate In Our Music Groups



Music is one of the joys of our Church. We are blessed with gifted people who lead our choirs and instrumental ensembles. Our music program begins again in September after a summer recess. There is a place for you in it, and opportunities for you to enjoy music with others and support our worship of God. All of our choirs and ensembles are open to members and non-members alike.

- Our **Sanctuary Choir** is for high school, college and adult singers. You do not need to read music, for anthems are rehearsed far enough in advance so even non-readers have time to learn them. The Sanctuary Choir rehearses in the sanctuary on Thursday evenings at 7:30 beginning September 10. Rebecca Shepherd is the director. Call Rebecca at 393-9862 to find out more.
- The **Youth Music Group** is for youth, 4th grade on up. The Youth Music Group rehearses Sunday mornings from 11:15 to 11:45 in the Rainbow Room, Room 15, right after Sunday School, starting September 20. The Youth Music Group will learn and prepare music to support our worship, and will also learn hand bell skills. The Youth Music Group will be led by John Hoffman and Tee Munson. Call John, 727-2626, or Tee, 895-9097, to find out more.
- Our **Cherub Choir** program for children, K through 3rd grade is expanded this year. This year children and young people in our Cherub Choir may also ring our choir chimes and play our Orff instruments. The Cherub Choir rehearses Sunday mornings from 11:15 to 11:45 in Room 8 right after Sunday School, starting September 20. Diana Ackner and Judson Hoffman are the directors. Call Diana, 381-1695, for more information.
- Our **Te Deum Bell Choir** for high school ringers rehearses Sunday mornings before worship from 9:00 to 9:40 in the Bell Room beginning September 20. John Hoffman is the director. Call John at 727-2626 to find out more.
- Our **Morning Bell Choir** for adult ringers rehearses Thursday mornings from 9:00 to 9:45 in the Bell Room beginning September 17. This group reaches out to local nursing homes, and is especially suited for new ringers. Terry Paulson is this bell choir's director. Call Terry at 374-0004 to find out more.

You Can Purchase Anthems For Choir

Several times each year our Sanctuary Choir leads our worship using anthems purchased by someone in our church. Oftentimes they are purchased by one of us in honor or in memory of some special person or some special event. You also may purchase a piece of new music for one of our vocal choirs or ensembles. Here's how:

Rebecca Shepherd, our Director of Music Ministry, purchases the anthems. She knows best the abilities of our choirs and ensembles. She also knows what we have in our collection of music, and what our needs are for new music. If you would like to purchase music for the church, call Rebecca at 393-9862 and arrange for a time to meet with her. She'll be happy to consult with you. A piece of new music can cost anywhere from \$125 to \$160.

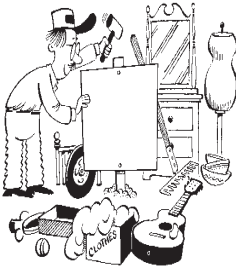
Organ Improved

We made some improvements to our church's organ this summer. For many years the large moveable vertical shades that surround some of the organ's pipes have not functioned properly. These shades allow our organist to give expression to the music, and to change the volume without adding or subtracting stops. This mechanism now functions properly. These improvements to our organ were made possible by our own Nelson Austin in memory of his wife Marcia. Thank you, Nelson!

Clip Coupons For Military Families

Did you know that overseas military families can use manufacturer's coupons up to six months past the expiration date at their commissary?. Let's see what we can do to help. Carolyn Norris, who has a son-in-law in the military, will be glad to take your contributions and send them to her friends Anec' and Bill who live in Germany. There is a box in the Mail Room for your contributions. Thanks for your support.

Dutch Fair Needs You!



Our 61st Dutch Fair is Saturday, September 19, from 9:00 to 3:00, with a Chicken ‘n Biscuit Dinner from 4:00 to 7:00. Dutch Fairs let us welcome people to our campus, and help many with inexpensive clothing and household goods, baby furniture and toys. We also offer holiday decorations, used books and jewelry, as well as plants, crafts, a silent auction, fast food, cider and donuts, home baked goodies, and an evening meal. Dutch Fair income helps us make major improvements to our church, like our new sanctuary steps. We need you! Here’s how you can help:

- Dutch Fair posters are on the pew in the narthex and on the stage in Brink Hall. Pick some up and distribute them to the public bulletin boards you frequent.
- Help set up on Friday evening, September 18. Meet at the church between 6:00 and 6:30, or whenever you can get there.
- Help us break down when the Dutch Fair is over. Come to church at 2:30 or 3:00 on Saturday.
- Help clean up Brink Hall after the dinner. Come to Brink Hall about 7:00.
- Divide and pot your plants for our Plant Booth. We also need bittersweet and Japanese lanterns for fall decorating. Call Carol Arnold, 393-4968, to find out more.
- Our Book Nook needs used books, **but not encyclopedias, National Geographics, or Readers Digest condensed books.** Leave your donation outside Room 1. Call Kurt or Donna Ahnert, 346-6781, to find out more.
- The Jewelry Booth needs donations of used pins, rings, etc. Bring them to the church office. Call Marge or Chris Almy, 372-0951, with any questions.
- Our White Elephant booth needs your gently used household goods. They also need medium and large-sized boxes and bags. Please do not bring suitcases **except ones with wheels and no locks!** We welcome new leaders this year to help long-time leader Duane Van Patten. Thanks to Deb Rosemarino, 393-0741, and Glenda Lewis, 346-6809.
- Our Next-to-New booth needs your good, clean used clothing. Please, **no drapes and no shoes.** This booth also welcomes new leaders: Becky Penn, her mother Joyce Gaudreau, and her grandmother Dorothy Davis, and also Aileen Reinhart.
- Our Holiday Booth needs decorations for all the holidays – lights, mugs, tablecloths etc. Bring them to Brink Hall. Call Kathy Lehman, 355-5301, or Cindy Goodrich, 598-9712, to find out more.
- We need Silent Auction items, but please, only items that have a sale value of at least \$20. Cash to purchase auction items will be accepted gladly. Call Vida Durnford, 399-2022.
- Youth, 4th through 12th grades: Please sign up to work at the Kiddie Fair. Shifts are available from 9:00 to 3:00.

Call any of our three Dutch Fair Chairpeople to volunteer: Lee Poremba, 381-9609; Richard Doyle, 399-6135; or John Lehman, 355-5301. They are anxious to hear from you.

Thank You Sent To Fowler Volunteers

Thank you to the twenty adults from our church who volunteered their time and energy at Camp Fowler this summer: Sunny Baldwin, Richard Doyle, Linda Falcon, Bill Foos, Jan Hoffman, Betsey Homer, Heather Kramer, Paul and Tee Munson, Carolyn Norris, Andrew Oaks, Kim and Ed Rosenberg, June Shaw, Amanda Shults, Tracy and Amy Swearingen, Mike Szemansco, Pam and Dave Walsh. We’ll all meet for a follow-up to our summer experience on Wednesday, September 9 at 7:00 in Memorial Lounge.

Discipleship Project Offers New Opportunities



So what have you been doing this summer to grow in faith? The Discipleship Project offered many opportunities, and we're eager to hear what others are doing to stimulate their spiritual growth. We know that more than 20 people went to Camp Fowler. If you're one, be sure to fill out a card if you haven't already done so. Credits will be earned for Table Talk, and in October we will start a Wednesday series based called *the 100 Essential Passages of the Bible*.

If you have read some books or attended spiritual events, be sure to complete the "Wild Card." Also, keep looking at the Discipleship Project Bulletin Board between Pastor Jan's and Pastor Craig's offices for new opportunities. The CRTC (Capital Region Theological Center) has many new fall offerings, including a retreat at Camp Fowler. Be sure to check out www.SpiritualRX.com for their new on-line courses.

As more information comes in, new cards will be created. Each card will have the name of the opportunity, a brief description of the course, location, any cost, and the number of credits. Our goal is to have every adult earning 5 credits, and our whole church earning 500 credits by December 31. We're already more than half way there, so we're sure we can do it!

MOM For September Is Samaritan Counseling Center

The Mission of the Month for September is the Samaritan Counseling Center's Care Fund. The Care Fund provides help for people who need ongoing counseling but whose insurance doesn't provide for long-term care. The pastors regularly refer people to the Samaritan Counseling Center which provides mental health care for individuals and couples, care for people suffering from abuse, care for people with addiction issues, and consulting services for religious professionals and congregations. There is individual and regular group therapy available.

Mental health coverage is often lacking or severely restricted in the insurance coverage that many people have. As a consequence there is a critical need for the Care Fund so that individuals or couples don't have to stop therapy prematurely for lack of money. Please give generously to the Samaritan Care Fund by using your September yellow envelope in your box of giving envelopes.

Do you ever wonder if the Samaritan Center could be of help to you? Please call the Counseling Center, 374-3514, for an appointment or for help. Speak to either of our pastors if you'd like to know more.

Book Group Offers New Selections

Join other readers in your church family at 7:15 on the second-to-the-last Tuesday of the month for a discussion of a good book, and what that book may show us about our faith or about the world in which we live out our faith. There is no need to sign up. Just get the book, read it, and join in. Here's the schedule:

- Tuesday, September 22, Pastor Jan Hoffman and Coordinator for Christian Living Sunny Baldwin review *Hunting for Hope* by Scot Sanders. This book was the basis of the theme of this past summer's weeks at Camp Fowler. If you know a youth or a child who went to camp this summer, he or she was affected by this book. Come and discuss it with two who served as Fowler chaplains, Jan and Sunny.
- Tuesday, October 20, Carolyn Norris will lead a discussion of *Travelling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith* by Anne Lamott. This is the spiritual biography of a contemporary author with a troubled past who, against all odds, comes to believe in God and then in herself.

Nursery Needs Volunteers

Our Nursery is for infants and toddlers up to four years old. Each Sunday from September to June, we try to staff our Nursery with volunteers. Volunteer Nursery workers, who can be adults or teens, arrive by 9:45 before 10:00 worship and stay until children are picked up after worship. Often parents also come in with the child. We are currently looking for volunteers for this fall. If you can volunteer and have a date that works best for you, please call Coordinator of Christian Living Sunny Baldwin at home, 374-9276.

We ask parents to fill out a registration card for each child the first time you visit our nursery. After that we ask you to sign your child in on the clipboard, so we know who is there.

Join Us At The Regional Food Bank

Mindful of our consistory's long-term goal of encouraging and enabling us to be involved in hands-on missions, our Congregational Care Council is organizing a group of volunteers to work at the Regional Food Bank, 965 Albany Shaker Road (on the road to the airport). We are scheduled to work from 3:00 to 5:00 on Sunday afternoon, October 18. They can take up to 25 people at one time to work. We'll meet at the church and carpool to the Food Bank. If you'd like to be part of our team, sign up on the sheet posted outside Pastor Craig's office, or contact the church office, 370-4751.

Food Of The Week Listed For September

Every week in the bulletin we publish the food most needed by the Schenectady Inner City Ministry Food Pantry. Below are the items needed in September. 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!



We have received a note from the director of the program, Gail VanValkenburgh, who asks that we include dry mixes, tuna helper, potato dishes and noodle mixes in our summer donations. Children are out of school and are eating more food at home during the summer months. The food program always needs baby formula (Enfamil w/iron) and cash donations.

There is **always** a big need for brown paper bags as well as 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 "SICM Food Pantry" on the memo line.

- September 6: Canned fruit
- September 13: Baby formula
- September 20: Rice and crackers
- September 27: Soups

Donate Your Garden's Bounty To The Harvest Dinner

The Food and Faith group will meet on Monday, September 21 at 7:00. Please join us to discuss plans for the Harvest Dinner which will be held on October 24. We would like to get an idea of the produce and herbs that will be available for the dinner. All gardeners who are harvesting with the dinner in mind, please let us know how your garden is growing. Contact Bill and Natalie Monaghan at 399-1102 or charltonflyer@aol.com and let them know what you might be able to donate.

Please also remember we will have the Harvest Table available to share your surplus produce after worship for another couple of weeks. Whether you have one or 100 extra tomatoes to share, any quantity of herbs, flowers and produce will be appreciated.

Area Students Need School Supplies

You may be surprised to hear that there are students in our local suburban districts who come to school without the necessary supplies. Michele Frasca is a Burnt Hills School District social worker who is aware of families who cannot purchase basic supplies. This is a source of great embarrassment to the students who come to school looking "different". Donations of the following items can really help: #2 pencils, crayons, fine tip markers, highlighters, colored pencils, erasers, composition notebooks, scissors, glue sticks, loose leaf paper, 2 pocket folders of assorted solid colors, and 1 subject spiral notebooks. Michele will collect and distribute these items to students in need. This is a great way to minister to local families. Put your donations in the box by the church office by Sunday, September 20.

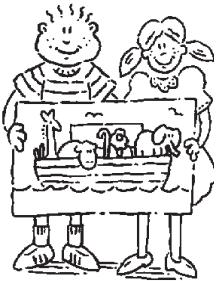
Bottle Ladies Offer Report

Our Bottle Ladies report that two checks were sent out from your donations of returnable bottles and cans. Shirley Taft sent a check for \$73 to City Mission and \$73 to Bethesda House. You can see from this that every 5-cent returnable bottle or can is really important. Thanks for your continued support.

Elders Sought For S/G English Class Project

Amanda Faulkner, a Scotia-Glenville English teacher in our church, is once again seeking community elders who are willing to join her 10th Grade English intergenerational project. If you volunteered last year, participated in the program in the past, or have never taken part in it but would like to learn more about it, please call Amanda at 386-4227, or e-mail her at afaulkner@sgcsd.net. This is a wonderful opportunity to make a positive difference in some young person's life, and also discover all that you actually have in common with today's younger generation!

Sunday School Starts September 13



Sunday School classes resume September 13 at 10:00 worship. Youth, from four-year-olds through high school seniors, leave worship during the second hymn for their own time of learning Christ's way.

- Our Children & Worship Center for pre-K through 3rd graders will meet upstairs in Room 7. Follow the pink Arrows. Joanna Clark and Heather Kramer will be the teachers. Adults who do not teach but who are present to help the children and support the teachers are called "greeters." We can use some more greeters this fall. It's important for children to attend the first four weeks of classroom orientation to get into the routine of the worship center. Please speak to Joanna to know more.
- Our class for 4th and 5th graders will meet upstairs in Room 9. Follow the green arrows. Friends are always welcome to come along to class! Marty Gilgore and Linda Naumowicz are teaching this class, which uses *Seasons of the Spirit*, a lectionary based curriculum.
- Our Middle School Class is for 6th, 7th and 8th graders. Follow the yellow arrows to Room 5. Claudia Garrison and Margo Snyder will be leading the class in the fall. This class also uses *Seasons of the Spirit*.
- Our Senior High Class is for 9th through 12th graders. It meets in the Youth Room, downstairs in Room 12. Follow the blue arrows. Bob Baldwin will be teaching this class, using a current events curriculum, *The Wired Word*. Check it out at www.thewiredword.com.

If your child is new to Sunday School or is changing rooms, please help him or her find the new room before 10:00 worship on September 13. Children and youth are dismissed from worship for education classes around 10:30. Younger children can go to Cherub Choir rehearsal following their worship center time. Cherub Choir, directed by Diana Ackner, is held in the choir room just off the sanctuary.

Plans are underway for a great year with some new activities. We are still recruiting teachers and greeters for later his year. If you have a love of children, please call Sunny Baldwin, 374-9276, to find a place for you. Come join us!!

Youth Groups Plan For Fall Activities

This year parents of youth in Grades 4 through 8 are busy planning the programs for the FROGS. FROGS (who Fully Rely On God) will meet twice a month, usually on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. Each family is asked to plan for two gatherings, which can be here at church or activities away from the church. Adults who enjoy working with energetic youth, who have a sense of humor, and who can help organize and plan activities are welcome to assist.

September's schedule is different: on Sunday, September 13, plans are underway for a game day. We will have more details in the bulletin that Sunday.

All youth in Grades 4 through 12 are asked to reserve Saturday, September 19 to work at the Kiddie Fair portion of our Dutch Fair. Youth are needed to help run the games. Sign up sheets will be available Sunday, September 13. Senior High youth are asked to help serve our Chicken 'N Biscuit Dinner that night from 4:30 to 7:00. Call Sunny Baldwin, 374-9276, if you can help in any way.

Volunteer Opportunities



Anne Lamott, one whose faith story we'll pay attention to in worship later this fall, wrote this about the congregation that embraced her in faith and helped the Spirit of God nurture her to health when she was in terrible trouble with addiction and personal problems.

Our pastor told us this story: When she was about seven, her best friend got lost one day. The little girl ran up and down the streets of the big town where they lived, but she couldn't find a single landmark. She was very frightened. Finally a policeman stopped to help her. He put her in the passenger seat of his car, and they drove around until she finally saw her church. She pointed it out to the policeman and then she told him firmly, "You can let me out now. This is my church, and I can always find my way home from here."

And that is why I have stayed so close to mine – because no matter how bad I am feeling, when I see the faces of the people at my church, and hear their tawny voices I can always find my way home.

That's what congregations do; they help people find their way home. This ministry of welcome and inclusion is called hospitality. Hospitality takes people. Hospitality can't take place without people. If our church is to be hospitable, it takes YOU. It takes some of your time, but not a whole lot of it. It takes some of your effort, but not so much that you'll be worn out. The hardest part is first saying yes. Here are some things we need people to say yes to. No one needs say yes to them all, but everyone needs to say yes to at least one. What will you say yes to?

- We need people willing to help provide hospitality after funerals – to make some baked goods, and to help serve.
- We need people willing to take their turn hosting our after worship coffee hours. Without people they can't happen.
- We need people willing to prepare a meal and deliver it to someone recuperating from a hospital stay.
- We need people willing to give another a ride to worship.
- We need people to greet before worship.

Starting Sunday, September 13 and continuing through the month, we will have sign up sheets for you to say yes to some of these vital things we need to be the hospitable place we are called to be.

What Happened To The Wheat?

Last fall Bill Faulkner and Dan Brudos planted some winter wheat in the churchyard on the north side of our property. Mid-August Bill, Amanda and Micah Faulkner, and Pastor Craig Hoffman harvested it – a task that consisted of picking the spears of this grass-like crop out from the clutches of the weeds that had grown up with them. When harvest was done, there was one fine sheaf of winter wheat. Now what?

On September 13, the first day of Sunday School, we'll display our sheaf on the communion table along with some grapes, remembering Jesus' words, "I am the true vine," and "I am the bread of life". The following week we'll display the grain that we'll thresh from the wheat, and the week after that the flour that we'll grind from the grain. Then on October 4, the next Sunday, we'll use that flour in making some homemade bread for our celebration of the Lord's Supper on World Communion Sunday.

Adult Discussion Group Begins Again

Table Talk is an after-worship discussion time for adult learners. It meets from 11:30 to 12:15 in the Lakehill Room, beginning on Sunday, September 20. This fall Table Talk will build on the sermon series that Pastors Craig and Jan Hoffman will deliver called, "Voices of Faith: Five Who Show Us the Way." (Read the front page of this issue of *The Messenger* to find out more.) At Table Talk we will use video clips to learn more about these people who have shaped the faith for so many others. There is no cost and you are welcome to attend any or all of the sessions.

October Anniversaries



Ken and Anne Fetter	2
Brendon and Jennifer Getter	2
Paul and Heather Kramer	5
Cliff and Carole Tygert	5
Chris and Marge Almy	7
Jerry and Norma Hamm	8
Paul and Teresa Munson	8
Tom and Jane Lansing	9
Gordon and Vida Durnford	13
Steve and Renee Eddy	13
Ken and Colleen Benedetto	21
Mark and Denise Lansing	23
Michael and Linea Kilgallen	24
David and Faith Libby	29
Donald and Audrey Crawford	31

October Birthdays

Joel Clark	1	Joshua Marré	19
Betsey Homer	2	Patty Marré	22
Barbara Harland	2	Beverly Crandall	23
Ed LeGere, Jr.	4	MaryLou Erdman	23
Ken Marks	5	Deborah Gwinn	23
Michael Naumowicz	5	Bob Konczeski	23
Lee Poremba	5	Edward Rosenberg III	23
Kylie George	6	Shirley Taft	23
Dot Stewart	6	Monica Rosenberg	24
Marlene Caldwell	7	Mary VanPatten	24
Theresa Griesche	8	Aaron Wade	24
Heath Ahnert	9	Bruce Wurz	24
Beverly Vititow-Willis	10	Michael Benedict	25
Nicholas DeBrita	11	Diane Faubion	26
Jan LeGere	14	Joan Casper	30
Ed Bogardus	15	Annaliese Conley	30
Thelma Combs	15	Lynda Benedict	31
Kate Penn	15	Emily Pierce	31
Carlton Roseboom	18	Ken Talbot	31
Evan Marré	19		

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