



The Companion

June - July - August 2014



Pastor Bob with Rev. Dave Hondorp who is already getting to know Janice Grace; Pastor Dave loves our music!

Meet Rev. Dave Hondorp, Interim Minister

Rev. Dave Hondorp is no stranger to the Reformed Churches of the Hudson Valley. He was for almost 20 years the pastor of the Hopewell Reformed Church (he is since then their "Pastor Emeritus"), retiring in 1997. Since then he has been the interim pastor of many churches in Dutchess and Ulster Counties. **Pastor Bob and Pastor Dave** have been friends for 16 years.

Rev. Hondorp was born and raised in Grand Rapids, MI, and received his B.A. from Hope College in Holland, MI and his M.Div. from Western Theological Seminary, also in Holland, MI. Both are institutions of the Reformed Church in America. He pastored the Central Reformed Church in Paterson, NJ and Grace Reformed Church in Brooklyn, before he came to Hopewell Reformed in Hopewell Jct. In 1978.

His interim experiences include: Old Dutch Reformed Church, Kingston, NY; Fair Street Reformed Church, Kingston, NY; Rhinebeck Reformed Church, Rhinebeck, NY; Pleasant Plains Presbyterian Church, Staatsburg, NY; Hopewell Reformed and Fishkill Reformed (covering sabbaticals of Rev. Taylor Holbrook and Rev. Gloria McCanna); First Presbyterian Church of Pleasant Valley, NY and the Lyall Memorial

Federated Church in Millbrook, NY. Most of these interims were about two years in length, until the new pastoral leadership arrived on site.

Dave and his wife Marvelle had six children and six grandchildren, sadly losing a grandson and a son. They are grateful that they all live relatively near.

Pastor Dave said, "We are excited about being a part of the Poughkeepsie Reformed Church family." Marvelle will be singing with the chancel choir.

*Sunday, June 8,
Consistory Elections for
2014-2015:
After Worship*

Vera Vanwagner Celebrates Her 110th Birthday; Joined Our Church in 1927

The sign below stood roadside on Rt 308 at the entrance to The Community at Brookmeade just east of the village of Rhinebeck. The grand two-hour event pictured (notice Vera's tiara) celebrated Vera Vanwagner's birthday, May 24, the oldest resident in Dutchess County. Vera lives in one of the three residences at Brookmeade, the one called "The Baptist Home," the long term care complex. Vera joined the church in 1927. Elder Steve Wing and Pastor Bob have, every year, presented Vera with a Christmas poinsettia on behalf of the congregation, both in Poughkeepsie and in the Baptist home.



Dear Church Family and Friends,

My final **Companion!**

And this coming

Sunday is my final Communion with you. It is the month of "last things."

Cherrill and I will miss you all hugely. The idea of rising on a Sunday morning and going to a different church is spiritually off-putting to put it mildly. Every Christian needs a worship "home" with many dear friends. You all are that to us.

Mary Linge's words are words of blessing and vision. Her reference to the "next 300 years" reminds me to say that our 300th anniversary comes up in October of 2016. We are already involved with Fishkill Reformed (we are twin churches, born the same day by the same Reformed pastor) in preparing a grand celebration. Talk to Linda Sandberg about being involved. **Note: you should have your new minister by then!**

A word about Rev. Hondorp. He is the best there is; you can see the long list of churches that have been blessed by his ministry. He is thoughtful and creative and enjoys ministry and life. He is super-accessible!

I look forward to Friday, the 13th at the Grand Hotel. I know the consistory (Vice President Bill Bakker, coordinator) is prepared to help any of you with a "pick up" if you would rather not drive yourself.

A final word. The Church, local and universal, is the Body of Christ and He is the Head of that body. He created that body on Pentecost by bestowing the Holy Spirit on each of his brothers and sisters. We are all alike. But he gave different gifts to each of us. We are all different. In the days to come, be faithful to Jesus and to the person he has gifted you to be. Poughkeepsie Reformed needs you to be both as together you pray and walk into the future of your congregational presence and ministry in Poughkeepsie.

I leave you this blessing of Paul as he departed from his loved church in Ephesus: "So now I commit you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and give you the inheritance among all those whom God has sanctified." (Acts 20:32).

In faith, *hope and love,*

Pastor Bob

To our Pastor,

This will be the last newsletter you will put together for us. We're facing many "lasts" as you get set to retire on June 30th. We will miss you dearly, that is without question.

But we are grateful. Grateful to God that you have been our Minister of Word and Sacrament for sixteen years. Grateful to Cherrill for sharing you with us. Grateful to you for...the teaching and the preaching...the worship and Sacraments...the prayers and the counsel...the visits and the companionship...the book studies and the Strawberry Festival dinners...teaching our children and grandchildren who God is and how much Jesus loves us...challenging us to be the people God intended us to be...and so much more.

We've been listening all these years, and while we will miss you beyond words, we're not afraid of what lies ahead for us. We're going to continue to serve our Lord Jesus Christ with passion and intention. We're going to care for each other even better than we had before. We're going to reach out to our neighborhood, our country and our world and see what we can do to spread the love of Christ to everyone who needs it. We're going to embrace the Pastors that God leads to us for the next 300 years. You'll be proud of us, because you have taught us well.

We wish you and Cherrill the very best in retirement. May your days be filled with joy, happiness, contentment and peace, and may God hold you in the palm of his hand. Blessings on you, Pastor Bob.

Mary Linge

On behalf of a grateful congregation.

Weekday Nursery School Zoo and Train Trips and Graduation End the Year

by Laura Cothren, Director

The time has come for the end of another wonderful year at the Weekday Nursery School! The month of May has

been a busy one for both of our classes. As they do each year both classes have a butterfly house in their rooms where the children make daily observations of the life cycle of the butterfly. To the delight of the children, each class now has 10-12 butterflies that have emerged from their chrysalis. Soon we will be taking them outside to release them back to nature!

Mrs. Foster and Mrs. Potter's 3's class spent the last few weeks studying animals in preparation for their trip to the Trevor Zoo in Millbrook. The children and their families had a wonderful time walking through the zoo and enjoying a picnic lunch together. **Mrs. Cothren and Mrs. Tomasko's 4's** also had a great end of the year adventure. We all met at the Poughkeepsie train station and traveled by train to Beacon. We then walked to the lovely Beacon waterfront and playground area. The children and their siblings had lots of fun playing on the equipment, frolicking in the park, and of course, enjoying some snacks! A few hours later we all boarded the train back home to Poughkeepsie.

The children have all been preparing for our end of the year celebrations. Wednesday, June 4th is our last day of school and our family year-end picnic on the church lawn. On Thursday, June 5th at 10:45, the three year olds will be having their **Moving Up Celebration**. They will sing some songs for their parents and have a yummy ice cream social. Finally, on Friday, June 6th at 10:30, the four year olds will have their **Graduation Celebration**. Again the children will sing songs, receive their diplomas and enjoy some snacks.

This end of the school year will also bring some other changes to the school staff. **Mrs. Melanie Potter** will be retiring after 12 years as a teaching assistant at the school. She has been a kind, energetic and loving member of the RCWNS family. We are so grateful for her dedication to the school and the children. We will miss her and wish her all the best in the future!

I will also be retiring this year. It has been my pleasure to have been part of the school for the past 8 years as the 4 year old's teacher and, these last two years, as the Director also. It has been a joy for me to meet such lovely families and to nurture their children. I also feel privileged to have been a part of the RCWNS family and work with such experienced, kind and loving people. Thank you to **Pastor Bob, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Tomasko, Mrs. Potter, and the Nursery School Board** for all your help and guidance. I will miss you all very much.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

JUNE

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - George Tilley
- 3 - Soyla Steltenkamp
- 8 - Cathy Tomasco
- 17 - Debbie Wiands, Mikchail Zverev
- 20 - Gail Simon
- 19 - Tory Kautz
- 29 - Stephanie Holt
- 30 - David Steltenkamp

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 - David & Adrienne Wiese - 69 yrs.
- 4 - Bob & Cherrill Geehan - 48 yrs.
- 8 - Bill & Betty Bakker - 52 yrs.
- 26 - Brendan & Meg Boyce - 21 yrs.

JULY

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Kaitlin Rose
- 6 - Eleanor Slonaker
- 13 - Roy Dunham, Dick Herodes
- 22 - Donna Benedict
- 23 - Chip Simon
- 25 - Janice Grace
- 26 - Marilyn Ronk
- 27 - Deanne Flynn

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 - Jim & Gail Seymour - 47
- 3 - Don & Nancy Jacob - 38
- 16 - John & Naomi Van Steenburgh - 65
- Jay & Donna Benedict - 37
- 23 - Forrest & Phyllis Cousens - 64

AUGUST

BIRTHDAYS

- 3 - Barbara Markell
- 7 - Shirley Denhardt Emrich
- 11 - Paul Holt
- 12 - John Atherton, Karen Murphy
- 13 - Lynne Ryan
- 14 - David Wiese
- 15 - Evelyn Stevenson
- 19 - Diane Gensler
- 22 - Naomi Van Steenburgh
- 23 - Melanie Potter
- 24 - Analise Kautz
- 27 - Natalie Wood
- 28 - Christopher Parks

ANNIVERSARIES

- 13 - Dick & Connie Herodes - 54
- 15 - Paul & Stephanie Holt - 31
- 17 - Bob & Barbara Hutchings - 45
- 20 - William & Tammy Foster - 31

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