

# The Companion

December 2013 - January 2014

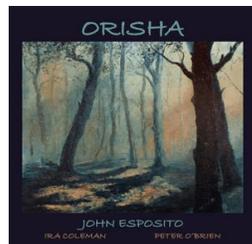


**Concert Sunday,  
Dec. 8, 3:30: John  
Esposito Quartet:  
"Christmas  
Standards - Jazzed"**



John Esposito

Described as "one of the strongest jazz pianists on the planet, an under-recognized giant," **John Esposito** is a pianist, composer, drummer and producer whose musical palette extends across the Stride Piano, Swing, Bebop, Modal and Free Music



CD by John Esposito, Ira Coleman and Peter O'Brien

movements. Mr. Esposito has created music for theater, dance, film, TV commercials, and multimedia performance art. He is also music faculty member and **Artist-In-Residence at Bard College.**



Ira Coleman

Born and raised in Europe, bassist **Ian Coleman** has performed with artists ranging in musical styles from Herbie Hancock and Branford Marsalis, to Kathleen Battle and Sting, to the Carnegie Hall Jazz Ensemble and the Duke Ellington Orchestra, amongst many others. Mr. Coleman is also an arranger and producer of music albums.

Drummer **Peter O'Brien** has been an active musician since the 1970s and his talents cover jazz, blues and rock styles. Mr.

O'Brien toured with the Edgar Winter Group and was a member of the band Orleans. He has toured widely and performed all over the world, and was one of the performers for the Tower Music Series' Re-Formed Organ Classics concert in November.



Peter O'Brien

Called a "risk-taking improviser, accomplished composer and inveterate" musician, **Eric Person** has been composing, performing, and composing contemporary American music for over twenty years. Featured as a leader or contributing performer on more than 30 recordings, Mr. Person plays alto and soprano saxophone in addition to the flute.



Eric Person

## **Sunday, Dec. 22, 10 A.M. : Children's Christmas Pageant**

The Children's Christmas pageant, "The Story of Christmas," will be presented during worship December 22. Bring your camera or camcorder! Parents: remember practice is Saturday, the 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **Order Your Christmas Poinsettias Now!**

Extra special flowers this year: memorial poinsettias will be used to decorate the sanctuary on two Sundays: December 22 and 29. You are asked to order and arrange for delivery of your own plants. Plants must be delivered to the church by noon on December 20<sup>th</sup> in dark green foil. Memorial notices will be printed in the church bulletin on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Call Nanci at the church office (452-8110) to tell her what to put in your bulletin notice.

*Christmas Eve*

*7:00 p.m.*

*Preludes*

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*7:30 p.m.*

*"Candlelight  
& Carols" Service*



Members and Friends,

"Last Times." Last, but not lost.

I am reflecting on the fact that this will be our final Christmas with you. Not that you will not see us Christmas 2014, but if you do, you will probably be seeing Cherrill and myself at one of the Christmas events in Poughkeepsie.

Between today and the Third Sunday after Pentecost, June 29, each Reformed church event will be our "Last Time." This will include the Living Last Supper and the Strawberry Festival.

Right now we are celebrating with you our last Advent Season.

All of the "lastness" will be hard. This is the longest we have ever been in one ministry and place. We were at West Point for 14 years. Here we have been for over 15 years!

We are happy to say it will not be "Goodbye." We are not moving. We hope to continue preaching on days we are not off visiting our children in RI, TX and CA. And then there will be the visits to the TX Grand Baby due April 8.

We love our present location. Just a half-price senior ticket, hour and forty minute, Metro-North train ride to Grand Central. Do you know there is also a half-price senior ticket for the NYC Subway?

"Last but not Lost." "Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven," Jesus shared with the disciples (Matt.6:20) for it alone will stand the test of time and eternity. The ultimate 'missionary' Paul spelled out the implication: "Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because **you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain**" (1 Cor.15:58).

Work for God has eternity attached to it. God has a Storage Unit in heaven with your name on it.

The Blessings of the Grace and Truth of Christmas be yours,

*Pastor Bob*

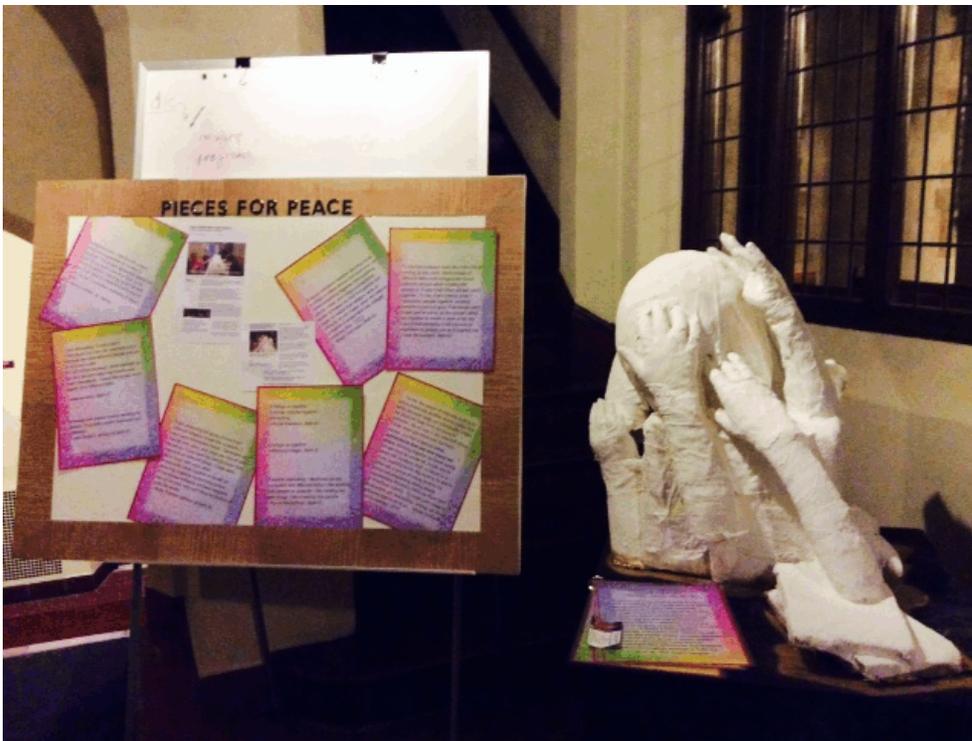
# HRH Winter Coat Drive

The Hudson River Housing Dutchess Outreach's annual coat drive received over 5000 winter coats from Dutchess County; 27 of those were from the Reformed Church. Many, many churches, synagogues and other organizations made possible this great event which cares for so many.

# Operation Christmas Child' 2013

'Operation Christmas Child', another great mission which sees thousands of churches pooling their resources to address the needs of many children worldwide, a ministry of Franklin Graham's Samaritan's Purse, resulted in our church filling 42 shoe boxes with Christmas gifts for boys and girls. The boxes were piled high on the steps of the chancel. They were collected by church children during the worship service of November 17. In addition, the congregation gave the \$7 per box necessary for shipping. Bill and Tim Bakker transported the boxes to the collection point: Vassar Road Baptist Church.

Operation Christmas Child began in the United States in 1993 with 28,000 shoe box gifts. Since that time, the kids - helping - kids project has collected more than 70 million shoe box gifts and hand-delivered them to needy children in 145 countries.



The Reformed Church of Poughkeepsie was the site of the Annual Thanksgiving Service of The Dutchess Interfaith Council; it was held on November 24 at 7 PM. Rev. Geehan spoke about the transition from 'interfaith' to 'multifaith' in America since WWII. The sculpture above, "Pieces for Peace," is by school age children who used papier-mache on their own hands to show needy and caring hands.

## DECEMBER

### Birthdays

- 4 - Hayden Kautz
- 6 - Pamela Sadlier
- 7 - Debbie Sala
- 8 - Barbara Hutchings
- 24 - Harry Johannsen
- 28 - Anthony DelVecchio
- 30 - Phyllis Chrisfield

### Anniversaries

- 14 - Fred & Nanci Peluse - 16 yrs.
- 25 - John & Elinor Haverkamp - 62 yrs.
- 29 - Chris & Amelia (Seysse) Parks - 29 yrs.
- 31 - Vincent & Carol Dean - 42 yrs.

## JANUARY

### Birthdays

- 1 - Rick Mitchell
- 3 - John Van Steenburgh
- 4 - Nancy Zverev
- 5 - David A. Stevenson
- 7 - Shelby Holt
- 16 - Tim Ryan
- 25 - Kathryn Markell McMurray
- 27 - Kimberly Benanti

# RCWNS Celebrates Thanksgiving; Prepares Christmas

The RCWNS hosted their annual Thanksgiving Family Feast on November 18. The traditional event featured 6 large turkeys along with side dishes prepared by WNS staff and parents. Nearly 120 people

gathered together to enjoy the delicious meal, each other's company, and a performance of Thanksgiving songs by the children.

The classes are now looking ahead toward the Christmas holiday. Each class is busy practicing songs in preparation for their holiday sing-a-long. Mrs. Foster's 3 year old class will hold their sing-a-long on Monday, December 19th and the four year old and Universal Pre-K children together will perform for their families on Wednesday, December 21st in Case Chapel. After the performances, families are invited into the classrooms to see the children's work and enjoy some refreshments.



Our Fellowship Hall is where the turkeys are distributed. Turkeys in blue wrap; brown bags contain all the extras (in color on computer screens).

# Turkeys & Dinner Makings Distributed from Fellowship Hall

More than a 1000 people were fed in this year's turkey distribution program organized by the United Methodist Church of Poughkeepsie and Love Inc., Poughkeepsie, and distributed from our Reformed Church Fellowship Hall.

Everyone received: **1 Turkey (10-14 lbs)** plus all the sides and fixings based on family size - from one to 14 members.

The makings of the Thanksgiving dinners, including **230 turkeys**, were brought together to the Reformed Church on Sunday afternoon, November 24 and Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup> in the morning and distributed to the listed families on the same Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup> from noon to 2 PM.

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