

The Parishioner

The Rhinebeck Reformed Church,
6368 Mill Street, Rhinebeck, NY 12572.
845-876-3727

December 2009

Heading

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

It is beginning to look and feel like Christmas. The air is brisk, store windows are decorated, lights are twinkling, and holiday music is playing. Once again I am listening more to Perry Como and Bing Crosby and less to U2.

Already we are beginning to receive cards. (As a sign of the times, most of them are e-cards, and that is fine. I appreciate every one.) On many of those greetings I read the word "peace": "Peace on earth, good will to all!" "The birth of the Prince of Peace." "Let there be peace on earth." "Peace" is a key word of the season.

Yet therapists tell us that they see more first-time clients for depression or anxiety during December than during any

other month. Bombs continue to fall in Afghanistan and Palestine. Crimes continue to be committed in suburban homes and inner-city streets. Peace is hard to find.



The Christmas message is that peace is not a commodity; it is a Presence. Peace is not something that we attain or acquire, or even something we do; it is Someone who brings to us what we cannot find in the world. From the historic Christian understanding, ultimate peace is a result of meeting, welcoming, and abiding in the One who was born in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago and who still comes to us in the personal Bethlehems of our lives (By the way, the first four letters in *continued on page 2*

~~Place your message here. For maximum impact, use two or three sentences.~~

Mission And Outreach

Giving and Mitten Trees:

The "Trees" are up! The Giving Tree, located in the foyer of the education building, provides something under the tree for several families who would have a very somber Christmas without our help. Please take time to pick a card or two from the Giving Tree. Your gifts should be

wrapped and the card securely attached to the package, so it will reach the right person. The Mitten Tree, in the Narthex, helps folks throughout the cold winter. If you knit or buy, hats, gloves and cozy scarves for children of all ages, you will be helping to keep them warm. These items will be distributed through the wider community. What a "warm way" for us to

reach out to others. Please "visit" both trees. The holidays are almost here.

Coat Swap: had many wonderfully warm items of clothing, and a number of people were able to take advantage of the opportunity. In the end, all of the coats and other "warm wear" have found homes. It is through your generosity that we are able to provide to those who are in need. *M&O, see Crop Walk- Cont on pg 4*

Continued from page 1

Bethlehem, Beth or Bet, means house. So when I say that Christ is comes to us in the personal Bethlehems, I am obviously referring to being born in our hearts).

Jesus himself said so in the gospel of John (14:27): "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not

your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

May the peace of Christ fill our lives during this magical and mystical time of the year!

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Luis

Our Staff

Pastor

Rev. Luis R. Perez, M. Div.
pastorluis@frontiernet.net

Administrative Assistant

Anna Pavord
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845-876-3727,
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Organist/Choir Director

Charles Surber
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845-544-2782

Music Team Director

Brian Mortensen
Brian251@aol.com

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, December 6, in the sanctuary following the service, It is important for church members to attend this meeting as we will vote on the slate of Elders and Deacons, and we must have a quorum.

Nominated are:

Elders:

Melodye Moore -
1st Term, 1st Yr

Chris Brody-
Christian Ed 1st Term, 1st Yr

Deacons:

Rebecca Johannes -
Christian Ed 1st Term, 1st Yr.

Gloria Rutgers-
Special Projects-1st Term, 1st Yr

Pam Hoffman-
Parish Life 1st Term, 1st Yr

At this meeting, there will also be a time for discussion about various aspects of our church life.

Parish Life

Living Nativity:

Our Living Nativity will be presented to the community on Dec.4th and 5th. Our Living Nativity has been well attended both evenings. If you have volunteered to be in the presentation, Thank you! If you are not in one of the presentations, please come and support this worthwhile project. As we all often feel, Christmas has become a commercial free-for-all. Let's take this time to remember the "reason for this season".

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Woman's Fellowship

Dorcus Guild:

The Women's Fellowship, group, Dorcus Guild, will meet on December 1, 2009 at 7:30 PM in Cordes Hall. After a brief business meeting, officers will be installed for 2010 and we will enjoy making a symbolic Christmas ornament. Of course we will also enjoy some Christmas Carols to get us in the mood!

Please bring gifts for the mothers at Grace Smith House. If you are bringing clothes, they should be new and large or extra large. Gloves, scarves, turtle-necks, sweatshirts, nightgowns and toiletries are good choices. Many groups give gifts for the children, so we like to gift the mothers.

Please be generous. Even if you cannot make the meeting and would like to contrib-

ute to this cause, you may leave your gifts for the battered women, in Cordes Hall or give them to Linda Tamm.

All woman are invited to attend the Guild meetings. This is not a "seniors" group. There are no age restrictions, The Dorcus Guild is for woman of all ages who wish to spend time each month in fellowship with members and friends of our church.

Quilters:

Our quilters are donating a number of quilts that they have fashioned, to the Grace Smith House for the children who are living there with their mothers.

Quilt Project Fund raiser.

As of this writing, the quilt fundraiser to help offset the expense of the Steeple Restoration Project has brought in close to \$600.00. The winner will be announced in the church bulletin.

One last word:

The Apple Festival profit is officially \$4179.50. Every year that we undertake this project, we wonder how many more years we will be able to do this. Our core of workers are not getting any younger, and we hope that the next generation will come to the rescue. In about 10 months we will be doing it again.

Many thanks to Beth McKnight, Chairperson, and Luella Winnie, Co-chair, for taking on the responsibilities of coordinating and inspiring all who helped! Thanks also go to individual chair persons of the many tables and activities that make the Apple Festival work. And our unending gratitude to Richard Walker for cleaning the ovens!

Bravo to you Richard! And Brava Ladies!! You all did another fabulous job.

Administrative Information

Words of Welcome:

We are delighted to share with you that Anna Pavord is our new Administrative Assistant. Anna comes to us with an impressive corporate background and many high-end skills in the areas of technology and business writing. Anna underwent her training at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pa. Anna is married to Dan Pavord and they have three children, Craig, Lillian and Scott. Anna is available solely at the office, Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 1 PM. We encourage you to call prior to visiting the office to ensure that there will be someone available.

Computer Changes:

We are updating the office software to Microsoft

Office Professional from Lotus Smart Suite. Changes in the word processing should not be noticeable, but the database changes are significant. Moving the database is easy, but ALL of the reports we get have to be recreated under Microsoft.

Since there are over a thousand different combinations of reports under Lotus, we need to know which reports are being used by the church.

We have taken a best guess based on Abby's knowledge, but we need your input. Please let the office know of any labels, reports, lists that you use from the office. If we do not hear about a report, it will not be created under Microsoft, and may take several weeks to recreate once your request it

Fund Raiser

Cookie Walk Sale:
Saturday, December 12, 2009, starting at 9:00 A.M. in Cordes Hall. (Snow date, Sunday Dec. 13, 11 AM, following the service.)

We will need tons of cookies. Volunteers will be called to bake 5 dozen (or more) of their favorite cookies, to donate to the sale. Now, we all know that brownies are one of the four favorite food groups, but please, no brownies for the Cookie Walk!

Set up begins on Dec 10, 6:30 PM, in Cordes Hall. Please deliver your cookies on Friday the 11th between 9 AM and 8 PM, to the kitchen. The sale begins Saturday morning at 9 AM and will continue until the cookies are gone!

Cookies are sold by the pound and this is a first come first served sale. Last year, we had to give "deli numbers" for entrance to the Walk, so you can tell this is a well attended fund raiser. The cookies rapidly disappear — so come early for the best selection !!

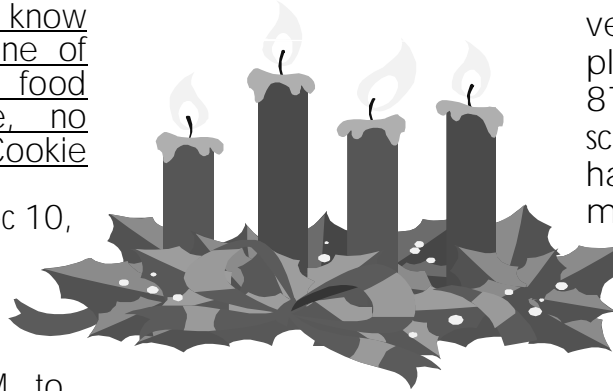
Proceeds from this fund raiser go towards helping those with physical disabilities; for example, hand rails or ramps, with in our buildings.

If you have any questions please call Barbara Gray-Black 876-2473 or Barbara Gross, 889-4854.

Music Ministry

Children's Choir:

The Children's Choir will be rehearsing each Sunday morning at 8:30 AM in the choir room, during the weeks leading up to the Christmas eve service. All children are welcome to come to rehearsals and sing Christmas eve.



Christmas Eve Service:

To all church members, family members, friends, and guests who will be attending our church service on Christmas Eve, may wish to sing in the Chancel Choir. A packet of music (3-5 songs) will be available by early November for learning and self practice by our guests and can be obtained by speaking to our organist and choir director, Charles Surber, or choir president, Linda Tamm. This is a beautiful service with glorious music and you are invited to take an active part in this special evening service.

Worship Committee

2010 Greeters List:

Please watch for the Greeters List for the year 2010. You will be receiving it some time in December. Look to see when you are scheduled to greet at the Sunday Service, and if you already know it isn't convenient on that date, please call Lois Cox, 876-4757, so we can reschedule your time. If I have missed any church members, please let me know. Thank you for your participation.

Crop Walk Report

M&O Cont. from page 1

"Hats Off" to all who participated; walkers, and sponsors.

We had 95 walkers and as of Nov. 15, we have almost \$11,000 turned over to church world service. 25% of this stays locally to help support Northern Dutchess Community Action Service.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. We had a great time and a good walk in spite of the weather.

You have helped your neighbor, and have been a blessing to many .

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play, and wild and sweet the words repeat,
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Longfellow

Financial Update

As of the end of October, the church is running at a deficit of \$30,000. Of this \$18,000 is the budgeted amount for our Year End Appeal. You can see that we need a strong close to 2009 if we don't want to end the year with a substantial deficit. Please give as generously as you can to help our church at this time.

Adopt-A-Cost:

One way that we can all help defray the expenses of daily church operations is through an Adopt- A- Cost program. By donating to a specific expense, we can make quite a difference in our budget. No one is being asked to take on more than they can comfortably manage, but even a portion of one expense will help us overall. The numbers are taken from the October financial report. Listed are a few of the costs that you might consider as your contribution to the

Adopt-A-Cost Program:

Worship supplies—Bud Vase and flower \$10.00 (for a Baptism)

Keyboard Maintenance—Piano tuning, 3 pianos, \$255
One Piano, \$85.00

Maintenance Supplies, Building and Grounds \$128, one share, \$32.00

Telephone, one month bill, \$182

Propane, for kitchen \$357

Trash Removal, one month, \$51

Water, quarterly bill \$54.

Administrative costs, End of year appeal letter, One mailing with 200 stamps, \$88.00.

To adopt a cost, you may simply put your check, marked "Adopt a cost, for ——" in the offering plate, give it to our Administrative Assistant, Anna, or send to the Rhinebeck Reformed Church, 6368 Mill St, Rhinebeck NY 12572.

Thank You Notes

Volunteer Office Help

A special thanks to Barbara Gray-Black for all the hours she spent in the secretary's chair while the search to fill the position was held. Without volunteers like Barbara, where would we be? Thank you Barbara!!

Also, we extend our thanks to Doug Westcott for his technical help in the office. We are appreciate Doug's help with computer problems that we have encountered along the way.

From Building and Grounds

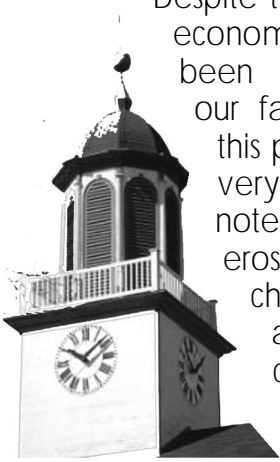
I want to thank all of the people who have worked to get our church ready for the winter season. I was so pleasantly surprised by the 2 dozen people who helped. Thanks to all who came; we accomplished a lot!

Ellen Hubbert

To Barbara Gross

Thank you for the untold hours and effort that you have put in to the Steeple Project.

STEEPLE FUNDRAISING SUMMARY



Despite the flagging economy we have been blessed in our faith to end this project on a very positive note. The generosity of our church family and greater community has been overwhelming. It just demonstrates what we are capable of doing when we put our faith to work and our trust in God. For all who contributed financially, spiritually and "in kind", may you feel joy in knowing that the fruits of your labors will sustain our steeple for many years to come. We especially want to thank Julie Turpin and Trudy Koser for spearheading and implementing such a successful fundraising effort. Our heartfelt appreciation also goes to Evvie and Jim Fluegle, Kay and Audrey Simmons, Ruby and Bill Allen and all of the many helpers who raised money through all those wonderful dinners and various projects.

A project of this magnitude could never have been undertaken without the existing substantial foundation that had been put in

place by former members, current members and through the wisdom of former Pastors and Consistories who established the Steeple Account, the Restoration Account and the Building and Capital Improvement Account.

Although the initial cost was quoted at a total of \$160,000, we finished the project at \$150,479, for a savings of \$10,521. We were able to cut costs by providing a majority of lodging, meals and trash collection "in house".

Building on existing funds totaling \$34,799 we raised an additional \$73,524 through our campaign and through fund raising events. In addition we applied for and received two grants amounting to \$12,000 which were matched by the 275th celebration monies of \$8,320. TOTAL: \$128,643.

We continue to receive donations and our wonderful ornaments are still available for sale. To date we have realized \$1,900 in sales from this endeavor, plus approximately \$600 from the raffle ticket sale for the Quilt Fundraiser Project. We have made the last payment to Southgate Steeplejacks and have returned all monies to the Ministerial Housing Fund. Any outstanding balances will be covered by additional in-

coming donations and through the very generous undesignated donation of the Derek Stickle family.

To our wonderful Pastor Luis Perez, the Consistory (2008), the Buildings and Grounds Committee, and the ad hoc Steeple Committee, we thank you for your participation, your support and most of all, your prayers. We all deeply appreciate your leadership and your commitment for a job well done. *AMEN*

In Christian Service,
Barbara Gross, Elder and
VP Consistory

Help Wanted

Sound engineer:

We need another person or two to operate the sound system on Sundays. Training is provided and, once you are trained, we would like you to operate the sound system one Sunday a month and you may pick the Sunday you will cover. This will allow us to continue providing CDs to our shut-ins. Contact Doug Westcott if you are interested.

Lest We Forget

7

December 2009

Communion - December 6 - Traditional

DATE	GREETERS	WORSHIP STEWARD	COFFEE HOUR	NURSERY CARE	FLOWERS
Dec 6	Joe and Elaine Ling	Ruth Stuart	Parish Life	The Johannes	Advent wreath
Dec 13	Marion and Dave Baldauf	Colleen Dierze	Dorcus Guild	Marion Baldauf	Advent Wreath
Dec 20	James and Ewvie Fluegel	Alan Budd	Pam Popli Anna Paford	The Byrums	Advent Wreath
Dec 24	Audrey and Kay Simmons	Ruth Stuart	Christmas Eve Service		Poinsettias
Dec 27	Lenny Miller and Melodye Moore	Pam Hoffman	Volunteers needed	Chris Brody	Poinsettias

December Birthdays

Dec. 8 Ann Wentworth

Dec 16 Matt Mulpeter

Dec 10 Robert Williamson, Gay Barber

Dec 20 Noel Cacchio, Helen Sterpople, Peter Frisenda

Dec 11 Emma Schaad, Jeff Clark

Dec 21 Allison Hitt

Dec 12 Beverly Byrum

Dec 25 Tyler Schaad

Dec 13 Stephen Hubbert, Kaitlyn Murray

Dec. 29 Susan Gordon-Lavender

Dec 14 Marie Wilson-Lago

Dec 31 Devin Heeney, Jim Morris

**Happy Birthday
to all of you!**

If we have missed someone's birthday, please call the church office, 876-3727, so we may add their name to the birthday list.

*The Parishioner is a monthly publication of the Rhinebeck Reformed Church,
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*Please submit information for the Parishioner on or before the 15th of the month
for the next month's issue,*
to the church office or to

Dottie Fricker, editor, at Dottief4@yahoo.com

The following sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

- ◆ The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.
- ◆ Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- ◆ The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict.
- ◆ The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon



Not Just for **KIDS**

SPECIAL VISITORS

Matthew 2 tells of visitors who traveled to worship Jesus. Read that story, or see if you can answer the questions below from memory. Use the compass guide to fill in the correct answers.

1. Who was king during the time of Jesus' birth? _____ (ESE)
2. Who came from the East to worship the one born king of the Jews? _____ (WNW)
3. How was King Herod feeling about Jesus' birth? _____ (NE)
4. Which prophet did the chief priests and teachers of the law quote when King Herod asked where the Christ would be born? _____ (SW)
5. In what city would Christ be born? _____ (SE)
6. King Herod lied to the wise men and told them to search and report back so he, too, could do what to Christ? _____ (NW)
7. What did the Magi see in the east and follow to find Jesus? _____ (E)
8. When the star stopped, how did the Magi feel? _____ (S)
9. Who else did the Magi see with Jesus? His _____ (N)
10. What did the Magi do first before they worshiped the child? _____ (W)
11. Name the three treasures the Magi brought for Jesus. _____ (SSW)
 _____ (NNW) _____ (WSW)
12. These three treasures were all brought for Jesus as ... _____ (NNE)
13. What warned the Magi not to return to Herod? A _____ (ENE)
14. The Magi had to return to their country by another _____ (SSE)

Answers: 1. Herod, 2. Magi, 3. disturbed, 4. Micah, 5. Bethlehem, 6. worship, 7. star, 8. overjoyed, 9. mother, Mary, 10. bow down, 11. gold, incense, myrrh, 12. gifts, 13. dream, 14. route

December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		NS School 9-12 Dorcas Guild 7:30pm	NS School 9-12 Quilting 10-12 MMT 7 PM	NS School 9-12 Seniors 9-1 Choir 7 PM	NS School 9-12 Living Nativity	Sinterklaas Events Living Nativity
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Second Sunday of Advent Holy Communion Traditional Worship 9:45 Calendar Planning Myg. after worship Giving tree/ mitten tree	NS School 9-12 Alanon -7-9 Adult Class 7:30	NS School 9-12 Consistory 7 PM	NS School 9-12 AARP 9-1 Quilting 10-12 MMT 7 PM	NS School 9-12 Seniors 9-1 Choir 7 PM COOKIE WALK set up	NS School 9-12 COOKIE WALK set up	COOKIE WALK 9AM First Day of Hanukkah
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Third Sunday of Advent Worship and Church School 9:45 Christmas Pageant ? Giving tree/ mitten tree	NS School 9-12 Adult Class 7:30 Alanon -7-9	NS School 9-12 Healing Presence 10 am TurningPoint Prayer 7 PM Parishioner Deadline	NS School 9-12 Seniors 9-1 Choir 7 PM Quilting 10-12 MMT 7 PM	NS School 9-12 Seniors 9-1 Choir 7 PM	NS School 9-12	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship and Church School 9:45 Giving tree/ mitten tree items due	NS School 9-12 Adult Class 7:30 Alanon -7-9	NS School 9-12	NS School 9-12 Quilting 10-12 MMT 7 PM	NO NS School 9-12 Seniors 9-1 CHRISTMAS EVE Service 7:30	CHRISTMAS DAY Pastor Luis Vacation	Pastor Luis Vacation
27	28	29	30	31		
Worship and NO Church School 9:45 Wedding Pastor Luis Vacation	NO NS School 9-12 Alanon -7-9 Pastor Luis Vacation	NO NS School 9-12 Pastor Luis Vacation	NO NS School 9-12 Pastor Luis Vacation	NO NS School 9-12 Seniors 9-1 New Year's Eve Pastor Luis Vacation		