



The Messenger

Niskayuna Reformed Church

January 2012

Dear Friends,

Yes, a new chronological year is upon us, and it is now the right time to move forward as a church in ministry and mission! For NRC, this will be a year full of change and possibility as we seek to implement our Vision for Mission and ministry over the next five years.

This past October I met with the Dean of Students at Western Theological Seminary in Holland Michigan. I was there to attend the Board of Trustees meeting, and I explored with him the possibility of beginning of a “pastoral residency” program here at church. Due to many factors including not many ministers taking retirement because of the economy, not all recent seminary graduates are finding ministry positions. There are several gifted individuals still searching for a call, and not enough positions for them.

So we came up with an idea to establish a one year post-graduate pastoral residency program here at NRC, where a recent graduate can come here to serve as our assistant pastor for youth, discipleship, and small groups. The seminary graduate benefits in learning about ministry “out in the field” and income will help them to begin to pay off student loan debt. And for us, we can have a person on staff to carry out our vision well within the financial gifts that we received from our recent Miracle Sunday campaign process.

Simply, it’s a WIN/WIN situation for everyone. A recent seminary graduate can share his or her gifts for ministry in the setting of a strong and thriving congregation that is seeking to move forward in implementing God’s vision for mission and ministry in this place.

So in December, the consistory unanimously approved pursuing the possibility of a one year pastoral residency program here at NRC. We hope to begin the interview process this winter, with a start date of this position in May. And then after the one year commitment from the resident, we can either seek a new resident, or if we have the right person and the necessary funding for the position, we can make it an annual contract position for us in 2013 and beyond.

I am really excited about all of this! When I graduated from Western, I worked for a year as a pastoral intern at the First Presbyterian Church in Youngstown, NY while Heidi finished Med School. And I learned more about pastoral ministry in one year there with a loving congregation and gifted senior pastor in Chuck Stratton than anything in any textbook ever written.

And now I and we as a congregation have the opportunity to take on that same teaching and nurturing role with recent seminary graduates. It will help them develop their gifts and pursue God’s call as Ministers of Word and Sacrament as they share their gifts with us. And the gifts of Miracle Sunday will come to their fullest fruition in this process, and we will see God at work through it all.

So here’s to a year filled with wondrous possibilities!

Joy and peace,

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

January 1

1st Sunday after Christmas

"A Man for All Seasons"

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

Galatians 4:4-7

Revelation 21:1-6a

January 8

1st Sunday After Epiphany

Bell Sunday

Consistory Ordination/Installation

"The Prayer for Illumination"

Genesis 1:1-5

Mark 1:4-11

January 15

2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

Communion Sunday

"Integrity"

John 1:43-51

January 22

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

"Us and Them"

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

January 29

4th Sunday after the Epiphany

"Putting Others First"

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

January Schedule

January 1

Ushers – Todd Stewart, Lauren Groudine,
Carolyn and Bill Kerr

Counters – Rivenburg, Ender, & Tryon

Greeters – The Keat Family

January 8

Ushers - John & Trudy Lehner,
Michael Luttman & Tony Pechulis

Counters – Sullivan, Perlee, & Lambert

Greeters – B.J. & Samantha Mazza

January 15

Ushers – Jason Panucci, Carolyn Parisi, &
Jay Lambert

Counters – Holmes, Moak, & Russell

Greeters – The Neugebauer Family

January 22

Ushers - Glenn Kreig, Linda Guzzo, &
Judy Valente

Counter- Snyder, Dillon, & Nickel

Greeters– The Alois Family

January 29

Ushers – Jack Faddegon, Linda Matt,
Paul Szakats, & Elaine O'Connell

Counters – Eldred, Whitaker, & Rice-Herbst

Greeters – The Todd Stewart Family



Christian Education, Discipleship, and Youth Ministries

Many thanks to all who participated in the “Mitten Tree” It was a wonderful response. Many hats, mittens and scarves will be warming many City Mission participants!

The next meeting for Discipleship/Christian Ed will be on Monday, January 9 in the Christian Ed. Office.

S.W.A.T.—(Service, Worship, Action Team)

Activities for January 2012:

Christmas Tree Burning: Meet at the Parsonage on **Friday, January 6 at 6:30pm** when Christmas trees will be burned at the outdoor fireplace by the parsonage. This event will be in observance of Epiphany. The ashes will be saved for Ash Wednesday. After, we will enjoy pizza and some indoor games. Wear warm clothing, and bring a friend and RSVP to Eva Jones. New members are invited!

Saturday, January 14 at 6:00pm-S.W.A.T.’s Mission Trip Fundraiser Dinner in Fellowship Hall. The youth group will be hosting an elegant dinner event to raise money for their mission trip to Staten Island where they will be working in the “**Project Hospitality Program**”! Join us for fine Italian fare prepared by Chef Paul Szakats. Call the church office to **make your reservation!**

The Antique Show - January 21: The 39th Annual Antique Show could use our help with clean up at 4:00pm. This is a good opportunity to gain some service hours and join in an important fundraiser for our church.

Super Bowl Sub Sandwich Sale: This is an NRC Youth Group tradition. We will take sandwich orders after church on **Jan. 22 and 29.** On **Feb. 5** we will have some fun in the kitchen making sandwiches ready for distribution by 11:00am.

Come join the fun! If you would like more information about any of these events, or are an adult willing to help with any of these events, please call Steven and Eva Jones at 785 3415.

January Birthdays

Happy Birthday to all those who celebrate their birthday this month.

If your birthday is not listed, please call the church office to correct our records.

Jan 1	Glenn Forman
Jan 3	Roy Burger
Jan 5	Michael Dzamba
	Arthur Vonk
	Michelle Wyman
Jan 6	Holly Gifford
	Edith Irwin (102 years old!)
Jan 7	John Burger
	Adrean Kreig
Jan 8	Carol Connolly
	Bill Dzamba
	Jason Lambert
Jan 9	Rebecca Freligh
Jan 10	Benjamin Lindsay
	Conor Lindsay
	Christopher Okonski
	David Watson
Jan 11	Kim Booth
Jan 12	Ben Gifford
Jan 17	David Ender
	David Mason
Jan 18	Tucker Reeks
Jan 19	Megan Duesterdick
	Jacqueline Gaul
	Sharon Lovell
Jan 21	Matthew Novotny
Jan 22	Curt Johnson

	Anna Pustay
Jan 23	Daniel Coghill
	Cynthia Kuchera
	Daniel Laurilliard
Jan 24	McKenna Murphy
	Sydney Whelan
Jan 25	Marie Male
	B.J. Truax
Jan 26	Nancy Guild
	Judy Valente
	Shirley Vane
Jan 27	Yuliya Peshkova
Jan 28	Jane Green
Jan 29	William Booth
	Linda Freligh
	Tesei McNair
	Matthew Pittelli
Jan 31	Andrew Burger
	Jason Conlon
	Richard Engler
	Nicholas Restifo
	Pamela Kane



Didja know???

- Did you know that NRC changed the worship service from the Dutch to the English language on March 1, 1816? Gelukkig Nieuwjaar! (that's Happy New Year in Dutch)
- ...and did you know that the first Strawberry Festival was held at NRC on June 11, 1901? Our church members have been hulling strawberries for 110 years!

*Celebrating
Anniversaries in
January*



Best wishes to these couples and to all others from our church who will celebrate their wedding anniversary during January.

Brian & Jacqueline Maclutsky

January 1

Morse & Pamela Kane

January 13

Ron & Barbara Valenti

January 22

George & Joan Buhrmaster

January 24

Harry & Cynthia Kuchera

January 24

Bruce & Sharon Rice-Herbst

January 26

Mike & Lissa Stempek

January 31

Dorcas Circle



Regular meetings for the months of January and February have been cancelled. The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 22th.

New members are welcome! Join us!

Contact: Jane Green at 785-9159.

**Annual Congregational
Meeting**

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held **Sunday, January 29 at 11:15 am in Fellowship Hall.**

We will hear the President's report and approve the budget for 2012.

Please attend, and use this opportunity to stay and buy a sub sandwich from the SWAT Youth Group!

Many Thanks to Linda Gardner, Judy Valente, Monica Tryon and Joan Peebles for helping out at the office doing a variety of tasks! We were so appreciative!

Lil and Petie

NRC Book Club



The NRC Book Club meeting will be held **Saturday, January 28 at 10:00 a.m.**

at the home of June Peterson for directions, call 785-0793

Salvation Army Soup Kitchen

The following dates at 10:30 am have been assigned to NRC:

Friday, February 23, 2012
Thursday, April 26, 2012

If you are interested in serving for this worthwhile program, call the Tina Weeber at 399-2399 or sign the sheet in the narthex.



The **SICM Food Program** is asking for boxes of dry pasta products (macaroni and cheese, hamburger helper, etc.) for the month of January. If you prefer to donate something else it will, as always, be much appreciated by the Emergency Food Pantry.

Remember, monetary gifts help us purchase items available for the Food Bank at 16 cents a pound. Thank you for your continued support of our program.

Gail Van Valkenburgh
Director, SICM Food Program
346-4445

Please remember in your prayers the people who have been in the hospital in December:

Karen Mease
Ted Mihran
Pat Zink



Please keep in your thoughts and prayers the families and friends of those who have recently passed away:

Janette Burger
Harold Clark
Ann Matthews
Jean Mihran



Martin Luther King Day
Monday, January 16
Church Office is closed

Comin' Soon, Real Soon!
*The 39th Annual
Antique Show*



**Volunteers are
Needed!
Pies are needed!**

Our annual Antique Show is approaching. Please mark your calendar for **January 20 and 21**. There will be sign up sheets in the narthex.

Volunteers are needed to prepare culinary delights at home and bring them to the church. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Gaunay at 785-8404.

Please contact Alan Holmes (370-4723) or Les Perlee (785-3431) if you can help set up on Wednesday, January 18 at 6:00pm.

The Antique Show is our largest mission fund-raiser of the year, so **please lend a hand or TWO!**



“A Personal Journey of Faith”

Adult Christian Education class will resume on Saturday, January 7 at 9 am in the Lounge. Topic for January - Heidelberg Catechism.

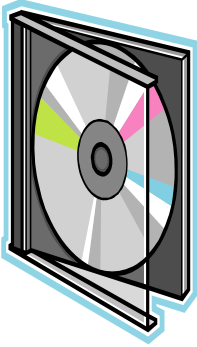
Classes for February will be held on the 4th, and the 18th.

For questions or comments contact John Moak at 370-3096 or email him at jmoak@nycap.rr.com.



THESE DAYS WE DO NOT NEED HYMN BOOKS
AS ALL OF THE WORDS TO THE SONGS
CAN BE FOUND ON THE INTERNET

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 lower hallway**
*For adults, youth and
 children!*

**Check out all the new
 selections we have !**



Flowers on Sunday



If you would like to place a floral arrangement on the Communion table some Sunday in memory of a loved one, please contact Sue Tuttle at 785-9895 and she will be glad to take care of it for you. Flowers are \$37.00 per arrangement.

Recycle Life!



Please support your community by donating blood on Friday,

**January 6 from 2 to 7 pm
 at the Niskayuna Fire Company
 2772 Troy-Schenectady Rd. (Rt. 7)**

Walk-ins are welcome, or call 1-800-REDCROSS to schedule an appointment.

"Noteworthy" 
by Albie Pickens

***Happy New Year
 from the NRC Choir***

Thanks to all who participated in the music programs during Advent. You all did a wonderful job!

I would like to invite each of you in the congregation to prayerfully consider the possibility of joining our choir as we offer our talents to glorify God.

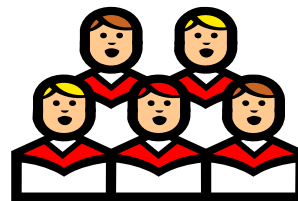
Participating in the choir is a great way to get connected, enjoy weekly fellowship, and most of all, use your talents to serve Christ and his body here at NRC.

We meet every Thursday night from 7:30 to 9:00pm and Sunday Mornings at 9:15am.

For more information please email me at music@niskayunareformed.org or call (518) 527-2092.

Please also feel free to talk with one of our choir members to find our more.

All voices are welcome, and we are in particular need of basses and tenors!





Consistory Highlights

Rev. De Block's recent trip to Michigan provided positive feedback in discussions over the Assistant Pastor job description.

A fond farewell and thank you to John Lehner, Bob Sacca and Nancy Tellier for years of dedicated service on Consistory. Their time and efforts have benefitted all of us here at NRC.

The Saturday morning adult education class members are enjoying the leadership of John Moak. Others may join in at any time for well researched, thoughtful insight into our history and teachings in the Christian Reformed Church. Thank you, John.

Paula Gaul's idea for interviews each Sunday in Advent has proven to be a wonderful intergenerational activity and a great way to learn more about each other in our special NRC church family. Thank you, Paula.

The events and music of this Advent season have been varied and lively. Thank you to Paul Szakats together with Consistory for hosting the Consecration Sunday luncheon. Thank you to Mission & Service committee for hosting the SCIM dinner. And thank you to Parish Life committee for hosting the NRC Christmas party.

May God Bless You with a joyful 2012.

Confirmation 2012 **Parents Planning Meeting**

A planning meeting for Parents whose 9th graders and up will be participating in Confirmation classes for 2012 will be on Sunday, January 22 at 9:15 am in the Lounge.

The Confirmation process is one of the most important steps a young person takes in their journey of faith. It is a time when the faith of the church and of parents through the work of the Holy Spirit becomes their own. It is a time of exploration and growth and maturity.



Many thanks to all those who fulfilled and exceeded their pledges for 2011. Preliminary reviews show that we ended 2011 "in the black."

If you haven't turned in your 2012 commitment slip, call the office, we'll be glad to send or email the form to you.

Your individual contribution statements for 2011 will be mailed by January 15.

MISSION AND SERVICE NEWS January 2012

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM YOUR MISSION COMMITTEE!

The month of December showed a great out pouring of support to the different Missions which made a difference in the lives of many others:

* Thank you to everyone who took the time to purchase Toys for the City Mission's Toy Store, helped wrap the gifts and assisted in making Christmas special for others.

* Thank you to the Mission Committee and Parish Life, especially Donna Gaunay, for assisting in hosting the SICM Christmas Meeting/dinner at NRC. It was one of their most well attended dinners and there were many compliments on the service.

* Thank to all who helped serve lunch at Salvation Army on December 29. This is always a rewarding experience and one that is really appreciated.

January Mission: In January we will be helping our animal friends at the Humane Society by collecting Clean towels and blankets, food and pet toys. Please start saving and sharing for January. Items may be placed in the specially marked box in the Church Office.

Communion Recipients for 2012:

January 22: Salvation Army – Tina Weeber, Coordinator

February 26: City Mission – Thelma Ford, Coordinator

April 8 (Easter): SICM - Leslie Ellis, Coordinator

May 6 (Mother's Day): Camp Fowler

June 3: Samaritan Counseling

July 15: Open

August 12: Open

September 9: Seminaries

October 7: Wildwood - Dorilee Male, Coordinator

November 4: International

December 2: Deacons Fund

We have 2 Sundays open which can be used for a special need (such as a natural disaster), an organization or new recipient. If anyone has a suggestion or would be interested in coordinating one of the collections, please contact Pam Kane (356-0780) or Dorilee Male (374-3790).

Next Mission Meeting is Jan. 17th at 7pm—Please come and join us.



Ordination and Installation of 2012 Consistory



On Sunday, January 8, the following elected Consistory members will be installed:

Those elected Elder are: Susan Laurilliard, Sharon Lovell, and Lauren Groudine.

Those elected Deacon are: Paul Alois, Glenn Kreig, Deborah Bennett, Tim Kensky, and Tony Pechulis.



Sunday, January 1

Happy New Year!!!
10:00am-Worship (S)
9:15am-Sr. Choir (M)
12:30 Korean UMC (S)

No Sunday School today

Monday, January 2

2-6pm-TSL Aft. School (104)
3pm-Wildwood Workers
4-8pm-Flute Class (M)
6:00pm-WA (104)
7:00pm-SA (L)

Tuesday, January 3

2-6pm-TSL Aft. School (104)

Wednesday, January 4

2-6pm-TSL Aft. School (104)
7:00pm-Eendracht (M)

Thursday, January 5

10:00am-Wildwood workers
2-6pm-TSL Aft. School (104)
4-8pm-Flute Class (L)
7:00pm-Sr. Choir (M)

Friday, January 6

The Epiphany of the Lord

2-6pm-TSL Aft. School (104)
7:00pm-AA (104)
6:30pm-SWAT/Burning Christmas
Trees for Ash Wednesday
(Parsonage)

Saturday, January 7

9:00am-Adult Ed Class (L)
3:00pm-Flute Recital (S)
5:00pm-Korean UMC (L)

Sunday, January 8

**1st Sunday after the Epiphany
Consistory Ordination &
Installation/Bell Sunday**
8:30 & 10:00am-Worship (S)
10:15am-Sunday School (EB)
11:00am-Cherub Choir (103)
12:30pm-Korean UMC (S)

Monday, January 9

2-6pm-TSL Aft. School (104)
3pm-Wildwood Workers
4-8pm-Flute Class (M)
6:00pm-WA (104)
7:00pm-SA (L)
7:00pm-Discipleship Mtg (Ed Ofc)

Tuesday, January 10

2-6pm-TSL Aft. School (104)

Wednesday, January 11

Noon-NRC Staff Meeting (L)
2-6pm-TSL Aft. School (104)
7:00pm-Eendracht Bells (M)
7:00pm-Consistory (L)

Thursday, January 12

10:00am-Wildwood workers
2-6pm-TSL Aft. School (104)
4-8pm-Flute Class (L)
7:30pm-Sr. Choir (M)

Friday, January 13

Noon-IEEE (FH)
7:00pm-AA (104)

Saturday, January 14

9-12:30pm-Flute Class (104)
5:00pm-Korean UMC (L)
6:00pm-Fundraiser Dinner-SWAT
Mission Trip (FH)

Sunday, January 15

**2nd Sunday after Epiphany
Communion**

8:30 & 10:00am-Worship (S)
9:15am-Sr. Choir (M)
9:15am-Youth Choir (104)
10:15am-Sunday School (EB)
11:00am-Cherub Choir (103)
12:30pm-Korean UMC (S)
3:00pm-Flute Recital (FH)

Monday, January 16

**Office is closed in observance
of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

9-6pm-TSL Aft. School (104)
4-8pm-Flute Class (M)
6:00pm-WA (104)
7:00pm-SA (L)

Tuesday, January 17

2-6pm-TSL Aft. School (104)

Antiques Show preparation

Wednesday, January 18

2-6pm-TSL Aft. School (NS)
7:00pm-Eendracht (M)

6:00pm-Antiques Show Setup

Thursday, January 19

2-6pm-TSL Aft. School (NS)
10:00am-Wildwood

**6:00pm-Antiques Show Dealers
Setup**

4-8pm-Flute Class (Ed. Ofc)
7:00pm-Sr. Choir (S)

Friday, January 20

**10am-5pm-38th Annual
Antiques Show**
7:00am-AA (S)

Saturday, January 21

9-12:30- Flute Class (S)
**10am-4pm-38th Annual
Antiques Show**

5:00pm-Korean UMC (S)

Sunday, January 22

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Communion Sunday

8:30 & 10:00am-Worship (S)
9:15am-Sr. Choir (M)
9:15am-Youth Choir (104)
10:15am-Sunday School (EB)
11:00am-Cherub Choir (103)
11:00am-Confirmand Parents Mtg.
(L)
11:00am-SWAT Sub-Sale Orders
(K)
12:30pm-Korean UMC (S)

Monday, January 23

9am only-Japanese Flwr Arr. (FH)
2-6pm-TSL Aft. School (104)
4-8pm-Flute Class (M)
6:00pm-WA (104)
7:00pm-SA (L)

Tuesday, January 24

2-6pm-TSL Aft. School (104)

Wednesday, January 25

7:00pm-Een Dracht (M)

Thursday, January 26

10:00am- Wildwood Group
2-6pm-TSL Aft. School (104)
4-8pm-Flute Class (L)
7:00pm-Sr. Choir (M)

Friday, January 27

7:00pm-AA (104)

Saturday, January 28

10:00am-NRC Book Grp @ J.
Peterson's
3:00pm-Flute Recital (FH)

Sunday, January 29

4th Sunday after the Epiphany

8:30 & 10:00am-Worship (S)
9:15am-Sr. Choir (M)
9:15am-Youth Choir (104)
10:15am-Sunday School (EB)
11:00am-Congregation Mtg (FH)
11:00am-SWAT Sub-Sale Orders(K)
11:00am-Cherub Choir (103)

Monday, January 30

9-6pm-TSL Aft. School (104)
4-8pm-Flute Class (M)
6:00pm-WA (104)
7:00pm-SA (L)

Tuesday, January 31

2-6pm-TSL Aft. School (104)

EB=Ed. Building
FH=Fellowship Hall
K=Kitchen
L=Lounge
M=Music Room
MO=Music Office
NS=Nursery School
PO=Pastor's Office
S= Sanctuary
102-104=
Classrooms

NISKAYUNA REFORMED CHURCH
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NISKAYUNA, NY 12309-1696

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Treasurer: treasurer@niskayunareformed.org

Music Dir.: music@niskayunareformed.org