

NEW HACKENSACK REFORMED CHURCH

1580 ROUTE 376

WAPPINGERS FALLS, NY 12590

(845) 462-0810

www.nhrc-church.org

Rev. Keith W. Tamlyn, Senior Pastor

Rev. James A. Neevel, Pastor Emeritus

DECEMBER CHURCH NEWS, 2011

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE & CHRISTMAS OPPORTUNITIES

for

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2011

"JOURNEY TO THE STABLE"

Sunday Morning Worship Services

9:15 (with Sunday School) and 11:00 a.m.

November

27 Advent 1 Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-9 Mark 13:24-37
Sermon: "Watch for the Stable"
Children's Message

December

3 Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon – Piggy Bank Bazaar

4 Advent 2 Celebration of Communion
Scripture: Mark 1: 1-8
Sermon: "Finding Your Particular Path to the Stable"

7 Wednesday RCWM Christmas Play/Dessert, 7:30 p.m.

10 Saturday 10:00 a.m.-Annual Remembrance Service
For those grieving the loss of loved ones

11 Advent 3 Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Sermon: "Dealing with Road Blocks on the Way to the Stable"
Sunday School Christmas Pageant/Pizza Party, 4:00 p.m.

18 Advent 4 Scripture: Luke 1:26-38
Sermon: "Preparing the Stable"
Children's Message

20 Tuesday J(ust)O(lder)Y(outh)Christmas Party, 1- 3 p.m.

24 Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m.– Family-friendly Service
Saturday Scripture & Candlelight
8:00 p.m.–Lessons, Carols, & Candlelight
11:00 p.m.–Lessons, Carols, & Candlelight

25 Christmas Day Family Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

January 1 New Year's Day One Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Nursery Care Available/No Sunday School

Children's Place for 3-8 year olds/No Sunday School

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION...

Kris Rice, Christian Education Director

462-0810, Ext. 104;

“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” Luke 2:13-14

It is amazing how quickly the Christmas season is approaching and it will be time for our **Annual Sunday School Christmas Pageant**. The play will be presented on **Sunday, December 11th at 4:00 p.m.** All children in the pre-school through 6th grade will be performing the *Usborne Children's Bible Christmas Pageant*. There will be **two** rehearsals. The first is on **Saturday, December 3rd** (immediately following Piggy Bank Bazaar) from **12:30 - 2:00 p.m.** for students with character parts and narrators. The second (dress rehearsal) is for the entire cast on **Saturday, December 10th from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.** for **grades 3-6**, and from **2:00 - 3:00 p.m.** for **pre-school through 2nd grade**. Parents of 2nd graders and younger are asked to please remain for the hour their child is practicing. Immediately following the pageant will be a **Family Pizza Party**.

Our **Sunday School Christmas Mission** is **“Warming Hands and Feet for God's Children.”** We are collecting colorful mittens, gloves and socks from toddlers to teens for many **local children's services** until December 4th. There are collection boxes on the desk in the Education Center and in the Gathering Area.

There will be **no Sunday School classes held on December 25th and January 1st**. There will be one worship service at 10:00 a.m. with Nursery Care available. Children's Place for ages 3-8 will be available on January 1st.

YOUTH GROUP...

- **Saturday, December 3rd** from 9 am - 1 pm: During Piggy Bank Bazaar, Youth Group will host our Bake Sale in Fellowship Hall. Youth will also be available to guide young shoppers, and to deliver pre-ordered holiday wreaths and calendars.

- **Sunday, December 4th** 5 - 7 pm: Youth Group Christmas Pizza Party. Bring dessert to share, and bring a friend! We will start planning for Youth Sunday (Jan. 28th).

- **Sunday, December 11th** 4 pm: Youth can join their families and our church family at the annual Christmas Pageant and Family Pizza Party.

Upcoming Events in 2012: Youth Sunday, Winter Retreats, Coffee House, Spaghetti Dinner, and more!

Save the date: Bridge Builders work camp at Taconic Retreat Center, August 12 - 17th, 2011.

RCWM News-

It is time to mark your calendars for this year's **Christmas Play and Dessert**. It will be on Wed. evening, Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m. All of our church family and their guests are invited to attend. Wayne Lunstead will be directing the Christmas Drama *"A 'Beastly' Christmas"* by John O. Eby which is based on the familiar song "The Friendly Beasts" and presents a humorous interplay between the animals present at Jesus' birth, giving us their unique perspective of the night. Please put the date on your calendar, as this evening is always a great way to start the Christmas season. All donations will go to support Grace Smith House and the House of Faith Family Shelters. **We will need lots of wonderful cookie bakers, so please look for the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area, if you can help.**

JOY (Just Older Youth) Christmas Party! Please join us Tuesday, December 20th, from 1 to 3 PM in Fellowship Hall for the annual JOY Christmas Party. There will be delicious holiday refreshments and entertainment by Bill Vogel, a highly seasoned singer, percussionist, writer, and arranger, with a gift to reach any audience. He performs as a solo artist supplying a full band sound and will invite us to sing-along. We are requesting a donation of \$3.00 to cover expenses. In the case of inclement weather on the 20th, the event will be cancelled. Sign up in the Gathering Area and plan to join us for this JOY-ous holiday event. Hope to see you there.

PARISH HEALTH MINISTRY...

**Mary Lou Grott, R.N., Parish Nurse,
462-0810, Ext. 110, Tues., Wed., Thurs.**

Living With Loss During the Holidays

Living with loss while others are celebrating can be so very difficult for any of us. There are no easy answers or pat solutions to ease the pain of sorrow and grief as the busy world continues on with all its usual December happenings. As we head into this holiday season, I wanted to once again take some time to reflect on how we can be more "present" and compassionate to those who are grieving. We can let them know we remember their loss and care about them through a call or note or invitation. We can listen to them, allow them to speak honestly about their feelings, and encourage them to take extra-good care of themselves, especially during these next few weeks. It's important for all of us to remember that 90% of caring is just showing up, just being there.

One way for those of you who are grieving to care for yourselves may be to join us for our **Tenth Annual Remembrance Service on Saturday, December 10th at 10am in our Sanctuary**. This is a very special time of worship, when we will share Christ's light and hope as we gather together in memory of our loved ones. This is a beautiful community service of healing scripture, prayers, music, and candle lighting to help bring hope and strength to each of you in your life's journey here and now. Everyone please extend an invitation to family, friends, and neighbors who may benefit from this healing service this holiday season. If you have any questions, would like to be a greeter, usher, reader or baker for this service, or know someone who needs transportation to attend, please call the Parish health Office (462-0810 ext 110).

For those of you who are suffering, I know that no book or reading materials on grief or lists of suggested things to do can take away the hurt and pain you are feeling. They can, however, help you better cope with all your many emotions during this joyful and painful time as you grieve. There are CareNotes pamphlets on grieving during the holidays in the Side Narthex near the Sanctuary for you to take, and other grief materials to borrow from the Parish Health Office, including a wonderfully helpful book entitled, *A Decembered Grief*, by Harold Ivan Smith.

In closing, I'd like to share with you the following list of helpful suggestions from the book, *The Journey Through Grief: Reflections on Healing*, by Alan D. Wolfelt, Ph.D.:

- Talk about your grief.
- Be tolerant of your physical and psychological limits.
- Eliminate unnecessary stress.
- Be with supportive, comforting people.
- Talk about the person who has died.
- Do what is right for you.
- Plan ahead for family gatherings.
- Embrace your treasure of memories.
- Express your faith.

May you each feel God's peace, hope, and love this holiday season,

Mary Lou

From Jan Fritzinger, the Seminary Student

Dear Church Family,

The core of a church that calls themselves a missional church is mission Dei. The church's self-understanding of being missional is grounded in the work of the Spirit of God, who calls the church into existence as a gathered community, equips, and prepares it, and sends it into the world to participate fully in God's mission .

In his book, "The Ministry of the Missional Church" by Craig Van Gelder, he says:

The Church is.

The Church does what the church is.

The Church organizes what it does.

The interrelationship of all three aspects is important to understand. The church is. The church's nature provides the framework and foundation for understanding the essential character of the church. The church does what it is. The nature of the church establishes the foundation for understanding the purpose of the church and its ministry and determines their direction and scope. The church organizes what it does. The ministry of the church introduces strategies and processes that require the exercise of leadership and the development of organization within the church.

The key point to understand is that the Spirit-led ministry of the church flows out of the Spirit-created nature of the church. What is also critical to understand is that the exercise of leadership and the development of organization need to function in support of this ministry. What is crucial is to keep these in proper sequence when considering the mission church -- nature, purpose/ministry, and organization. The missional church reorients our thinking about the church in regard to God's activity in the world. The Triune God becomes the primary acting subject rather than the church. God has a mission in the world, what is usually referred to as the missio Dei. In understanding the missio dei, we find that God as a creating God also creates the church through the Spirit, who calls, gathers, and sends the church into the world to participate in God's mission. This participation is based on the redemption that God accomplished through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, a redemption that was announced by Jesus as the "Kingdom of God."

Is NHRC a mission Dei church? Is it rethinking God's activity in the world? Is the Spirit calling, gathering, and sending the church into the world to participate in God's mission? These are important questions the church should be asking itself.

As we enter in Advent, may the church of NHRC being praying and listening to the Spirit to be a church that is participating in God's mission in the community and world---not just during Advent and Christmas but throughout the year.

Blessed Advent and Christmas to you!

Love in Christ,

Jan

Outreach

Homeless Shelter:

As Advent approaches with a new year just around the corner, our homeless friends are in need of a nice warm place to sleep at night at the Homeless Shelter with hopes of receiving a warm meal served by volunteers with friendly faces. When you volunteer to cook and/or serve a nice meal, the result leaves many with a warm heart, including yours. It's guaranteed you will have a nice warm feeling knowing you served our Lord by feeding the homeless.

Please consider serving at our local homeless shelter. Sign-up sheet for 2012 is at the information table. Our friends at the Jewish Community Center will be volunteering for NHRC on December 25th and we will cover their night December 22. Anyone interested in volunteering that evening, please sign up in the Gathering Area.

Food Pantry Drive:

Our Sunday Communion Collection will continue but non-perishable food is welcomed anytime. You will find the boxes located in the Gathering Area and in the Education Center. We service our brave military veterans who come to Castle Point for some much needed food. We also service our friends at Beacon Reformed Church.

Warm Wishes Blanket Program:

If you know of someone who is going through a tough time, whether it be emotional or physical, please let us know or contact Mary Lou Grott or Keith Tamlyn to request a nice comfortable blanket that is generally made especially for them.

Blood Drive:

Outreach has decided that having regular blood drives will help not only the community fill it's requirement of blood supply but the donors like to have it available more frequently.

Creative Kindness Program -

Handmade Halloween totes filled with fun projects and toys along with handmade pumpkin pillows were delivered to Vassar Brothers Medical Center. They were handed out to all in-patient children. Outreach will be doing the same idea at Christmas and Chanukah. Anyone wishing to participate in making handmade gifts for Vassar Brothers Medical Center and Castle Point VA Hospital contact Arra Mowry 297-0612 or Nancy Cooper 463-4778.

CROP Walk 2011:

There were three walkers from NHRC. Mary Ann Bahnsen, Carolyn Gordon and Arra Mowry. The total amount collected was close to \$900.

Christmas Special Offering:

The Christmas Special Offering will be distributed as follows: 50% Rural & Migrant Ministry; 25% Reformed Church World Service - Domestic Disaster Relief; 25% Reformed Church World Service - International Disaster Relief.

Clothing Drive for the Vets:

Along with a food pantry at Castle Point VA Hospital, they also have a clothing pantry. Outreach has decided to put out boxes, starting January 2012, to collect new or nearly new clothing. All underwear and socks MUST be new. They are always in need of warm clothing this time of the year. Hats, scarves and gloves as well as boots would be greatly appreciated. They are also welcoming bathroom hygiene products such as shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shaving cream and disposable razors and deodorant.

RCA Partners In Mission: Beginning in 2012 Outreach will designate Ruth Estelle - China (with support from RCWM) and a Native American Mission in the USA as NHRC's Partners In Mission.

Rural & Migrant Ministry

CHRISTMAS TOY STORE...

Look around and holiday reminders are beginning to appear everywhere! As you make your plans for the up-coming Holiday Season, Rural & Migrant Ministry invites you to support our annual Christmas Store. This year's Christmas Store/Fiesta will be held on Saturday, December 10th (Please note the change of date) at the New Hurley Reformed Church.

GIFTS MUST BE NEW, UNWRAPPED, AND THE ORIGINAL PRICE TAG ATTACHED. The proceeds from the Christmas Store go to support the annual retreat and community outreach programs of the Daughters of Sarah. We also ask that gifts reflect RMM's mission of hope and justice, in other words, NO toys of violence, PLEASE. For those who may find shopping for and delivery of gifts difficult, we welcome your financial gifts and will honor your wishes by purchasing the gifts you suggest.

Suggested gifts: Sports Equipment (basketballs, soccer balls, etc.); Dolls (especially of African-American and Latino heritage); Books (African-American Stories and Latino Heritage in addition to books in English; Toys and Games (appropriate for toddlers thru age 14); Items for Teenagers (Watches and Gift Cards are especially popular).

Gifts should be placed in boxes provided in the Ed Center and Gathering Area beginning November 20th thru SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4th.

DO YOU KNOW???

Who are the farmworkers? Migrant farmworkers are people who leave their place of origin to travel to an area to work in agricultural production. After completing their work, they may travel to another area for work, or return home.

Seasonal farmworkers are people who do not necessarily leave their place of origin, but engage in agricultural production during a specific phase of the process, for example, people who work during apple picking season. There are also agricultural workers who work year round on poultry and dairy farms and in nurseries and packing houses.

Why are there migrant and seasonal farmworkers in New York? New York is a farming state. There are over 32,000 farms state-wide that annually generate several billion dollars worth of livestock, dairy products, fruits, vegetables, field crops and nursery stock. That's a lot of farm work and many hands are needed to keep the agricultural process going. There are more than 47,000 people employed annually in New York in the migrant and seasonal work force.

Who are New York's migrant and seasonal farmworkers? They are African Americans, Mexican Americans, Mexicans, Central Americans, Jamaicans, Haitians, Dominicans, Bangladeshis and others. Many of New York's migrant and seasonal farmworkers are men who are either single or who have temporarily left their families to work. However, there are currently many women in the work force as well as entire families. In 1999 New York State identified 12, 847 children and young adults eligible for its migrant supplemental educational program.

What are the living conditions of these workers? Nationally the farmworker average annual income ranges from \$5,000 to \$10,000 - far below the poverty level. Farmworkers in New York State do receive minimum wage but are not eligible for over-time pay nor are they allowed bargaining rights. Due to poverty, isolation and poor living and working conditions, farmworkers are at high risk for a number of health hazards. Pesticide exposure is a significant problem for the majority farmworkers. Due to pesticides, heat-exposure, accidents and other causes, farming continues to be one of the nation's most hazardous occupations.

Farmworkers are excluded from the right to a day of rest. They are subject to different laws for child labor and unemployment insurance. Most are eligible for workers' compensation, however, farmworkers are exempt from compulsory disability benefits.

What can you do? First of all, inform yourself, then get involved in activities of solidarity with farmworkers. Rural & Migrant Ministry is an inter-faith organization working throughout New York to promote farmworker issues and concerns. We invite you to join us in our efforts for justice.

Rural & Migrant Ministry is committed to education that leads to systemic changes that empower youth and adults to make a difference in their own lives, their families and their communities. The journey is long but the rewards are great!

Greetings from Kermit!

Thanks to the hard work of so many of YOU wonderful humans, everything is just about ready for this year's PIGGY BANK BAZAAR. That's a good thing, because the big day is Saturday, December 3rd, 2011. That's right, it's finally here, and I've got lots and lots to tell you!!

Piggy Bank Bazaar is a wonderful time for young humans through the age of 14 to shop for Christmas gifts for friends and family. Most of the gifts are craft items. No gift costs more than \$3.00 - most are at least \$1.50. Children should bring money and shopping lists. There are guides to help each young child with gift selection and the cashiers, and with the FREE gift wrapping. Parents may guide very young children, and older children can shop on their own. Please also invite your friends, and use your e-connections to tell others. We've gotten some wonderful donations of craft materials, and have some quite extraordinary goodies this year. We expect to have over 5000 gifts available.

Shopping begins at 9:00 a.m. for all children, and continues until noon. Children are encouraged to bring their friends!! Adults may shop from noon until 1:00 p.m. Shoppers should enter through the door at the left of Fellowship Hall. The BAZAAR will be in the Education Center. Waiting parents and friends can purchase refreshments provided by the Youth Fellowships.

If weather forces rescheduling of the BAZAAR, the snow date is Sunday, December 4th, from 12:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Cancellation information will be on the church's answering machine.

Managing 360 children is a BIG job, so we'll need LOTS and LOTS of HELP to make the BAZAAR work smoothly. We will need MANY, MANY adults and older youth to act as guides, helping the children with their gift selection, with the cashier, and with gift wrapping. Each child usually spends about an hour, so we need YOUR HELP. Please stop by on the day of the BAZAAR and volunteer to be a guide, or a gift wrapper, and maybe bring some goodies for the Bake Sale!! We will also need another group of volunteers to help us at 1:00 p.m. with the clean up, which involves moving tables, sweeping floors, collecting trash, and moving unsold gifts into storage. The folks at the tables will be pretty tired by then, so PLEASE HOP IN and HELP.

We will need a team to set up for the BAZAAR on the morning of Friday, December 2nd. If you can help, PLEASE JOIN IN at the Education Center at 9:00 a.m. If you have questions, please call Mrs. Ray, at 297-4830. (She is my nice human friend who is SO looking forward to THE BIG DAY!!)

Pricing day, when all the price tags will be put on all the goodies, will be Wednesday, November 30th, at 9:00 a.m. This is a GREAT opportunity to see all the gifts ahead of time, and also to help get ready for the BAZAAR!! There will be coffee and all kinds of goodies that humans like to eat!

Please return your TAKE HOME KITS before Pricing Day. You can drop them off in Room 15.

Mrs. Ray reminds me that WE STILL NEED SOME THINGS. The plant table is always a popular spot. Plants can be brought in on Friday, December 2nd, during the day. Please include labels with the name of the plant and how to care for it. We also will need large brown grocery bags for the children to put their gifts in, and lots and LOTS of wrapping paper and tissue paper, many, MANY rolls of tape, gift boxes, gift bags, ribbons, pens and used pencils, and garlands for decorating.

The Wednesday Morning Workshop folks have worked very hard all year long, so they'll be on vacation after the BAZAAR until February. Please be on the lookout for cute craft ideas for them to work on when they return!

I'm looking forward to seeing YOU on the Big Day, and on all the other days leading up to it. Meanwhile, I'll be trying to stay calm, even though I am SO

excited that the BAZAAR is almost here!!!

♥Yours in love,

Kermit

DECEMBER, 2011

1, Thursday

7:15 p.m. Senior Choir

2, Friday **Bazaar Set-up**

10:30 a.m. Strength and Balance Exercise

3, Saturday

9:00 a.m. Piggy Bank Bazaar!!

12:30 p.m. Sunday School Christmas Play Rehearsal

4, Sunday **Communion/Advent 2**

8:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School

9:15 a.m. Worship, Sunday School
Jr. and Sr. High

11:00 a.m. Worship

5, Monday

6:00 p.m. Klokken Ringers

8:00 p.m. Campanola Ringers

6, Tuesday

10:30 a.m. Strength and Balance Exercise

7:00 p.m. Councils/Councils

7, Wednesday

7:30 p.m. RCWM Play/Dessert

8, Thursday

7:15 p.m. Senior Choir

9, Friday

10:30 a.m. Strength and Balance Exercise

3:00 p.m. January News Deadline

10, Saturday

10:00 a.m. Remembrance Service †

1:00 p.m. Sunday School Pageant Rehearsal

11, Sunday Advent 3

8:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School

9:15 a.m. Worship, Sunday School
Jr. and Sr. High

11:00 a.m. Worship

4:00 p.m. Sunday School Christmas Pageant/Pizza Party

12, Monday

6:00 p.m. Klokken Ringers

8:00 p.m. Campanola Ringers

13, Tuesday

10:30 a.m. Strength and Balance Exercise

7:00 p.m. Consistory Meeting

15, Thursday

7:15 p.m. Senior Choir

16, Friday

9:30 a.m. Collate January News

10:30 a.m. Strength and Balance Exercise

18, Sunday Advent 4

8:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School

9:15 a.m. Worship, Sunday School
Children's Message
Jr. and Sr. High

11:00 a.m. Worship

19, Monday

6:00 p.m. Klokken Ringers

8:00 p.m. Campanola Ringers

20, Tuesday

10:30 a.m. Strength and Balance Exercise

11:00 a.m. JOY Christmas Party

21, Wednesday Winter Begins

7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Supervision
Nursery School Board

22, Thursday

7:15 p.m. Senior Choir

23, Friday

10:30 a.m. Strength and Balance Exercise

24, Saturday Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m.– Family-friendly Service - Scripture & Candlelight

8:00 p.m.–Lessons, Carols, & Candlelight

11:00 p.m.–Lessons, Carols, & Candlelight

25, Sunday Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. Family Worship Service
Nursery Care Available/No Sunday School

2

6, Monday Office Closed

27, Tuesday

10:30 a.m. Strength and Balance Exercise

29, Thursday

7:15 p.m. Senior Choir

30, Friday

10:30 a.m. Strength and Balance Exercise

January New Year's Day

1 One Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Children's Place for 3-8 year olds/No Sunday School