

JANUARY 2010

The Fonda Reformed Church Newsletter

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Search Committee has met four times. We are in the process of preparing our church profile. One part of this process is conducting our listening groups. These are small groups designed to ascertain the strengths and weaknesses of our church and the qualities we wish to see in a new minister. We have held several groups already and have more scheduled for January. If you have not yet been contacted and would like to participate, please contact Bob Kruger at 853-4398.

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MEMBERS ELECT NEW CONSISTORY MEMBERS AND APPROVE 2010 BUDGET

At the congregational meeting held after worship on December 20, members elected Bob Kruger and Joan Stanton to three-year terms as elders, Dave Delaney to a three-year term as deacon, and Bonnie Channell to the remaining one year of Ron Lagace's term as deacon. Upon their ordination and/or installation, to be scheduled in January, these newly elected Consistory members will succeed elders Linda Jacobs and David Patterson, and deacons Paul Kruger and Ron Lagace. Members also approved the 2010 budget as presented.

**The Mission of the Fonda Reformed
Church is to develop believers and
unbelievers into fully devoted**

FROM THE DESK OF THE INTERIM PASTOR



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Tulla and I are grateful for the opportunity to work and plan with you for a new pastor and new and continued ministries.

In many ways Fonda Reformed is a “healthy” church. Yes, there are some “growing pains” and concerns about the “identity” of the church, but “through many dangers, toils and snares we have already come; ‘Tis Grace has brought us safe thus far, and Grace will lead us home” (from “Amazing Grace”). Speaking of good health, God wills our wholeness in body, mind, and spirit, both as individuals and as a congregation. Yet, many of us at some time in our lives may cry out with Job or the Psalmists, “Why me, Lord?” or “Why is this happening to my friend or loved one?” During the January 24th service of worship we will explore whether and when God does make us whole. We will read and explore James 5:17, Acts 3:1-10, Luke 5:12-16 and John 9:1-7. Our theme will be, “Let the Lord Touch Your Life”.

A joint committee of members of the Fonda and Johnstown Reformed Churches has been planning a Service of Christian Healing, using a service prepared by the Reformed Church in America and used by many of our congregations. The date: January 31, 2010 at 7pm at the Johnstown Reformed Church. For those who wish to come forward during the service, the elders will “lay on hands” and pray for those persons. We also encourage those who have a deep concern for a friend or relative to come forward, so that we can pray for that person, named or anonymous.

As we enter a new year pray for our congregation, our search committee, consistory, and our numerous ministries with members and the community. My father, a pastor, used to quote a poem on the first Sunday of each new year. The King of England had spoken these words on the British radio during the dark days of World War II.

I said to the man
 Who stood at the gate of the year,
 “Give me a light that I may venture safely into the unknown.”
 And he said to me, “Go out into the darkness,
 and place your hands in the hands of God;
 That will be for you
 better than a light
 And safer than the known way.”

Yours in Christ,

Don Pangburn, Interim Pastor

HOW OUR ASSESSMENTS HELP ALBANY SYNOD

Supports Staff at Albany Synod

Upcoming Events:

AIDS Gifts Collection-Currently underway in three areas of the synod.

Mediation Skills Training Institute (Rochester, January 11-15, 2010) Goal is to train people (ministers, and non-clergy) across the synod who will be able to work with congregations in their class and (if desired) in neighboring classes when low to moderate conflicts erupt.

Fresh Start Workshop-February 5-6, 2010. Revitalization event hosted by Albany Synod but led by members of the RCA Fresh Start Team (including Phyllis Palsma) and open to participants from the three eastern synods. Friday afternoon through Saturday afternoon event for classis leaders and others interested in learning about church “restarts”. Includes a review of assessment tools a classis can use, the “nuts and bolts” of church closure and starting again as well as theological and biblical foundations for closure and how the dynamics of grief and change impact a “fresh start”.

Discipleship Day-March 20, 2010 at Delmar Reformed Church. For Christian educators, youth workers, church school teachers, elders, deacons, and ministers. Keynote address with a variety of workshops.

On-going Activities/Events:

Natural Church Development-Currently Phyllis is working with four churches in three different classes, which are engaging in the process of becoming healthier, stronger congregations.

Pastoral Networks (clergy support)-encouraging the creation of new clergy support networks. Inviting clergy to be trained as coaches. Supporting, through personal coaching, ministers who seek support.

Training for Preaching Elders-The conversation is now in process for how to do this most effectively in our synod. A ‘steering committee’ will meet in January. The Synod is a partner denomination in the Capital Region Theological Center that offers high-quality courses in the core areas of training for preaching elders.

Local Church consultations-Phyllis and Nancy are available to come to local churches and consult about current concerns in the following areas: (Many of these can be done with a cluster of churches or a whole classis as well as a single local congregation.)

- Elder enrichment and training
- Deacon enrichment and training
- Consistory retreats
- Spiritual Enrichment Day (or weekend, or 1/2 day) Explore your own “Spiritual personality type” and how personality type impacts what happens in worship on a Sunday morning as well as spiritual practices in a congregation. Participants also experience a variety of spiritual practices that are not typically done in a church, but can be implemented into retreats, small groups or Bible studies.
- Education ministries Consultations (Includes teacher training, curriculum planning, visioning a whole church education ministry) -Nancy
- Small Group ministries-Nancy can recommend resources and basic training to lead small groups in a local congregation
- Spiritual Gifts-various formats for discovery and helping to implement individual gifts and talents that help to build up the body of Christ. (Nancy)

Continued from page 3

- Empowering Leadership-For more than consistory, elders and deacons, this seminar explores practical and biblical aspects to leadership in the church. Includes some basic “nuts and bolts” about leading meetings or small groups, and administration that comes with leadership. (Phyllis)
- “Will Your church Survive the Next 10 Years?”-A new seminar/workshop that examines current realities and refocuses vision and mission. (Phyllis is eager to do this one with a single church or cluster of churches.)
- Transforming Discipleship-Exploring the triad model for Christian growth (Nancy has the most experience with this, Phyllis can also lead a church through this.)
- Mediation-Both low level and more intense levels of conflict will benefit from focused conversations facilitated by a trained mediator. Phyllis Palsma is available to lead this for a congregation and to work with other trained mediators in Albany Synod.)
- Consultations for Goal Setting and Vision-for consistories and/or churches in the self-study process of a pastoral search.
- Healthy communications seminar-Learn about your own personal style of communication in times of stress and calm as well as how to practice healthy communication skills which are applicable to everyday life as well as church life. –Phyllis
- Caring for Creation/Stewardship of the Environment-Retreats, seminars and consultations around these topics. –Nancy



A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Eternal God, thank you for bringing us once again to the threshold of a new year. Help us dedicate each day of 2010 to following your will for our lives. Guide us, Lord, in all our decisions and actions, day by day and hour by hour. Help us accomplish all that you desire for us to do, until our mission on earth is finished. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be a meeting for all Sunday school teachers on Thursday, Jan. 14th in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30pm. Please plan on attending. See Pat Brooking if you have any questions.



CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CLUB

**Winter Wonderland**

Monday, January 11, 2010

11:30am-1:00pm

Holiday Inn, Rt. 30A Johnstown

\$13.00 lunch, dessert, & coffee

Special Feature: Adirondack Emporium**Diane Perrella, Proprietor****Speaker: Mae Ogsbury****Music provided by Karen Patterson**

Complimentary Child Care is available

For more information call Gloria at 853-3126

Reservations necessary and cancellations essential

Sponsored by Johnstown Christian Women's Club

CONSISTORY NEWS

Consistory started its December 7 meeting with prayer and reflection on portions of the Christmas story from Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 2:1-20. We reviewed plans for 6pm and 8pm worship services on Christmas Eve; received informal reports from Rev. Don Pangburn, Tulla Pangburn, and Pat Brooking regarding search committee work to-date; and reviewed status of the new worship service for grades 4-6, meetings with people interested in membership, plans for a healing service at Johnstown Reformed Church, and the monthly worship service led by Fonda Reformed Church at Wilkinson; and reviewed ministry feedback received thus far about doing a ministry fair and monthly ministry highlight in 2010.

Consistory approved a Finance Ministry recommendation to combine the separate kitchen & fellowship hall use fees into a single \$75 fee for non-members and discussed how to clarify to whom this fee applies. With continuing concern about reducing spread of infection during the flu season, we decided to serve communion on January 3 to people at their seats.

We also discussed how to best address a growing issue of food and drinks in the sanctuary during worship and plans to conduct the 12/20 congregational meeting. Consistory members were advised of the need to consider the questions in the annual Consistorial Report and Book of Church Order Article 7 so responses can be provided to Classis by January 31.

We reviewed and approved minutes of our November meeting, deciding to distribute minutes to other ministries only after Consistory had approved them, and approved the November treasurer's report.

We reviewed upcoming meetings – Elders on 12/14 and Congregational on 12/20, and decided to hold the next Consistory meeting on 1/4/10 with newly elected Consistory members and family invited to attend. We closed our meeting with prayer for our church.

OUTREACH MINISTRY NEWS



Welcome to the New Year! We pray that it will be happy and healthy for each of you.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in "Adopt an Angel". It is very heart warming to know how willingly this congregation reaches out to others. The children's families are sincerely grateful for your blessings and gifts.

Thank you also for your gifts to persons with HIV/AIDS. It means a great deal to them and their families.

We also donated 20 Food baskets to families in need. You were a huge part of that outreach effort!

We will be again be sponsoring our "Mitten Tree" in January from the 10th to the 24th. Please bring a warm hat, pair of gloves or mittens, scarf, etc. for children in need. The next few months can be very cold indeed.

Please join us for our next Outreach meeting on Tuesday, January 12th at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall.

WHAT WE BELIEVE – THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM: PART 28 OF A SERIES

The goal of this series of articles is to introduce you to or remind you of the Reformed understanding of our Christian faith. The text of the questions and answers printed here is taken from the 1988 Revised Edition of the Heidelberg Catechism as found on the RCA web site. The full text of the Heidelberg Catechism is available in print form from the church office, including supporting Bible references, and can also be found (along with the other standards and creeds of the RCA) under the About Us link on the RCA web site at <http://www.rca.org>.

The Heidelberg Catechism is one of three (with a fourth – the Belhar Confession – pending the approval of RCA classes and General Synod 2010) historic documents that the RCA holds as standards of our Christian faith. It is the most comprehensive and easiest to read of those documents.

This month's questions and answers deal with the sixth and seventh of the Ten Commandments found in Exodus 20:13-14.

Question 105. What is God's will for us in the sixth commandment?

Answer. I am not to belittle, insult, hate, or kill my neighbor not by my thoughts, my words, my look, or gesture and certainly not by actual deeds and I am not to be party to this in others; rather, I am to put away all desire for revenge. I am not to harm or recklessly endanger myself either. Prevention of murder is also why government is armed with the sword.

Question 106. Does this commandment refer only to murder?

Answer. God's prohibition of murder teaches us that God hates the root of murder: envy, hatred, anger, vindictiveness. In God's sight all such are hidden murder.

Question 107. Is it enough then that we not murder our neighbor in any such way?

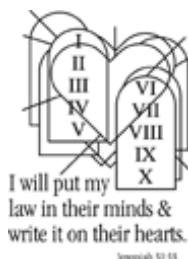
Answer. No. By condemning envy, hatred, and anger God wants us to love our neighbors as ourselves, to show patience, peace, gentleness, mercy, and friendliness towards them, to protect them from harm as much as we can, and to do good even to our enemies.

Question 108. What is God's will for us in the seventh commandment?

Answer. God condemns all unchastity. We should therefore thoroughly detest it and, married or single, live chaste and decent lives.

Question 109. Does God, in this commandment, forbid only such scandalous sins as adultery?

Answer. We are temples of the Holy Spirit, body and soul, and God wants both to be kept clean and holy. That is why God forbids everything which incites unchastity, whether it be actions, looks, talks, thoughts, or desires.





NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2- Bonnie Jo Kruger
- 5- Alex Pedrick
- 6- Hank Nare
- 7- Erastus Davis
- 9- Liane Lewis
- 10- William Kruger
- 13- Ronald Wilmot III
Granger "Jack" Eaton
Ryan Dunham
- 16- Carolyn Whipple
- 19- Karen Patterson
Terry Kimball
Russel Pedrick, Jr.
- 23- Jack Adams
- 24- Phillip Boshart, Jr.
Matthew Coons
- 26- Linda Sambuca
Michael Wilmot
- 30- Micah Kimball
- 31- Brenda Wilmot
Clark Subik

At the time of print, there were no volunteers signed up for nursery.

If you would like to volunteer to serve in the nursery, please sign up on the back table in the Sanctuary.

COFFEE HOUR SERVERS



January 3 Pat Brooking

January 10 Covered Dish Luncheon

January 17

January 24

January 31

If you would like to volunteer to host coffee hour, please sign up on the back table in the Sanctuary. Also, please take a copy of the guidelines.

We apologize if we missed anyone. Please let Sherry in the office know if your name was left out or if any of the information is incorrect.



Show yourself in all respects a model of good works.

Titus 2:7



CHRISTIAN NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

How can I use the New Year
To better serve my Lord?
I'll read my Bible every day,
And be more in accord.

I'll find new ways to serve others;
I'll love my neighbor, too.
I'll focus on "give" instead of "get"
In everything I do.

I'll forgive the people I'm mad at;
Angry feelings I'll discard;
I'll try to love my enemies,
Even though it's hard.

In the new year, I'll lift people up,
Instead of putting them down.
I'll fill my heart with love and joy,
And never wear a frown.

I'll let go of my worries;
I'll put it all in His hands;
I'll repent and try to sin less,
And obey all His commands.

These new year's resolutions
Are difficult, at best,
But there's something I can do each day
That will put my soul at rest:

I'll love my Lord with all my heart,
With all my mind and soul,
And if I do that essential thing,
All the rest will be in control.

By Joanna Fuchs

2010 CONSISTORY

(2007) Elder - Emory Luck
(2007) Deacon - Bob Frenyea
(2007) Deacon - Ron Lagace

(2008) Elder - Pat Brooking
(2008) Elder - Maureen White
(2008) Deacon - Doug Hall
(2008) Deacon - Ellsworth Simpson

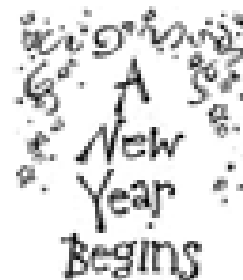
(2009) Elder-Bob Kruger
(2009) Elder-Joan Stanton
(2009) Deacon-Dave DeLaney
(2009) Deacon-Bonnie Channell (finishing the remaining year of Ron Lagace's term)

*Date in parentheses represents the year elected, to serve beginning the following year.

2010 Consistory will be installed during the worship service on Sunday, January 24th.

We would like to thank David Patterson, Linda Jacobs, Paul Kruger and Ron Lagace for their faithful service to our church over the past few years.

A special thanks to David Patterson for all the extra work he has done to help out during this transition period.



JANUARY 2010

Friday	1		Happy New Year! Church office closed
Saturday	2		
Sunday	3	9:45am 10:00am 11:00am 12:15pm	Youth Choir Practice-Sanctuary Sunday School Worship Service Coffee Hour-Fellowship Hall
Monday	4	9:00am 9:00am 12:00pm 6:00pm 7:00pm	Prayer Coffee-Cussler Center Mom's Morning Out-Morning Session Mom's Morning Out-Afternoon session Webelo Scouts Meeting-Fellowship Hall Consistory Meeting-Cussler Center
Tuesday	5	10:30am 6:00pm 7:00pm 7:00pm	Glen-Mohawk Seniors-Fellowship Hall Tiger Scouts-Fellowship Hall Worship Ministry-Cussler Center Bible Study-Cindy Mitchell's house
Wednesday	6	9:00am 12:00pm 6:00pm 7:00pm 7:00pm	Mom's Morning Out-Morning Session Mom's Morning Out-Afternoon session Cub Scouts-Fellowship Hall Music Practice-Sanctuary Ladies' Bible Study-Library
Thursday	7	9:00am 5:30pm	Men's Ecumenical Breakfast-McDonalds in Fultonville Girl Scouts Meeting-Fellowship Hall
Friday	8	6:30am 9:00am 12:00pm 6:30pm	Men's Prayer Group-Cussler Center Mom's Morning Out-Morning Session Mom's Morning Out-Afternoon session 4-H Meeting-Fellowship Hall
Saturday	9		
Sunday	10	9:45am 10:00am 11:00am 12:15pm	Youth Choir Practice-Sanctuary Sunday School Worship Service Covered Dish Luncheon-Fellowship Hall
Monday	11	9:00am 12:00pm 6:30pm	Mom's Morning Out-Morning Session Mom's Morning Out-Afternoon session Jr. Girl Scouts Meeting-Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	12	10:30am 6:00pm 7:00pm 7:00pm	Glen-Mohawk Seniors-Fellowship Hall Tiger Scouts-Fellowship Hall Outreach Ministry-Cussler Center Bible Study-Cindy Mitchell's house
Wednesday	13	9:00am 12:00pm 6:00pm 7:00pm 7:00pm	Mom's Morning Out-Morning Session Mom's Morning Out-Afternoon session Cub Scouts-Fellowship Hall Music Practice-Sanctuary Ladies' Bible Study-Library
Thursday	14	11:30am 6:30pm 7:00pm	Finance Ministry Meeting-Cussler Center Sunday School Teachers Meeting-Fellowship Hall Search Committee Meeting-Cussler Center
Friday	15	6:30am 9:00am 12:00pm 6:30pm	Men's Prayer Group-Cussler Center Mom's Morning Out-Morning Session Mom's Morning Out-Afternoon session Parenting Discussion Group-Cussler center

Saturday	16		
Sunday	17	9:45am 10:00am 11:00am 12:15pm	Youth Choir Practice-Sanctuary Sunday School Worship Service Coffee Hour-Fellowship Hall
Monday	18	6:00pm	Webelo Scout Meeting-Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	19	10:30am 6:00pm 7:00pm	Glen-Mohawk Seniors-Fellowship Hall Tiger Scouts-Fellowship Hall Bible Study-Cindy Mitchell's house
Wednesday	20	9:00am 10:00am 12:00pm 6:00pm 7:00pm 7:00pm	Mom's Morning Out-Morning Session Leading Worship at Wilkinson Center in Amsterdam Mom's Morning Out-Afternoon Session Cub Scouts-Fellowship Hall Music Practice-Sanctuary Ladies' Bible Study-Library
Thursday	21	9:00am 5:30pm	Men's Ecumenical Breakfast-McDonalds in Fultonville Girl Scouts Meeting-Fellowship Hall
Friday	22	6:30am 9:00am 12:00pm	Men's Prayer Group-Cussler Center Mom's Morning Out-Morning session Mom's Morning Out-Afternoon session
Saturday	23		
Sunday	24	9:45am 10:00am 11:00am 12:15pm	Youth Choir Practice-Sanctuary Sunday School Worship Service Coffee Hour-Fellowship Hall
Monday	25	9:00am 12:00pm 6:30pm	Mom's Morning Out-Morning session Mom's Morning Out-Afternoon session Jr. Girl Scouts Meeting-Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	26	10:30am 6:00pm 7:00pm	Glen-Mohawk Seniors-Fellowship Hall Tiger Scouts-Fellowship Hall Bible Study-Cindy Mitchell's house
Wednesday	27	9:00am 12:00pm 6:00pm 7:00pm 7:00pm	Mom's Morning Out-Morning session Mom's Morning Out-Afternoon session Cub Scouts-Fellowship Hall Music Practice-Sanctuary Ladies' Bible Study-Library
Thursday	28		
Friday	29	6:30am 9:00am 12:00pm	Men's Prayer Group-Cussler Center Mom's Morning Out-Morning session Mom's Morning Out-Afternoon session
Saturday	30		
Sunday	31	9:45am 10:00am 11:00am 12:15pm	Youth Choir Practice-Sanctuary Sunday School Worship Service Coffee Hour-Fellowship Hall